# Managing Confidentiality and Provenance across Mixed Private and Publicly-Accessed Data and Metadata

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#### Introduction

#### **NCRN**

- This work is part of the NSF Census Research Network (NCRN) - Cornell Node ("Integrated Research Support, Training and Data Documentation")
- Funded by NSF Grant #1131848.
- ▶ For more information, see www.ncrn.cornell.edu.



## Introduction

#### Overview of work

- Basic program outlined in Abowd, Vilhuber, and Block (PSD 2012) [3] and Lagoze, Block, Williams, Abowd, and Vilhuber, (IDCC 2013) [8]
- PROV extension described in more detail in Lagoze,
   Williams, Vilhuber (Metadata and Semantics Research
   Conference, November 2013) and Lagoze et al (European
   DDI User Conference, December 2013) [9]

#### Some facts that motivated us

## Replication of research results

#### Critical element of science

- ► Replication of methods, data inputs, computational environment is a critical element of the scientific approach
- Journals, funding agencies (in the U.S.) have been moving to making archiving of inputs to scientific results more robust, even mandatory

## Not a new problem

#### Econometrica

"In its first issue, the editor of Econometrica (1933), Ragnar Frisch, noted the importance of publishing data such that readers could fully explore empirical results. Publication of data, however, was discontinued early in the journal's history. [...] The journal arrived full-circle in late 2004 when Econometrica adopted one of the more stringent policies on availability of data and programs.

http://www.econometricsociety.org/submissions.asp#4 as cited in Anderson et al (2005)

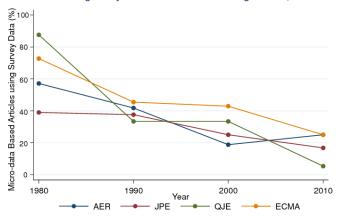
#### Problem will become worse

#### Increased use of restricted-access data

- Today's young scholars pursue research programs that mandate inherently identifiable data
  - Geospatial relations,
  - Exact genome data,
  - Networks of all sorts,
  - Linked administrative records
- ► These researchers acquire authorized, generally unfettered, restricted access to the confidential, identifiable data and perform their analyses in secure environments.
- Archiving (curation) of input data is complicated
- Knowledge discovery is complicated

## Decline in the use of classic public-use data

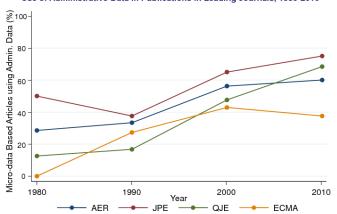
#### Use of Pre-Existing Survey Data in Publications in Leading Journals, 1980-2010



include surveys designed by researchers for their study. Sample excludes studies whose primary data source is from developing countries.

## Increase in the use of administrative data in economics

Use of Administrative Data in Publications in Leading Journals, 1980-2010



individuals (e.g., scanner data, stock prices, school district records, social security records). Sample excludes studies whose primary data source is from developing countries.

#### Not limited to economics

#### Nature, 2012

"Many of the emerging 'big data' applications come from private sources that are inaccessible to other researchers. The data source may be hidden, compounding problems of verification, as well as concerns about the generality of the results."

(Huberman, Nature 482, 308 (16 February 2012) doi:10.1038/482308d)

#### Other domains

- ► Biology (genetics data, chemical compounds)
- ► Computer science (search records, single-firm examples)

Introduction

Some facts that motivated us

Stating the problem in the U.S. case

What is DDI

DDI extension for confidentiality protection

DDI extension for provenance tracing

## Why we think there is a problem

#### Core issues

- a Insufficient curation (starting with archiving)
- b No way to reference data (unique identifiers)
- No consistent way to learn about the data (metadata dissemination)
- d Weak or non-existent provenance tracing

## Generalized problem

## Multiple data sources in the US

- ► U.S. Census Bureau (RDC) → more
- ► Internal Revenue Service (confidential, public-use) more
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (confidential, public-use data)

#### Present elsewhere?

- Canada:
  - Centre for Data Development and Economic Research (CDER: RDC-like for business data) → more
  - ▶ better: Canadian RDC network ▶ more
- ► France: Réseau Quetelet → more , Centre d'accés sécurisé distant aux données (CASD)
- Germany: IAB

Introduction

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Stating the problem in the U.S. case

CED<sup>2</sup>AR: A proposed solution

What is DDI

DDI extension for confidentiality protection

DDI extension for provenance tracing

## Comprehensive Extensible Data Documentation and Access (CED<sup>2</sup>AR)

#### Core

We develop the core of a method for solving the data archive and curation problem that confronts the custodians of restricted-access research data and the scientific users of such data. Our solution recognizes the dual protections afforded by physical security and access limitation protocols, and allows for much improved provenance tracing.

#### Extensible framework

 Based on existing standards (Data Documentation Initiative, DDI) with extension to accommodate disclosure protection mechanisms and provenance tracing

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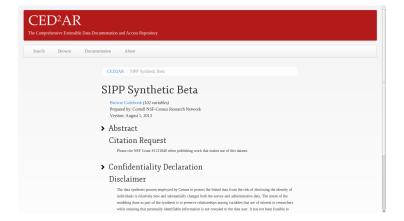
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What is DDI?

## Example of DDI

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<codeBook xmlns="ddi:codebook:2_5" ...>
   <docDscr>
      <citation>
         <titlStmt>
           <titl>SIPP_Synthetic_Beta</titl>
           <altTitl>SSB</altTitl>
           <IDNo agency="DOI">TBD</IDNo>
         </titlStmt>
         <rspStmt>
            <AuthEnty affiliation="Cornell University">
               Virtual RDC
            </AuthEnty>
          </rspStmt>
```

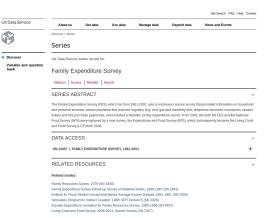
#### ..better seen as



## Example DDI: ICPSR



## Example DDI: UK data archive



#### Standard DDI

Fragment of variable description\*

```
<var ID="V1" dcml="0" files="F1" intrvl="discrete"</pre>
 name="cur end mar flag">
    <location width="12"/>
      <labl>Flag: Linked marriage ended</labl>
        <valrng>
          <range UNITS="REAL" max="2" min="0"/>
        </valrng>
        <sumStat type="vald"> 123 </sumStat>
        <sumStat type="invd"> 456 </sumStat>
        <catgry>
          <catValu> 1 </catValu>
          <catStat type="freq"> 234 </catStat>
        </catgry>
```

<sup>\*</sup> All values are fake

#### Standard DDI

#### Fragment of variable description\*

```
<!--var ID="V1" dcml="0" files="F1" intrvl="discrete"
name="cur_end mar_flag">
    <location width="12"/>
      <labl>Flag: Linked marriage ended</labl -->
        <valrng>
          <range UNITS="REAL" max="2" min="0"/>
        </valrng>
        <!-- sumStat type="vald"> 123 </sumStat>
        <sumStat type="invd"> 456 </sumStat>
        <catgrv>
          <catValu> 1 </catValu>
          <catStat type="freq"> 234 </catStat>
        </catary -->
```

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```
<!--var ID="V1" dcml="0" files="F1" intrvl="discrete"
name="cur_end mar_flag">
    <location width="12"/>
      <labl>Flag: Linked marriage ended</labl>
        <valrng>
          <range UNITS="REAL" max="2" min="0"/>
        </valrng -->
        <sumStat type="vald"> 123 </sumStat>
        <sumStat type="invd"> 456 </sumStat>
        <!-- catgry>
          <catValu> 1 </catValu>
          <catStat type="freq"> 234 </catStat>
        </catary -->
```

<sup>\*</sup> All values are take

#### **Enhanced DDI**

Re-using existing attribute, but expanding scope.\*

```
<var ID="V1" dcml="0" files="F1" intrvl="discrete"</pre>
 name="cur_end mar_flag">
    <location width="12"/>
      <labl>Flag: Linked marriage ended</labl>
        <valrng access="release">
          <range UNITS="REAL" max="2" min="0"/>
        </valrng>
        <sumStat access="restricted" type="vald"> 123 </sum</pre>
        <sumStat access="restricted" type="invd"> 456 </sum</pre>
        <catgry access="release">
          <catValu access="release"> 1 </catValu>
          <catStat type="freq" access="restricted">
               2.34
          </catStat>
        </catgry>
```

<sup>\*</sup> All values are fake

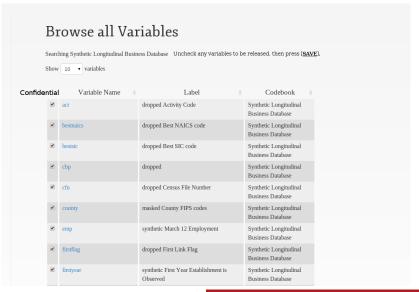
#### **Enhanced DDI**

#### Allows for verifiable filtering\*

```
<var ID="V1" dcml="0" files="F1" intrvl="discrete"</pre>
 name="cur_end mar_flag">
    <location width="12"/>
      <labl>Flag: Linked marriage ended</labl>
        <valrng access="release">
          <range UNITS="REAL" max="2" min="0"/>
        </valrng>
        <!-- sumStat suppressed -->
        <!-- sumStat suppressed -->
        <catgry access="release">
          <catValu access="release"> 1 </catValu>
          <catStat type="freq" access="restricted">
               [suppressed]
          </catStat>
        </catgry>
```

<sup>\*</sup> All values are fake

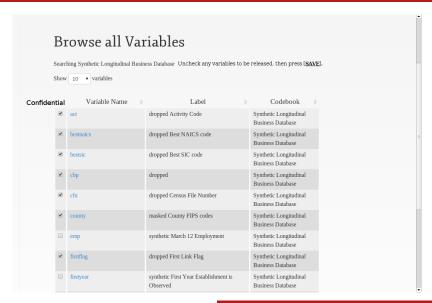
## Application to confidentiality protection



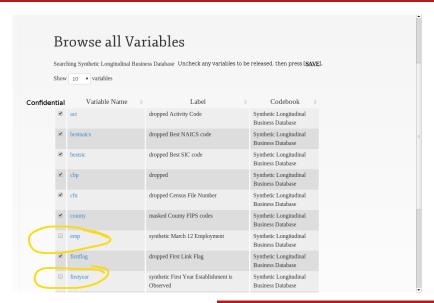
## **Options**

- Variable is suppressed, including all subordinate elements
- Variable description is released, but all subordinate statistical elements are suppressed (attribute of < var > set to "released") [default]
- Expand all existing attributes, individually select subordinate elements to suppress (attribute of sub-element is set to "suppressed", content suppressed)

## Application to confidentiality protection



## Application to confidentiality protection



## Implementation

#### **Definitions**

First draft of specification in test use by our team

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- ► Enhanced specification proposed to DDI Alliance

## Implementation

#### **Definitions**

- First draft of specification in test use by our team
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- Enhanced specification proposed to DDI Alliance
- Expand to DDI-Lifecycle

#### Provenance

### The provenance problem

"data provenance, one kind of metadata, pertains to the derivation history of a data product starting from its original sources" [...] "from it, one can ascertain the quality of the data base and its ancestral data and derivations, track back sources of errors, allow automated reenactment of derivations to update the data, and provide attribution of data sources"

Simmhan, Plale, and Gannon, "A survey of data provenance in e-science," ACM Sigmod Record, 2005

## Support in DDI

#### Provenance and Metadata

Not (currently) a "native" component of DDI, closest thing is:

#### Downside

No structure. Mostly verbose entries.

Discover

bank

## Only a verbose description

Site Search FAO Helo Contact UK Data Service About us Get data News and Events Use data Manage data Deposit data Discover > Series Series UK Data Service series record for: Variable and question Family Expenditure Survey Abstract Access Related Search SERIES ABSTRACT The Family Expenditure Survey (FES), which ran from 1961-2001, was a continuous annual survey that provided information on household and personal incomes, certain payments that recurred regularly (e.g. rent, gas and electricity bills, telephone accounts, insurances, season tickets and hire purchase payments), and included a detailed 14-day expenditure record. From 2001, the both the FES and the National Food Survey (NFS) were replaced by a new survey, the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS), which subsequently became the Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF) from 2008. DATA ACCESS GN 33057 | FAMILY EXPENDITURE SURVEY, 1961-2001 RELATED RESOURCES Related studies: Family Resources Survey, 1979 (SN 1930) Family Expenditure Survey Follow-up Survey of Disabled Adults, 1986-1987 (SN 2943) Institute for Fiscal Studies Households Below Average Income Dataset, 1961-1991 (SN 3300)

Simulation Program for Indirect Taxation, 1988; SPIT Version 6 (SN 3328) Imputed Expenditure Variables for Family Resources Survey, 1995-1996 (SN 4407) Living Costs and Food Survey, 2006-2011; Secure Access (SN 7047)

## UK Data Archive example

Abstract   Access   Related   Search	
SERIES ABSTRACT	^
The Family Expenditure Survey (FES), which ran from 1961-2001, was a continuous annual provided information on household and personal incomes, certain payments that recurred re rent, gas and electricity bills, telephone accounts, insurances, season tickets and hire purch and included a detailed 14-day expenditure record. From 2001, the both the FES and the Na Survey (NFS) were replaced by a new survey, the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS), which became the Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF) from 2008.	egularly (e.g. ase payments), ational Food
DATA ACCESS	^
GN 33057   FAMILY EXPENDITURE SURVEY, 1961-2001	+
RELATED RESOURCES	^
Related studies:	
Family Resources Survey, 1979 (SN 1930)	

## Provenance (cont)

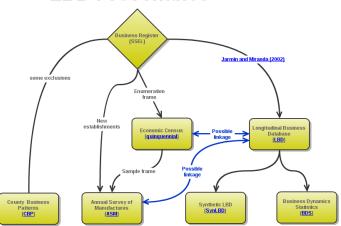
#### PROV model

W3C PROV Model based in the notions of

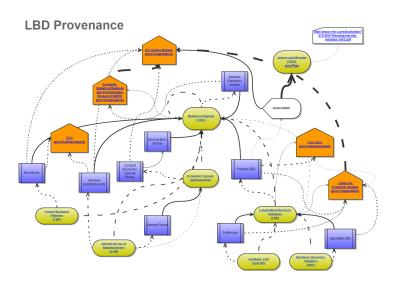
- 1. **entities** that are physical, digital, and conceptual things in the world:
- 2. **activities** that are dynamic aspects of the world that change and create entities; and
- 3. agents that are responsible for activities.
- 4. a set of **relationships** that can exist be-tween them that express attribution, delegation, derivation, etc.

## Incorporating PROV (LBD)

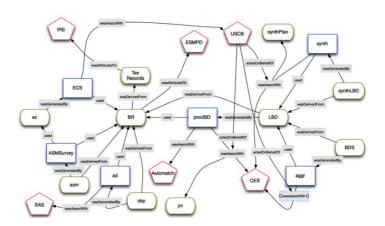
#### **LBD** Provenance



## Incorporating PROV (LBD)



## Incorporating PROV (LBD)



### PROV as RDF

```
entity(cdr:LBD, [prov:type='cdr:dataset', prov:label="Longitudinal Business Data"])
entity(cdr:synthLBD, [prov:type='cdr:dataset', prov:label="Synthetic LBD"])
entity(cdr:BDS, [prov:type='cdr::dataset', prov:label="Business Dynamics Statistics"])
entity(cdr:BR. [prov:type='cdr:dataset', prov:label="Business Register"])
entity(cdr:cbp, [prov:type='cdr:dataset', prov:label="County Business Patterns"])
entity(cdr:asm, [prov:type='cdr:dataset', prov:label="Annual Survey of Manufacturers"])
entity(cdr:ec, [prov:type='cdr:dataset', prov:label="Economic Census"])
entity(cdr:jm, [prov:type='prov:Plan', prov:label="Jarmin Miranda 2002"])
entity(cdr:synthPlan, [prov:type='prov:Plan', prov:label="synthetic plan"])
entity(cdr:tax, [prov:type='cdr:dataSet', prov:label="IRS Tax Records"])
agent(cdr:USCB, [prov:type='prov:Organization, prov:label="US Census Bureau"])
agent(cdr:CES, [prov:type='prov:Organization, prov:label="Center for Economic Studies"])
agent(cdr:IRS, [prov:type='prov:Organization, prov:label="Internal Revenue Service"])
agent(cdr:autoMatch, [prov:type='prov:SoftwareAgent'])
agent(cdr:SAS, [prov:type='prov:SoftwareAgent'])
agent(cdr:ESMPD, [prov:type='prov:SoftwareAgent',
    prov:label="Economic Statistical Methods and Programming Division"])
activity(cdr:synth, [prov:label="anonymize"])
activity(cdr:aggr. [prov:label="aggregate"])
activity(cdr:procLBD, [prov:label="process LBD"])
activity(cdr:ad, [prov:label="aggregation/disclosure protection"])
activity(cdr:asmSurvey, [prov:label="ASM Survey"])
activity(cdr:ecs, [prov:label="economic census survey"])
```

## The key PROV element embedded as DDI/XML

```
<stdyDscr> <!-- Standard DDI 2.5 -->
<othrStdyMat> <!-- Standard DDI 2.5 -->
 <relStdy> <!-- Standard DDI 2.5 -->
    <!-- From here, PROV additions -->
   cprov:generatedEntity prov:ref="cdr:LBD"/>
      cprov:usedEntity prov:ref="cdr:BR"/>
   cprov:activity prov:ref="cdr:procLBD"/>
        cor:CES"/>
        cprov:plan prov:ref="cdr:procLBDPlan"/>
      </prov:wasAssociatedWith>
 </relStdy> <!-- Standard DDI 2.5 -->
</othrStdyMat> <!-- Standard DDI 2.5 -->
</stdyDscr><!-- Standard DDI 2.5 -->
```

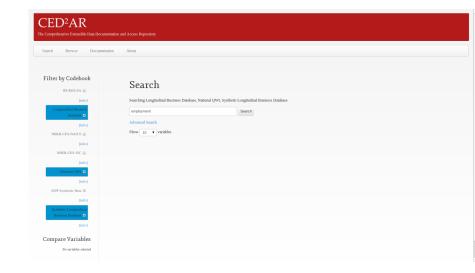
#### Additional PROV elements

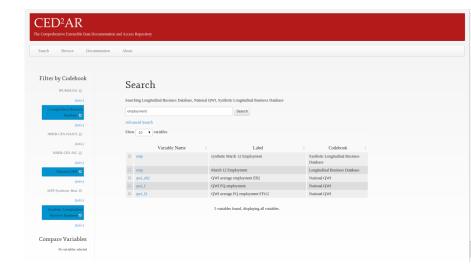
These could be derived from existing DDI elements (still being developed)

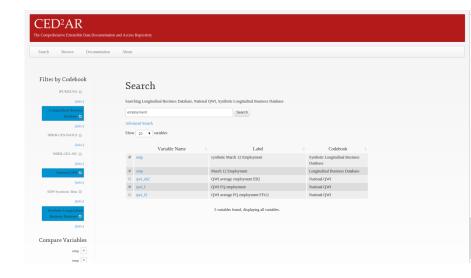
### Work on PROV

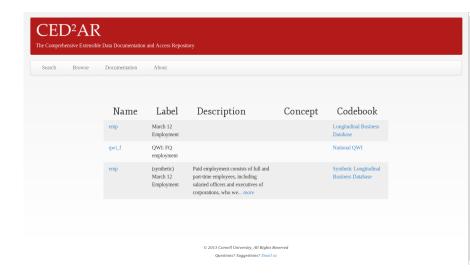
### More details forthcoming

- Lagoze, Williams, Vilhuber "Encoding Provenance Metadata for Social Science Datasets", submitted to Metadata and Semantics Research Conference (November 2013)
- Lagoze, Williams, Vilhuber, Block "Encoding Provenance of Social Science Data: Integrating PROV with DDI", accepted for 5th Annual European DDI User Conference (December 2013)

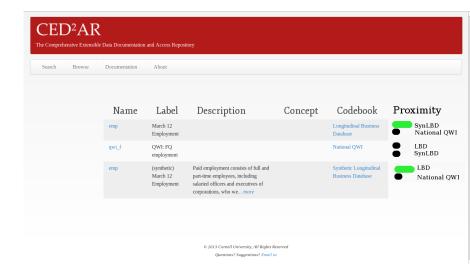








## Highlighting provenance



## CED<sup>2</sup>AR next steps

Formalize the DDI extension

## CED<sup>2</sup>AR next steps

- Formalize the DDI extension.
- Provide implementation outside of Census Bureau

## CED<sup>2</sup>AR next steps

- Formalize the DDI extension
- Provide implementation outside of Census Bureau
- ▶ Test implementation within the Census RDC

### The end

#### Thank you

- [3] for more details
- ► Labor Dynamics Institute
- VirtualRDC @ Cornell
- NCRN Cornell website

#### Extra slides

#### Extra slides

Census Bureau

IRS

DLO

CDEF

CRDC

France

## Dataset usage in Census RDC

### 1,505 project-dataset pairs

Many projects use multiple datasets.

## Economic (business) datasets

- ▶ 71% of datasets are business (economic) datasets
- Primarily establishment-based records from the Economic Censuses and Surveys, the Business Register, and the Longitudinal Business Database (LBD)
- ► They form the core of the modern industrial organization studies [5, 11] as well as modern gross job creation and destruction in macroeconomics [4, 6].
- But there are no public-use micro-data for these establishment-based products
- Exception: recently-released Synthetic LBD [2, 7]
- Currently no active curation (of derived datasets) [a], no way to reference [b], convoluted way to learn about the data structure [c\*]

## LEHD data

### Linked employer-employee data

- Longitudinal and cross-sectional detail
- New confidentiality protection methodologies [1, 10] have unlocked large amounts of data for public-use: highly detailed local area tabulations exist based on the LEHD data
- ► But: no public-use micro-data exist for this longitudinal job frame or any of its derivative files.
- Confidential data are dynamic (quarterly changes)
- ► Currently some active curation (archiving, 10-yr!) [a\*], no way to reference (publicly) [b\*], convoluted way to learn about the data structure [c\*]

## Not unique to Census Bureau

### Internal Revenue Service/ Social Security Administration

- ▶ New projects (Chetty et al, 2012; von Wachter and co-authors) have created and/or used linked longitudinal data at the IRS or the Social Security Administration.
- Neither agency has long-run experience at the statistical data curation function [a], (meta)data dissemination [b,c].
- Although both IRS and SSA have produced statistical tables for a long time.

## Not unique to Census Bureau

#### Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Long history of making time-series available
- Limited access to microdata at the BLS.
- Unknown curation [a]
- Even for public-use data, no way to reference specific releases [b]
- ► No well-established way to learn about microdata [c]

# Canadian Centre for Data Development and Economic Research



Vilhuber, Ab6Werterlogagiseipwinnanigal st Data Management of Confidential Data

## Canadian Research Data Centres

RDC projects and publications Conferences

FAO

top banner, then select the "Advanced Search" option and in the field "include pages with all these words" type in the text uri:rdc and add any key word. For example, "uri:rdc cersus" which will result in all pages on the Research Data Centres Program website that contain the keyword "census".

#### Surveys available in the RDCs

The following data sets are currently available at the RDCs. For additional sources of data please refer to Statistics Canada Products and Services.

To read a short description about a specific survey used at the RDCs, click on the survey details.

To access **detailed documentation** on a specific survey used at the RDCs, click on the appropriate cycle or year. Many of the surveys below have multiple cycles. The links below will take you to the most recent cycle or wave released. Please select "Other reference period" in the "Definitions, Data Sources and Methods Pages" for links to documentation for the earlier cycles.

Record Number	Survey Name	Acronym
5108	Aboriginal Children's Survey	ACS
3250	Aboriginal Peoples Survey	APS
3879	Adult Education and Training Survey	AETS
3207	Canadian Cancer Registry	CCR
3226	Canadian Community Health Survey - Annual Component	CCHS
5015	Canadian Community Health Survey - Mental Health	CCHS
5049	Canadian Community Health Survey - Nutrition	CCHS
5146	Canadian Community Health Survey - Healthy Aging	CCHS
5071	Canadian Health Measures Survey Biobank	CHMS
4440	Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey	CTUMS
	Census of Population - Additional documentation	
4508	Ethnic Diversity Survey - User Guide - Codebook	EDS
2504	Common of Femily P	

Vilhuber, Abowd, Block, Ladoze, Williams

Data Management of Confidential Data

## Canadian Research Data Centres

#### ... but also not perfect

#### Attempt to access data information on General Social Survey

#### Access forbidden! / Accès interdit!

#### Access forbidden DLI!

This web module may only be accessed from the institutional networks of Canadian postsecondary institutions participating in the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI). If you are a student or a member of a participating institution and you are unable to access these pages threather the property of a participating institution and you are unable to access these pages threather the property of a participating institution and you are unable to access these pages threather the property of a participating in the DLI contact at your institution.

#### Accès interdit IDD!

L'accès à ce module Web est restreint aux réseaux institutionnels des établissements postsecondaires canadiens membres de l'Initiative de démocratisation des données (IDD). Si vous êtes un étudiant ou personnel d'un établissement membre de l'IDD et vous ne réussissez pas à accèder à ce module par le biais de votre réseau institutionnel, veuillez informer la personne-ressource de IDD à voir établissement.

## Réseau Quetelet



#### Extra slides



J. M. Abowd, K. Gittings, K. L. McKinney, B. E. Stephens, L. Vilhuber, and S. Woodcock, "Dynamically consistent noise infusion and partially synthetic data as confidentiality protection measures for related time-series," Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, Tech. Rep., January 2012. [Online]. Available: http://www.fcsm.gov/events/papers2012.html



J. M. Abowd and L. Vilhuber. (2010) Synthetic data server. [Online]. Available: http://www.vrdc.cornell.edu/sds/



J. M. Abowd, L. Vilhuber, and W. Block, "A proposed solution to the archiving and curation of confidential scientific inputs," in *Privacy in Statistical Databases*, ser. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, J. Domingo-Ferrer and I. Tinnirello, Eds., vol. 7556. Springer, 2012, pp. 216–225. [Online]. Available: http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-33627-0.17



S. J. Davis, J. C. Haltiwanger, and S. Schuh, *Job creation and destruction*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1996.



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