Comment on Federal Register Notice 83 FR 34111

Nathan Favero <favero@american.edu>

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To:POP 2020 DataProducts <pop.2020.dataproducts@census.gov>;

Cc:ipums@umn.edu <ipums@umn.edu>;

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Hello,

I would like to urge caution in adopting new procedures to ensure privacy of data collected through the census or American Community Survey (ACS). I personally use publicly-available ACS data to try to better account for community characteristics when doing quantitative research on public administration or education topics. There are few other sources of data that could reasonably substitute for ACS data. It's crucial that we can work to better understand how community characteristics affect how government organizations such as schools function. I'm currently interested in learning more about how local labor markets affect schools' ability to hire highly effective teachers. This research will have important implications for education policy and for teaching training approaches.

Publication of carefully aggregated data poses miniscule risks to anonymity, so I urge caution in adopting new procedures. Please engage carefully with the research community as you work to make any changes in protocols that may affect our ability to effectively evaluate various facets of policy effects and community dynamics.

Best,
Nathan

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