

# Using IPUMS data to Study Work, Health, and Aging

Sarah Flood

# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Pre-conference workshop  
presented by **IPUMS** and **NDIRA**

## DATA AVAILABLE



4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 315478241893887121934598 9283867358876987 347914272934 15284 876639289487 6914872 52529174676 5387 78759276 7195721 85323728457 8647386 35948721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298891814 83618915956 19254248 8847219 58387 729 38 5938724619628951479254386	4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 315478241893887121934598 9283867358876987 347914272934 15284 876639289487 6914872 52529174676 5387 78759276 7195721 85323728457 8647386 35948721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298891814 83618915956 19254248 8847219 58387 729 38 5938724619628951479254386	4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 315478241893887121934598 9283867358876987 347914272934 15284 876639289487 6914872 52529174676 5387 78759276 7195721 85323728457 8647386 35948721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298891814 83618915956 19254248 8847219 58387 729 38 5938724619628951479254386	4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 315478241893887121934598 9283867358876987 347914272934 15284 876639289487 6914872 52529174676 5387 78759276 7195721 85323728457 8647386 35948721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298891814 83618915956 19254248 8847219 58387 729 38 5938724619628951479254386	4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 315478241893887121934598 9283867358876987 347914272934 15284 876639289487 6914872 52529174676 5387 78759276 7195721 85323728457 8647386 35948721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298891814 83618915956 19254248 8847219 58387 729 38 5938724619628951479254386	4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 315478241893887121934598 9283867358876987 347914272934 15284 876639289487 6914872 52529174676 5387 78759276 7195721 85323728457 8647386 35948721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298891814 83618915956 19254248 8847219 58387 729 38 5938724619628951479254386	4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 315478241893887121934598 9283867358876987 347914272934 15284 876639289487 6914872 52529174676 5387 78759276 7195721 85323728457 8647386 35948721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298891814 83618915956 19254248 8847219 58387 729 38 5938724619628951479254386	4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 315478241893887121934598 9283867358876987 347914272934 15284 876639289487 6914872 52529174676 5387 78759276 7195721 85323728457 8647386 35948721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298891814 83618915956 19254248 8847219 58387 729 38 5938724619628951479254386	4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 315478241893887121934598 9283867358876987 347914272934 15284 876639289487 6914872 52529174676 5387 78759276 7195721 85323728457 8647386 35948721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298891814 83618915956 19254248 8847219 58387 729 38 5938724619628951479254386
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- USA**  
U.S. Census and American Community Survey microdata from 1850 to the present.
- CPS**  
Current Population Survey microdata including basic monthly surveys and supplements from 1962 to the present.
- INTERNATIONAL**  
World's largest collection of census microdata with over 100 countries, contemporary and historical.
- TIME USE**  
U.S. and international time use data for 1965 to the present.
- NHGIS**  
Tabular U.S. Census data and GIS boundary files from 1790 to the present.
- GLOBAL HEALTH**  
Health survey data for Africa and Asia, including harmonized data collections for **DHS** and **PMA**.
- HIGHER ED**  
Data on the science and engineering workforce in the U.S. from 1993 to the present.
- HEALTH SURVEYS**  
Health survey data from the National Health Interview Survey and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey.
- IHGIS**  
Data tables from population and housing censuses as well as agricultural censuses from around the world with corresponding GIS files.



# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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A visualization of the USA data set, showing a map of the United States with a grid of data points. The text is rendered in a light blue color.

4796138925825634972846961  
2862514197341212569321437  
3154782418938587121934598  
928386735389276967  
34791427293842739634  
1528421876639289487  
6914872525291746676  
5382593217875927823  
7195721853237294576  
864738643595872165983  
3252147916274181421539898  
94198298869181421539898  
83816915956717875927823  
1925424886847213  
56387674239428652587  
7291936394517649172642  
3874291562789679316431925  
5938724619628951479254386

## USA

U.S. Census and American Community Survey microdata from 1850 to the present.

A visualization of the CPS data set, showing a map of the United States with a grid of data points. The text is rendered in a light orange color.

4796138925825634972846961  
14197341212569321437  
3154782418938587121934598  
928386735389276967  
34791427293842739634  
1528421876639289487  
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1925424886847213  
56387674239428652587  
7291936394517649172642  
3874291562789679316431925  
5938724619628951479254386

## CPS

Current Population Survey microdata including basic monthly surveys and supplements from 1962 to the present.

A visualization of the INTERNATIONAL data set, showing a world map with a grid of data points. The text is rendered in a light blue color.

4796138925825634972846961  
2862514197341212569321437  
3154782418938587121934598  
928386735389276967  
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1925424886847213  
56387674239428652587  
7291936394517649172642  
3874291562789679316431925  
5938724619628951479254386

## INTERNATIONAL

World's largest collection of census microdata with over 100 countries, contemporary and historical.

A visualization of the TIME USE data set, showing a map of the United States with a grid of data points. The text is rendered in a light yellow color.

4796138925825634972846961  
2862514197341212569321437  
3154782418938587121934598  
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864738643595872165983  
3252147916274181421539898  
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83816915956717875927823  
1925424886847213  
56387674239428652587  
7291936394517649172642  
3874291562789679316431925  
5938724619628951479254386

## TIME USE

U.S. and international time use data for 1965 to the present.

A visualization of the HEALTH SURVEYS data set, showing a map of the United States with a grid of data points. The text is rendered in a light green color.

4796138925825634972846961  
2862514197341212569321437  
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56387674239428652587  
7291936394517649172642  
3874291562789679316431925  
5938724619628951479254386

## HEALTH SURVEYS

Health survey data from the National Health Interview Survey and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey.

Census

Other Surveys

Health Surveys

USA

CPS

NHIS

International

ATUS

MEPS

Geography

Time

Target  
population

Data  
characteristics

Topics

Geography

Time

Target  
population

Data  
characteristics

Topics

Region

State

Sub-state  
(> 100k)

Sub-state  
(< 100k)

Region

State

Sub-state  
(> 100k)

Sub-state  
(< 100k)

USA

CPS

ATUS

NHIS

MEPS

International



Region

State

Sub-state  
(> 100k)

Sub-state  
(< 100k)

USA

USA

CPS

CPS

ATUS

ATUS

NHIS

MEPS

International

International

Region

State

Sub-state  
(> 100k)

Sub-state  
(< 100k)

USA

USA

USA

CPS

CPS

ATUS

ATUS

NHIS

MEPS

International

International

International

Geography

Time

Target  
population

Data  
characteristics

Topics

1700s

1960s

2000s

Present

1700s

1960s

2000s

Present

USA



International

1700s

1960s

2000s

Present

USA



International

CPS



NHIS



1700s

1960s

2000s

Present

USA



International

CPS



NHIS

ATUS



MEPS

Geography

Time

Target  
population

Data  
characteristics

Topics

All Persons

Civilian,  
Non-institutionalized

All Persons

USA

International

Civilian,  
Non-institutionalized

CPS

ATUS

NHIS/MEPS

Geography

Time

Target  
population

Data  
characteristics

Topics

Microdata

Summary data

Cross-sectional

Longitudinal



Microdata

Summary data

USA

NHIS

CPS

MEPS

ATUS

International

Cross-sectional

Longitudinal

## Microdata

## Summary data

USA

NHIS

CPS

MEPS

ATUS

International

## Cross-sectional

## Longitudinal

USA

NHIS

CPS

CPS

MEPS

MEPS

ATUS

Geography

Time

Target  
population

Data  
characteristics

Topics

USA

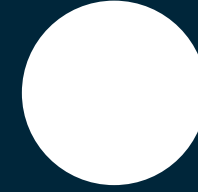
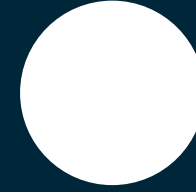
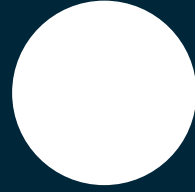
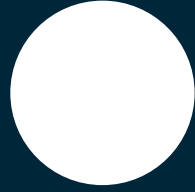
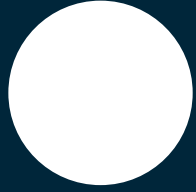
CPS

Int'l

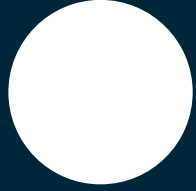
ATUS

Health

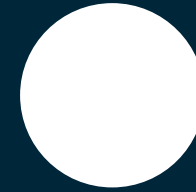
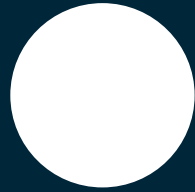
SES



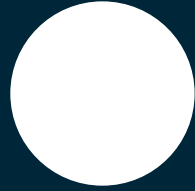
Housing



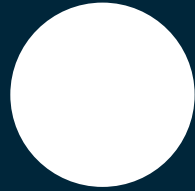
Work



Income



Poverty



USA

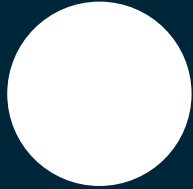
CPS

Int'l

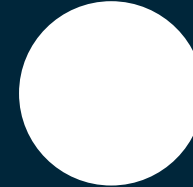
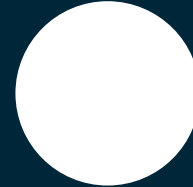
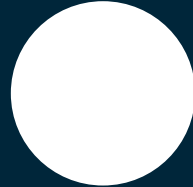
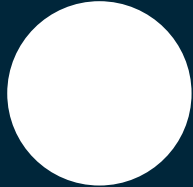
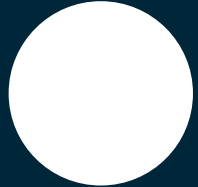
ATUS

Health

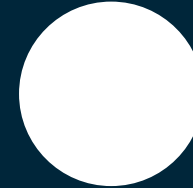
Fertility



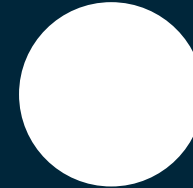
Household  
or Family



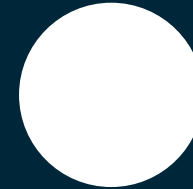
Health  
Insurance



Health  
behaviors



Disability



Migration



# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Pre-conference workshop  
presented by **IPUMS** and **NDiRA**

## Benefits of these data

- Large-scale, nationally representative
- Data on all\* household members
- Expansive temporal and geographic coverage
- Rich sociodemographic data
- Varying detail on work, aging, and health



# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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## IPUMS USA

Decennial census data, 1790 to present

American Community Surveys, 2000 to present

# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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## IPUMS USA

- U.S. decennial censuses
  - Household- and county-level (1790-1840)
  - Full count (1850-1940)
  - Samples (1950-2010)
- American Community Surveys (2000-)
- Supplemental Datasets/Resources

# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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## Decennial Census Data

- Linking full-count census data across time
  - <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/mlp/mlp.shtml>
  - 1850-1940
  - Next up: 1950!
- Potential
  - Additional linkages with health surveys and administrative records
  - Examination of early-life environmental exposures on later-life health, demographic, and economic outcomes

Table 1. Number of linked individuals across censuses

Census years	Linked persons
1850-1860	5,879,611
1860-1870	8,949,304
1870-1880	13,829,390
1880-1900	13,782,479
1900-1910	30,017,630
1910-1920	37,682,985
1920-1930	45,326,985
1930-1940	52,490,126

## The American Community Survey

- Replaced the long form of the Decennial Census
  - Demonstration stage: 2000 to 2004
  - Full implementation 2005, group quarters added 2006
- Rolling sample design (point in time)
- Single-year files: 1% of US population
- Multi-year files
  - 1% of population from each of 5 years
  - Best option for very small population subgroups or specific geographic locations

# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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## Geography

- 1970 - present:
  - State
  - Some Metropolitan Areas
  - County Groups
  - Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs)
- ACS 5-year files allow for more reliable estimates of smaller geographies

# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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## Topical Coverage

Geography	Group quarters	Housing characteristics	Household economic characteristics	Household appliances	Age
Race	Marital Status	Birthplace	Nationality	Family Interrelationship	Education
Work	Income	Disability	Migration Status	Commuting	Health Insurance

## Disability Variables

- Hearing difficulty: deaf or having serious difficulty hearing
- Vision difficulty: blind or having serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses
- Cognitive difficulty: Because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions
- Ambulatory difficulty: Having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs
- Self-care difficulty: Having difficulty bathing or dressing
- Independent living difficulty: Because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping



# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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## IPUMS CPS

Current Population Survey data, 1962 to present



## Current Population Survey

- Monthly survey of housing units conducted jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Primary source of information about the U.S. labor force
- Fantastic resource for investigating short- and long-term change within and across population subgroups on a variety of topics
  - Fielded monthly since 1976
  - Short-term panel component
- Premier data source for understanding how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the well-being of the U.S. population

# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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## Rich Topical Coverage Monthly

Employment

Unemployment

Earnings

Demographics

Socioeconomic  
Status

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## Vast Supplement Coverage

ASEC	Agricultural Worker	Banking	Child Support	Civic Engagement
Computer & Internet Use	Contingent Workers	Contingent Work	Displaced Worker	Education
Fertility	Food Security	Immunization	Job Tenure	Participation in the Arts
Tobacco Use	Veterans	Volunteer	Voting and Registration	Work Schedules

# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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## ASEC

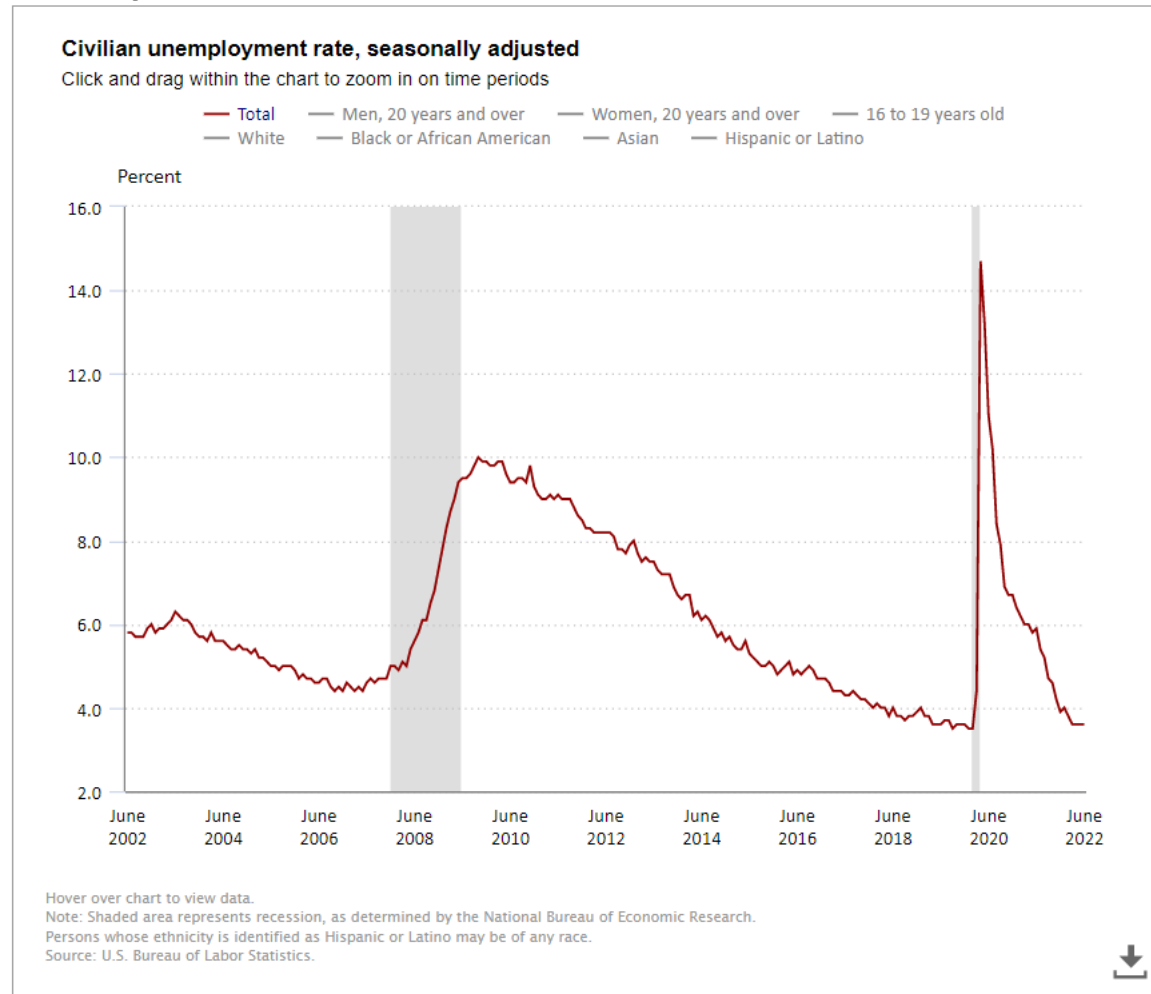
- Used extensively by researchers and policy makers
- Contains data on income, poverty, taxes, health insurance, government subsidies, and migration
- Initial focus of IPUMS
  - Would provide information about the years between Censuses
  - Would be as comparable as possible with IPUMS USA

# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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## Basic Monthly Data

Jobs  
more



## Linking Opportunities

- Large sample sizes
- Good coverage of subpopulations
- Short-run changes in employment and families; reactions to births and losses (death, divorce)
- Combine rich sources of information about different topics
  - Work and volunteering; veterans and employment

## Linking Challenge: Rotation Pattern

- CPS is NOT a longitudinal survey that follows one or several cohorts as they age
- CPS does have a panel component where individuals are observed up to 8 times over 16 months, but the way they move through the survey is in a 4-8-4 rotation
  - 4: In January-April 2019
  - 8: Out May-December 2019
  - 4: In January-April 2020



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## IPUMS Time Use

American Time Use Survey data, 2003 to present

US time diary data, 1930 to present

International time diary data, 1965 to present



## American Time Use Survey

- Cross sectional data from 2003+
- Ongoing data collection by US Census Bureau for Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Respondents are selected after completing the CPS rotation
- One day, one diary per household
  - But have information about other household members
  - Weekends are oversampled (50/50)

## ATUS Time Diary

- 24 hour time diary (4am-4am)
- 6 digit activity coding scheme (400+ activities identified)
- Secondary activities
  - Childcare: all years
  - Eldercare: 2011+
  - Eating: 2006-2008, 2014-2016
  - Drinking: 2006-2008
- Locations/Modes of transportation
- Co-presence of others

## What are time diary data?

- Structured narrative accounts of a 24-hour period
- What people do as well as where, with whom (and more recently how people feel about what they do and the use of smart devices)
- Suited to large sample surveys but retains properties of qualitative narratives
- Flexibly capture largely accurate activity reports

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## Structure of Time Diary Data

START	STOP	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	WITH WHOM
4:00	6:00	Sleep	n/a	n/a
6:00	6:10	Personal Care	n/a	n/a
6:10	6:15	Dressing	Home	Alone
6:15	6:30	Dressing Household Adult	Home	Spouse
6:30	6:45	Preparing meal	Home	Alone
6:45	6:55	Eating meal	Home	Spouse
6:55	7:30	Cleaning up after meal	Home	Alone
7:30	10:00	Watching television	Home	Spouse
10:00	11:00	Napping	Home	n/a
11:00	11:05	Personal Care	Home	n/a
11:05	12:00	Yardwork	Home	Alone

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## Topical Coverage

Adult care

Child care

Volunteering

Physical  
activity

Paid work

Housework  
and home  
repairs

Television  
watching

Leisure

Sleep and  
sleeplessness

Transportation

Spending time  
with others

Spending time  
alone

## ATUS Modules

- Eating and Health
  - 2006-2008, 2014-2016
  - Shopping/meal preparation variables, poverty, food program participation
- Well-Being
  - 2010, 2012, 2013, 2021
  - Life satisfaction, momentary well-being
- Leave
  - 2011, 2017-2018
  - Access to and use of paid/unpaid leave

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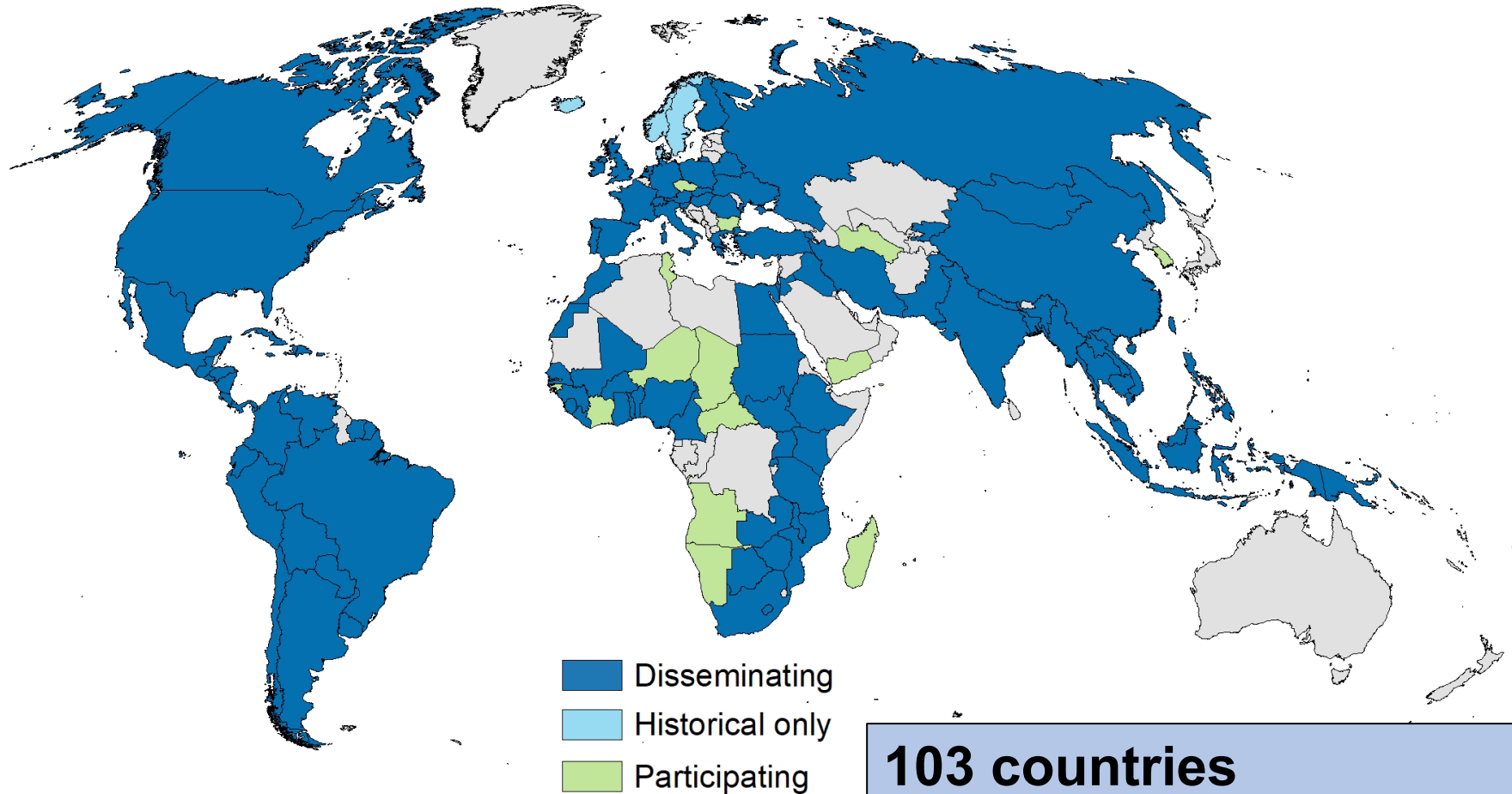
## IPUMS International

Census and labor force data from more than 100 countries



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**103 countries**  
**547 censuses and surveys**  
**Over 1 billion person records**

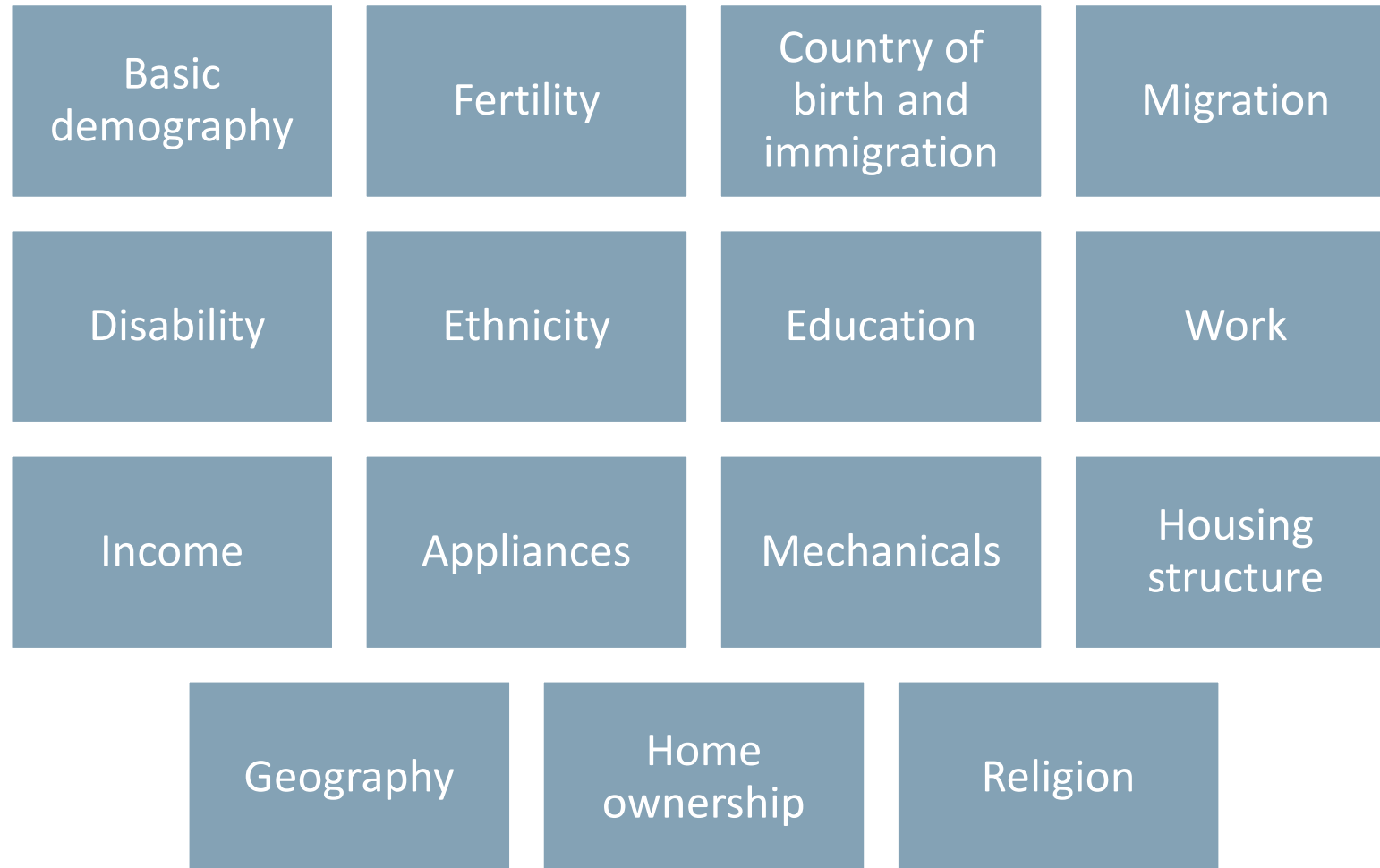




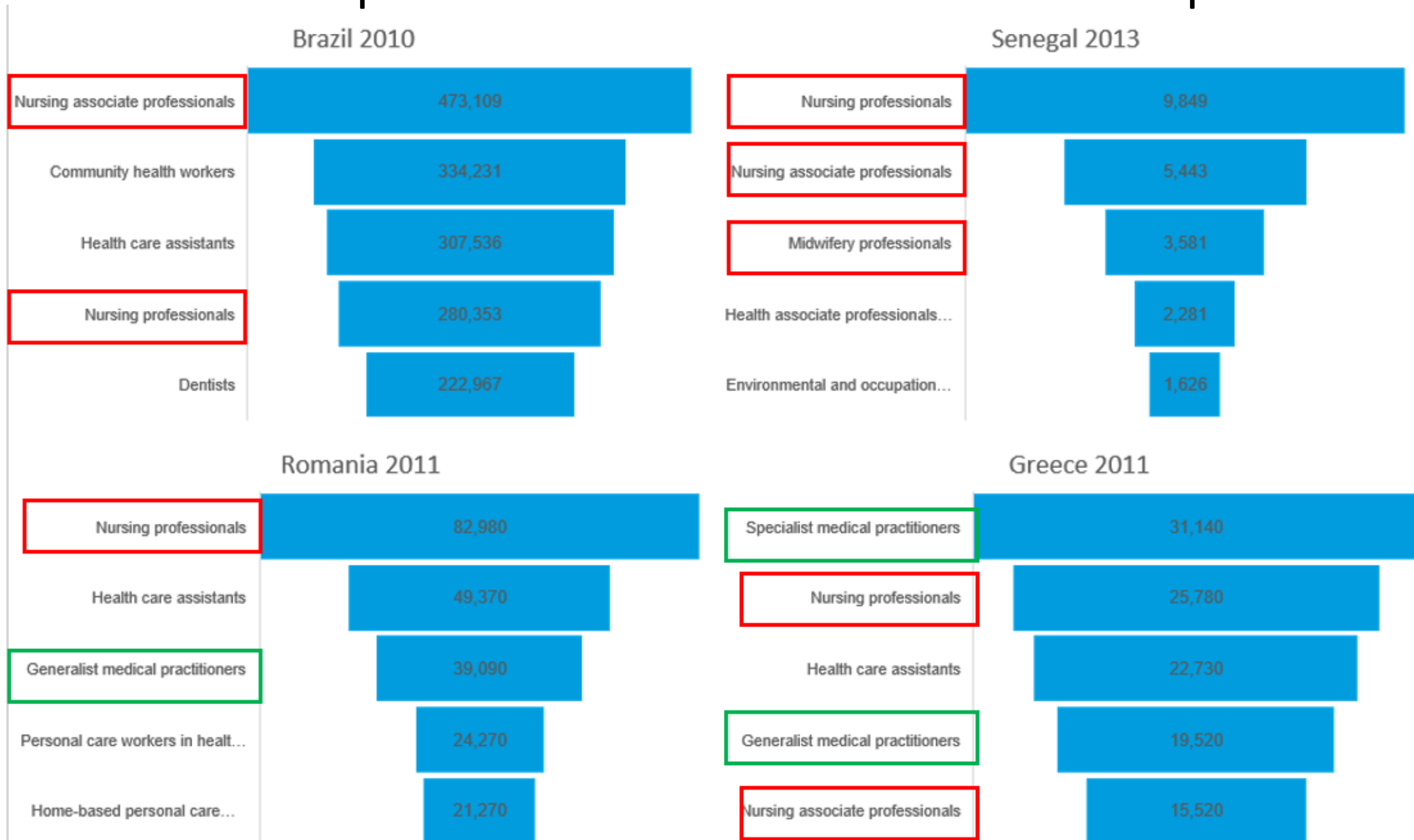
# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Pre-conference workshop  
presented by **IPUMS** and **NDiRA**

## Topical Coverage



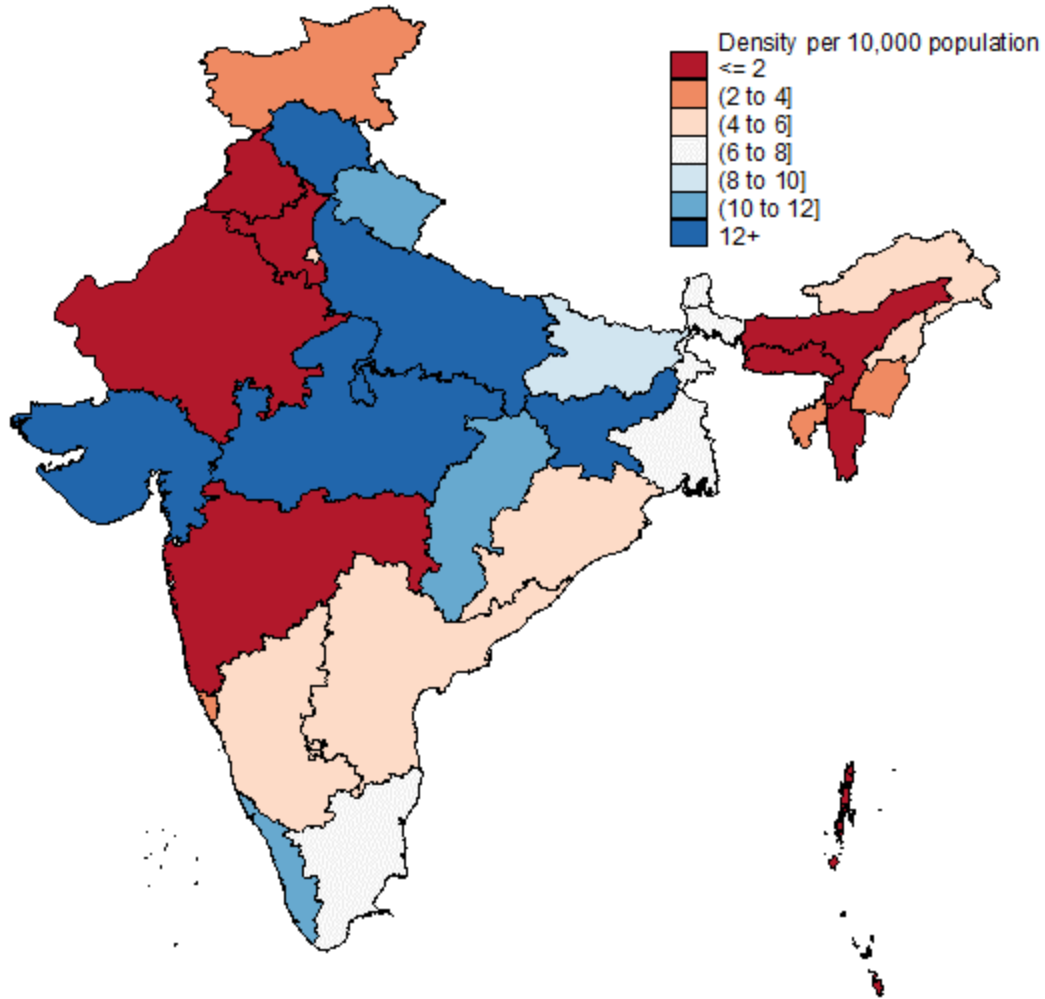
# WHO example: health workforce occupations



# WHO example: change in health workforce (India)

Density of Nursing and Midwifery personnel\* in India 2004

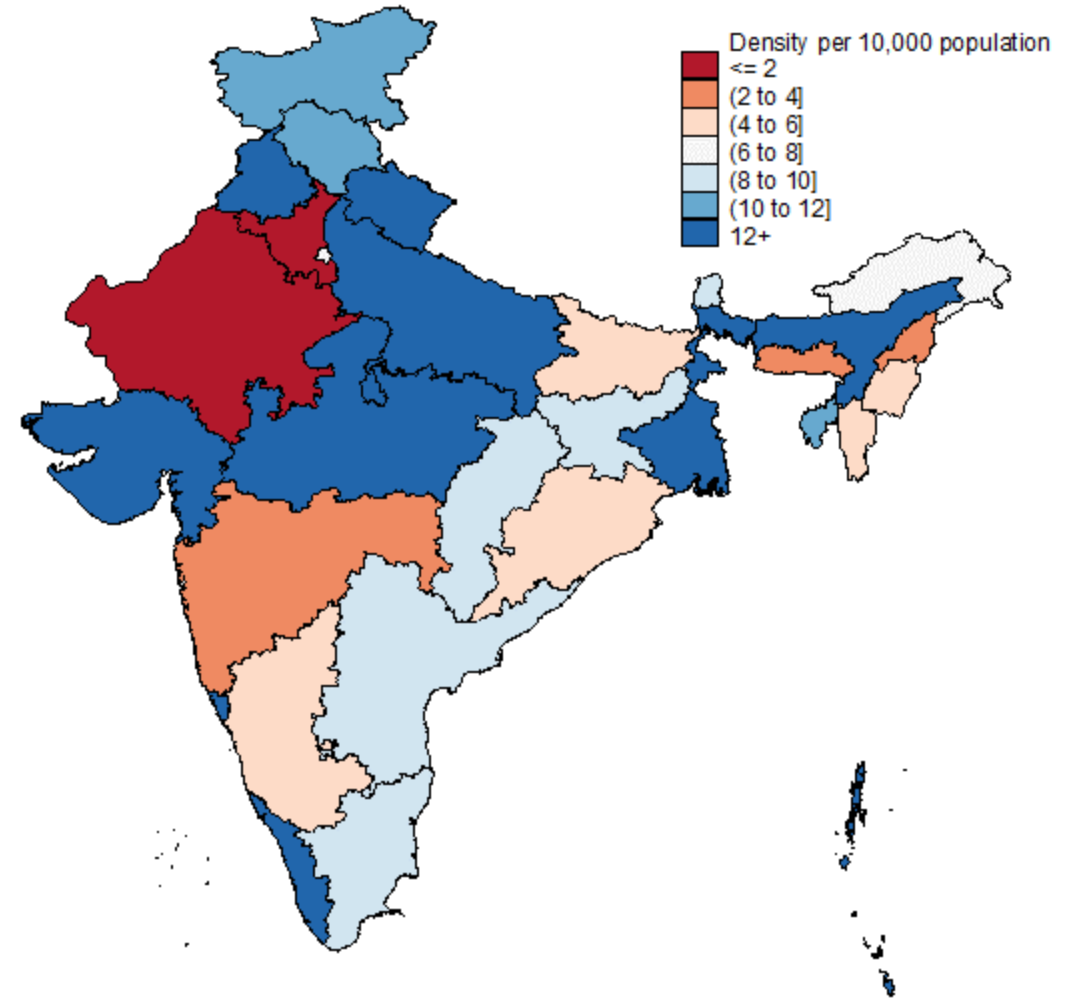
Employment survey, sample size 602,833



\* Nurses, Midwives and health visitors

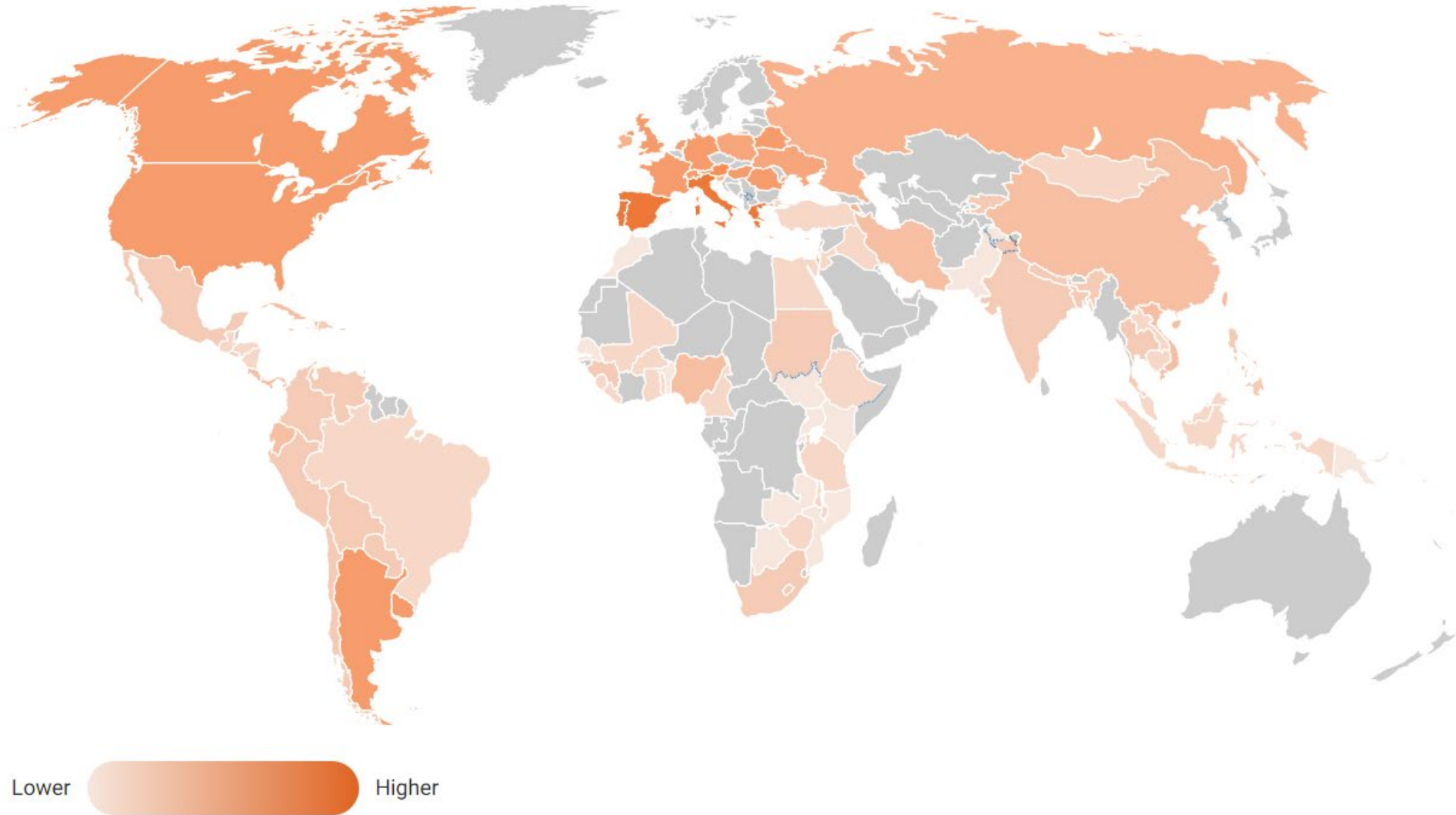
Density of Nursing and Midwifery personnel\* in India 2009

Census socio economic survey, sample size 560,741



\* Professionals and associates

# UNFPA example: COVID-19 vulnerability based on age





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Bureau of Statistics,  
Bangladesh

Central Bureau of Statistics,  
Sudan



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## IPUMS Health Surveys

National Health Interview Survey data from 1960s to present

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey data from 1996 to present

479611800503534972646951  
78625114172411212589321437  
11441179282914299  
937  
41 2 8 3  
17 35 29  
51 79 21 7 19 27  
88 37 11 7 19 21  
62 86 38 8 8 38 39 89  
50436 79 1 11 8 7 20 8  
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70 9 3 6 8 8 4 1 6 8 1 7 2 8 2  
18 1 3 2 8 1 8 3 2 4 5 7 8 1 8 1 1 2 2  
39 9 8 7 2 6 1 9 6 3 8 5 1 4 9 2 5 4 3 8



## HARMONIZED DATA FROM U.S. NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEYS

IPUMS Health Surveys provide free individual-level survey data for research purposes from two leading sources of self-reported health and health care access information: the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS).

### NHIS

#### NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SERIES

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) provides harmonized annual microdata from the 1960s to the present.

[GET DATA](#)

### MEPS

#### MEDICAL EXPENDITURE PANEL SURVEY

The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) provides harmonized microdata from the longitudinal survey of U.S. health care expenditures and utilization, covering the period 1996 to the present.

[GET DATA](#)

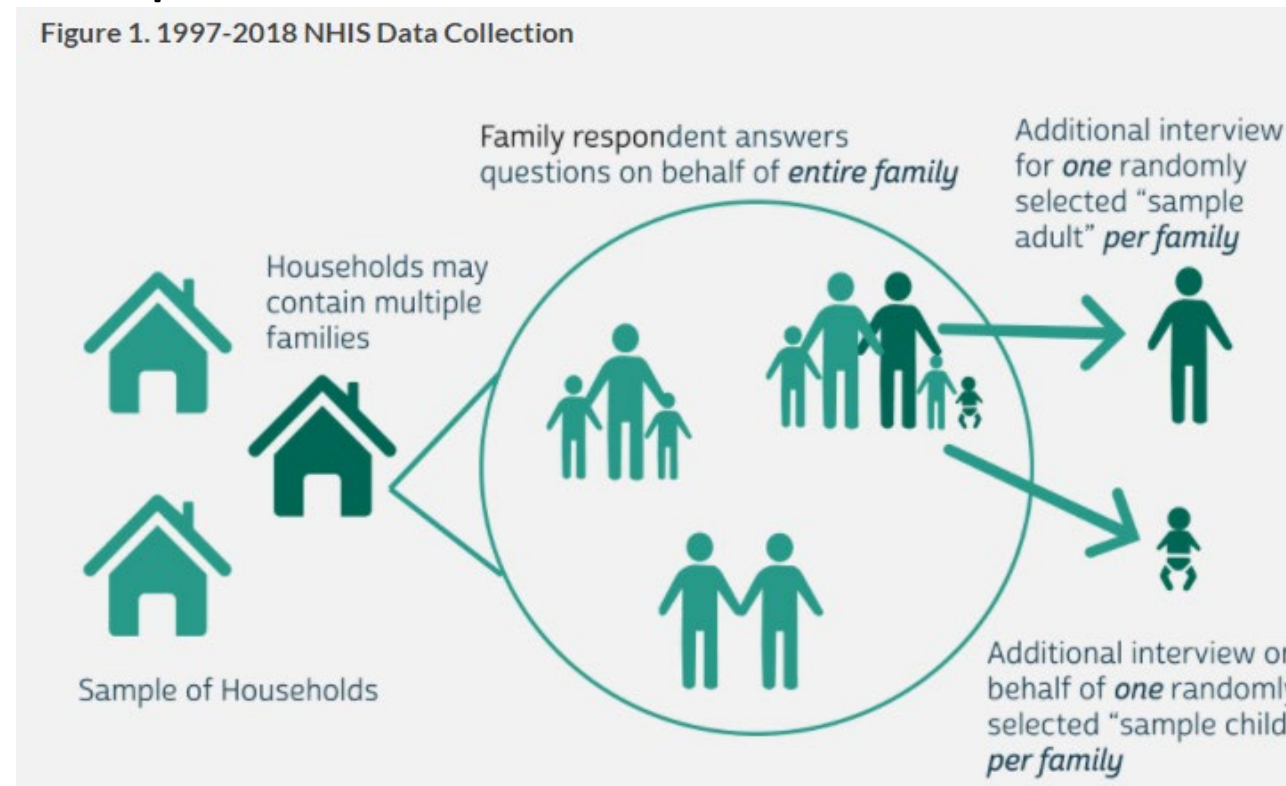


## National Health Interview Survey

- Long-running health survey -- data for 1963-present
- Incredible resource for snapshots or repeated series of snapshots of health inequities
- NHIS linkage to admin sources (e.g., NDI, SSA, HUD)

## NHIS is a Complex Survey

- Different sets of questions are fielded to subsets of the sample



# DATA-INTENSIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

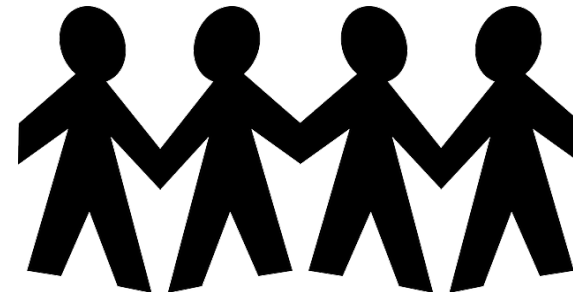
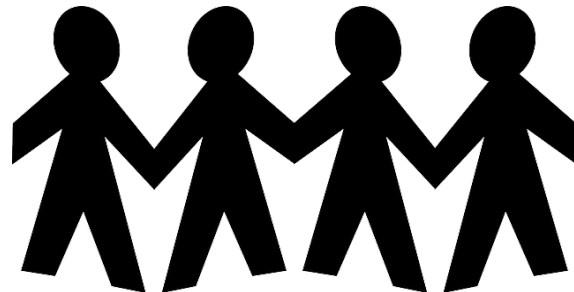
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Format from 1997 – 2018

## Sample of households

**Households can contain  
multiple families**



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One person – **family  
respondent** –  
interviewed about  
health of all family  
members

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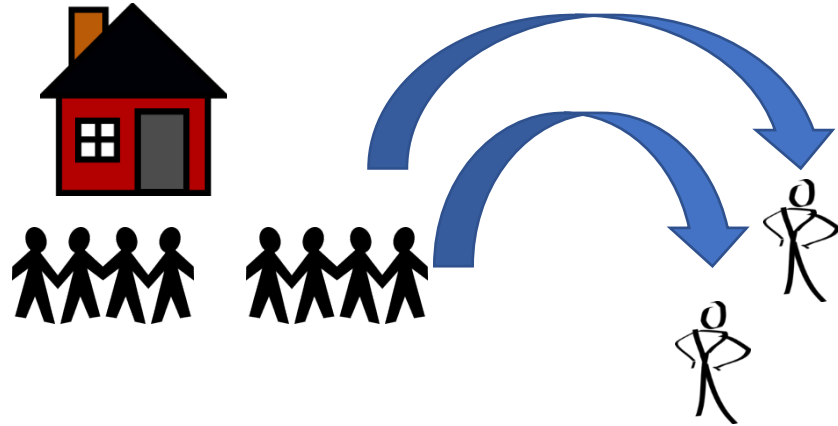


- Demographics,
- Health status,
- Chronic conditions,
- Health insurance,
- Injuries

**One person – family  
respondent –  
interviewed about  
health of all family  
members**

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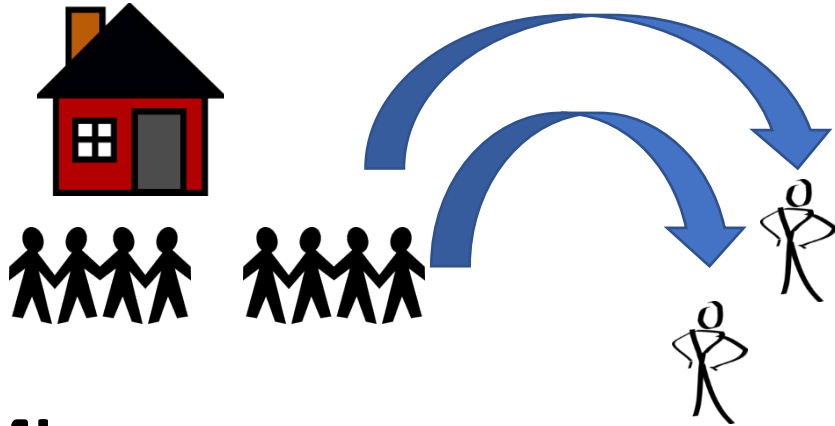


One **sample adult**  
and **sample child**  
per family selected  
to complete an  
additional interview



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One **sample adult**  
and **sample child**  
per family selected  
to complete an  
additional interview

- BMI,
- Mental Health,
- Select access to care and health behaviors measures
- Supplements
- (For adults) sexual orientation, job info

## NHIS 2019 Redesign, In Brief

- 1997-2018 survey design changed substantially in 2019
- In part motivated by declining response rates across all US household surveys
- Involved extensive cuts to questionnaire content
- Also involved dropping full household data collection so that now data collection is on only one randomly selected adult and child per household



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## Topical Coverage

General health	Mortality	AIDS	Cancer testing
Cancer family history	Conditions (e.g., asthma, diabetes, hypertension)	Health behaviors (e.g., smoking, alcohol use, nutrition, exercise)	Health education/knowledge
Limitations	Medical care/access	Health insurance	Vaccinations
Mental health	Alternative health care	Injuries	Sociodemographic characteristics

## The NHIS-Linked Mortality File

- The NCHS data linkage center links NHIS survey data records to the NDI
- The NHIS-LMF linkage adds variables on the date and cause of death
- The public use NHIS-LMF are limited to adults age 18 and older at the time of the survey

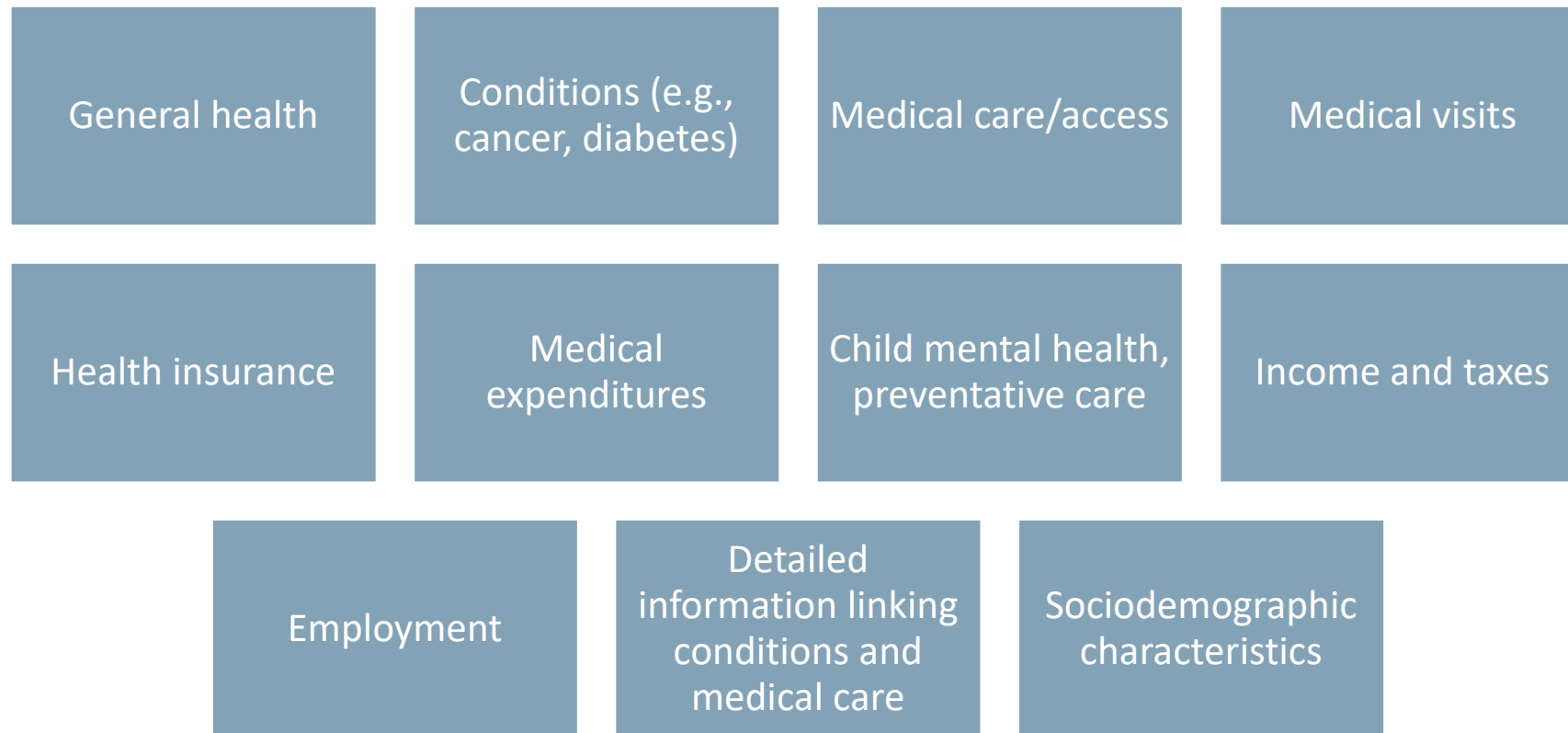
## Medical Expenditure Panel Survey

- Leading source of national estimates of health care expenditures in the United States
- Repeated measures on health, health care utilization and quality, collected in 5 in-person interviews over 2 years
- Data for 1996-forward
- 12-13K households and 30-35K persons interviewed per year
- Re-interviews a subsample of households participating in the previous year's NHIS
  - Can be linked to NHIS using restricted linking keys

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## Topical Coverage



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## Best in class awards

- Paid work: CPS
- Unpaid work: CPS/Time Use
- Health: NHIS
- Global coverage: International
- Geographic detail: USA/International
- Population Subgroups: USA/International

Geography

Time

Target  
population

Data  
characteristics

Topics

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Questions?





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4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 3154782418936587121934598 928386715389276987 347914272938424 15284 8766302894871828 69148 29174676566485 5387 1787597 719 15323 8647386 35958721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298691814 83618915956 19254248 8847213 1953612146 5638767 584239428652587 7291 1639456541764917264 3874 4291562789679316431925 5938724619628951479254386	4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 3154782418936587121934598 928386715389276987 347914272938424 15284 8766302894871828 69148 29174676566485 5387 1787597 719 15323 8647386 35958721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298691814 83618915956 19254248 8847213 1953612146 5638767 584239428652587 7291 1639456541764917264 3874 4291562789679316431925 5938724619628951479254386	4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 3154782418936587121934598 928386715389276987 347914272938424 15284 8766302894871828 69148 29174676566485 5387 1787597 719 15323 8647386 35958721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298691814 83618915956 19254248 8847213 1953612146 5638767 584239428652587 7291 1639456541764917264 3874 4291562789679316431925 5938724619628951479254386	4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 3154782418936587121934598 928386715389276987 347914272938424 15284 8766302894871828 69148 29174676566485 5387 1787597 719 15323 8647386 35958721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298691814 83618915956 19254248 8847213 1953612146 5638767 584239428652587 7291 1639456541764917264 3874 4291562789679316431925 5938724619628951479254386	4796138925825634972846961 2862514197341212569321437 3154782418936587121934598 928386715389276987 347914272938424 15284 8766302894871828 69148 29174676566485 5387 1787597 719 15323 8647386 35958721659837 3252147916274181421539896 94198298691814 83618915956 19254248 8847213 1953612146 5638767 584239428652587 7291 1639456541764917264 3874 4291562789679316431925 5938724619628951479254386
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## USA

U.S. Census and American Community Survey microdata from 1850 to the present.

## CPS

Current Population Survey microdata including basic monthly surveys and supplements from 1962 to the present.

## INTERNATIONAL

World's largest collection of census microdata with over 100 countries, contemporary and historical.

## TIME USE

U.S. and international time use data for 1965 to the present.

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Health survey data from the National Health Interview Survey and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey.

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