

Working with ACS Census Microdata

Aksel Olsen

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Today

1 What is microdata?

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- 2 *Why* do we need them?

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- 2 *Why* do we need them?
- 3 *When* do we need them?

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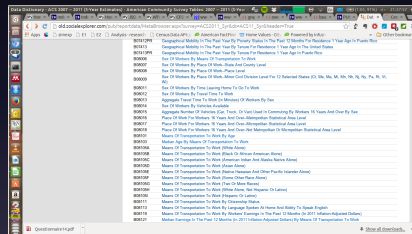
- 1 What is microdata?
- 2 *Why* do we need them?
- 3 *When* do we need them?
- 4 What are common pitfalls?

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- 3 *When* do we need them?
- 4 What are common pitfalls?
- 5 Practice

What is microdata

- 1 Differs from standard tabulations
- 2 Microdata→ the response records?
- 3 Microdata is not a separate survey. Microdata is a unit of analysis.
- 4 Segmented into Housing and Person records, linked by SERIALNO



From survey form to raw data—almost directly

Housing (continued)

6. Answer questions 1b and b if this house, apartment, or mobile home is RENTED. Otherwise, SKIP to question 1b.

1b. What is the monthly rent for this house, apartment, or mobile home?
Monthly amount - Dollars

1c. Does the monthly rent include any meals?
☐ Yes
☐ No

6. Answer questions 1b - 22 if you or any member of this household OWNS or IS BUYING this house, apartment, or mobile home. Otherwise, SKIP to 23.

19. About how much do you think this house and lot, apartment, or mobile home (and lot, if owned) would sell for if it were for sale?
Amount - Dollars

20. What are the annual real estate taxes on THIS property?
Annual amount - Dollars

OR
☐ None

21. What is the annual payment for fire, hazard, and flood insurance on THIS property?
Annual amount - Dollars

OR
☐ None

22. a. Do you or any member of this household have a mortgage, deed of trust, contract to purchase, or similar debt on THIS property?
☐ Yes, mortgage, deed of trust, or similar debt
☐ Yes, contract to purchase
☐ No → SKIP to question 22b

b. How much is the regular monthly mortgage payment on THIS property? Include payment only on FIRST mortgage or contract to purchase.
Monthly amount - Dollars

OR
☐ No regular payment required → SKIP to question 22b

c. Does the regular monthly mortgage payment include payments for real estate taxes on THIS property?
☐ Yes, taxes included in mortgage payment
☐ No, taxes paid separately or taxes not required

d. Does the regular monthly mortgage payment include payments for fire, hazard, and flood insurance on THIS property?
☐ Yes, insurance included in mortgage payment
☐ No, insurance paid separately or no insurance

23. a. Do you or any member of this household have a second mortgage or a home equity loan on THIS property?
☐ Yes, home equity loan
☐ Yes, second mortgage
☐ Yes, second mortgage and home equity loan
☐ No → SKIP to 24

b. How much is the regular monthly payment on all second or junior mortgages and all home equity loans on THIS property?
Monthly amount - Dollars

OR
☐ No regular payment required

24. Answer question 24 if this is a MOBILE HOME. Otherwise, SKIP to 25.

25. What are the total annual costs for personal property taxes, site rent, registration fees, and license fees on THIS mobile home and its site? Exclude real estate taxes.
Annual costs - Dollars

OR
☐ None

26. Answer questions about PERSON 1 on the next page if you listed at least one person on page 2. Otherwise, SKIP to page 3b for the housing instructions.

Person 1 of 2010 was a Likelihood Case

Libération Sans

	MHP	MRGI	MRGP	MRGT	MRGX	REFR	RMSP	RNTM	RNTP	RWAT	SINK	SMP	STOV	TEL
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When / why do we need them?

- 1 When we want to understand relationships *between* variables not already tabulated

When / why do we need them?

- 1 When we want to understand relationships *between* variables not already tabulated
- 2 When we want *custom breakpoints* / categorizations relevant to local conditions

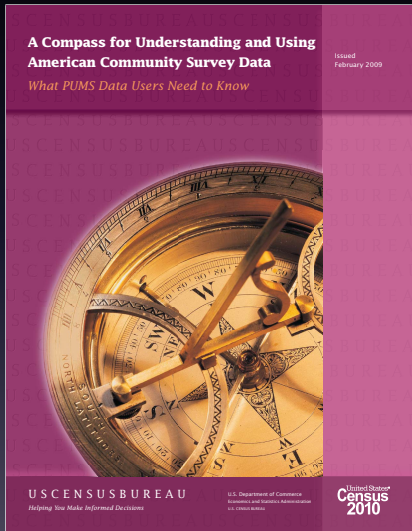
What are key characteristics?

- 1 PUMS data ships in 1,3, and 5-year files, annually
- 2 Persons and housing units are provided in separate files, representing different units of analysis
- 3 Response records have weights associated with them
- 4 Each file ships with its own weight
- 5 Geographic precision is much lower (PUMA areas, 100k residents)

Pitfalls

- 1 The sky is the limit? I can tabulate anything? Be careful. Samples can get thin.
- 2 Weights are dangerous and easy to inadvertently misuse. Start with proof-of-concept calculations where you can evaluate the magnitude of the estimate

Resources



```

PERSON RECORD

RT      1
  Record Type
  P .Person Record

SERIALNO 7
  Housing unit/OQ person serial number
  0000001..9999999 .Unique identifier

SPORDER  2
  Person number
  01..20 .Person number

PUMA     5
  Public use microdata area code (PUMA)
  00100..08200 .Public use microdata area codes
  77777 .Combination of 01801, 01802, and 01905 in Louisiana

Note: Public use microdata areas (PUMAs) designate areas of 100,000 or more
population. Use with ST for unique code.

ST      2
  State Code
  01 .Alabama/AL
  02 .Alaska/AK
  04 .Arizona/AZ
  05 .Arkansas/AR
  06 .California/CA
  08 .Colorado/CO
  09 .Connecticut/CT
  10 .Delaware/DE
  11 .District of Columbia/DC
  12 .Florida/FL
  13 .Georgia/GA
  15 .Hawaii/HI
  16 .Idaho/ID
  17 .Illinois/IL
  18 .Indiana/IN
  19 .Iowa/IA
  20 .Kansas/KS
  21 .Kentucky/KY
  22 .Louisiana/LA
  23 .Maine/ME
  24 .Maryland/MD
  25 .Massachusetts/MA
  26 .Michigan/MI
  27 .Minnesota/MN
  28 .Mississippi/MS
  29 .Missouri/MO
  30 .Montana/MT
  31 .Nebraska/NE
  32 .Nevada/NV
  33 .New Hampshire/NH
  
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27