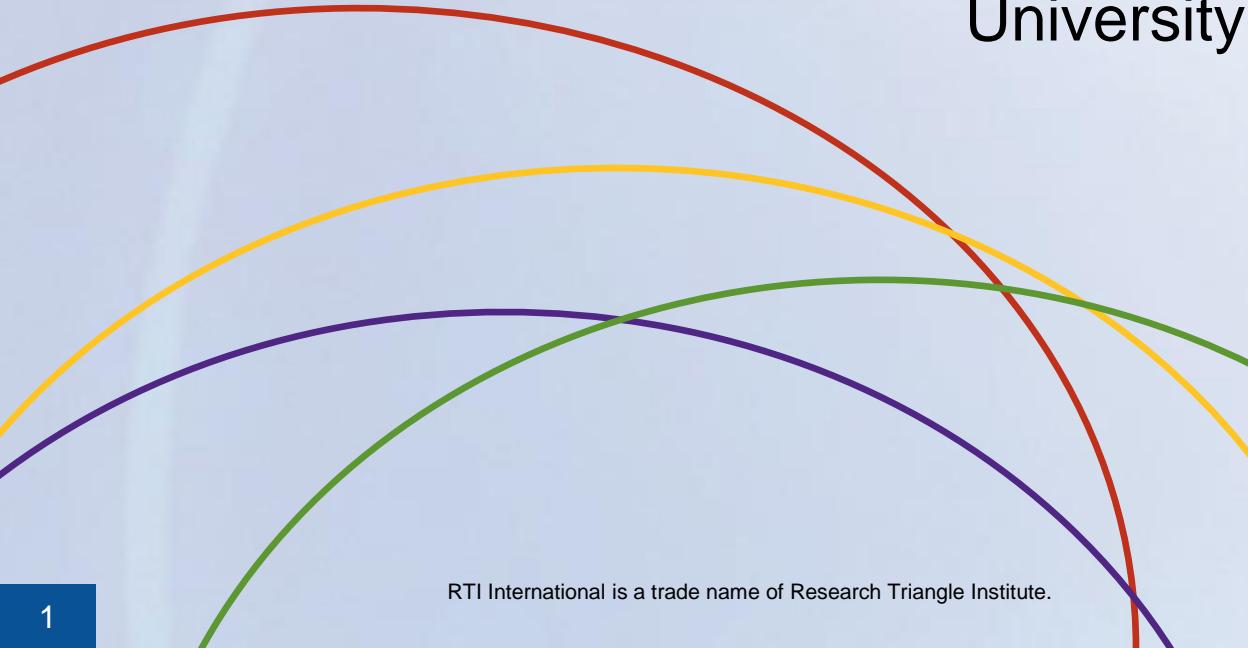




# Comments on Presentation by Amy O'hara

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## Realistic goals for using admin records to reduce respondent burden in the ACS

Minimize (respondent burden)

subject to

data quality  $\geq$  current ACS data quality

→ Maintains current data quality while minimizing the burden on respondents

Maximize (data quality)

subject to

Respondent burden  $\leq$  target level of respondent burden

→ Achieves a desired level of respondent burden while maximizing data quality

# How is respondent burden defined and how is it measured?

- Bradburn's (1978) definition includes
  - Interview length and frequency
  - Level of effort and/or perceived difficulty
  - Psychological impacts
- Indicators may be
  - Unit response rates
  - Item response rates
  - Respondent feedback on cognitive/physical effort, sensitivity
  - Time to complete, frequency, number of questions, etc

# How is data quality defined?

- Total survey error approach – data quality is improved when *total survey error* is reduced
- Some error sources that are relevant for use of admin records are:
  - Specification error: does the record measure the same concept as the survey
  - Measurement error: how does reliability compare between record and survey measurements
  - Coverage error: particularly within hh's (e.g. residency rules)
  - Missing data: is missing data increased by using admin records
  - Modeling error: how much error is added by indirect uses of missing data

## Some questions to consider

- What definition of respondent burden should be used?
  - What are its key indicators?
- How should data quality be measured?
- What is ACS respondent burden today? Has it changed over the years?
- What is the goal?
  - Max (data quality) s.t. respondent burden  $\leq$  some target value
  - Min (respondent burden) s.t. quality  $\geq$  current quality
- Other methods for reducing burden being considered?
  - E.g., survey harmonization and integration