Where can we find it?
Data sources for social service non-profits

ALLIANCE FOR HUMAN SERVICES
AUGUST 10, 2018
Community Research Institute

- Founded in 1982
  - Director since 2017
- Historical focus on workforce and economic development, local government
- Expansion to non-profits
- Quantitative and qualitative contract-based research services
- Located downtown
Disclaimer: I’m a lawyer, but I’m not your lawyer

This presentation is not legal advice.
We are not creating an attorney-client relationship today.
Does the data we need exist?

*Lawyer answer:* It depends

*Data researcher answer:* Maybe, let me check
CRI’s preference for government, public data sources

Accuracy
Accessibility
Cost

Proprietary sources have their place; we use them too
U.S. Census Bureau
American Community Survey (ACS)

Collects important demographic, socioeconomic information

Data collection starting in 2005

Replaced decennial census “long form”
- One in 38 households surveyed annually
## ACS data points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population (different products)</th>
<th>Educational attainment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race, ethnicity</td>
<td>Language spoken at home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Foreign-born</td>
<td>Employment status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Marital, fertility status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Veteran status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household income</td>
<td>Housing characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Related data (poverty, SMOCAPI, GRAPI)</td>
<td>Disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health insurance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Foreign-born
- Related data (poverty, SMOCAPI, GRAPI)
## ACS geographies, accuracy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Larger the area, more responses, more accurate data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Margins of error provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City/town</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Township</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip Code Tabulation Area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACS data sets

1-YEAR

Two versions:
- Standard (65,000 people or more)
- Supplemental (20,000 to 65,000)

12 months of data
Least reliable data
Most current data
Best when:
- Currency is more important than precision
- Exploring larger populations

5-YEAR

60 months of data for all areas
Most reliable data
Least current data
Best when:
- Precision is more important than currency
- Examining tracts and other smaller geographies because 1-year estimates are not available
- Analyzing very small populations
1-year vs. 5-year warnings

Don’t compare different data sets

1 with 1, 5 with 5

No overlapping years when comparing 5-year sets

2012, 2017
Census Bureau front door: American FactFinder

More than just ACS data
- Other Census Bureau products like Pop Estimates, County Business Patterns

Not the most user-friendly site
- Useful training webinars

All data assigned table ID
- Write down table numbers
FactFinder Tips: Learned the hard way

Google American FactFinder
  - Census.gov too confusing
Use Advanced Search menu
Always pick geography first
Create AFF file for repeated geographies, tables

Methodology

Always look at universe being estimated
No centralized list of data tables
Same data can be available on multiple tables
No custom geographies
Data download management tips

Download as “View Data”

Save original data set and create version to manipulate

FactFinder doesn’t compute totals
  ◦ Need to use Excel
2017 data releases in 2018

1-year: Sept. 13
1-year supplemental: Oct. 18
5-year: Dec. 6
Other data sources

Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)
Census Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)
Specialized sources: IDOE Compass, CDC WISQARS, ISDH
STATSIndiana by IU
Hoosiers by the Numbers from Department of Workforce Development
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages from BLS
Census Business Builder
Links from today on CRI website

https://www.pfw.edu/centers/cri/sources/

Data presentation links:

Alliance for Human Services (August 10, 2018)

The following links were data sources shared at the Alliance for Human Services meeting presentation.

- U.S. Census Bureau American FactFinder Advanced Search: Front door to Census Bureau data products
- Census American Community Survey Information guide
- U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates datasets (SAIPE): Includes school districts
- U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)
- Indiana Department of Education COMPASS: Provides data about K12 schools and school corporations
- Indiana State Department of Health State Explorer Epidemiology Resource Center: Provides a variety of health data sets, many with a time series
- ISDH annual reports and data sets: Variety of conditions including natality, fatalities
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) WISQARS: Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System
- STATS Indiana: Economic and demographic data (often from other sources)
- STATS America: Portal to U.S. data
- Indiana Department of Workforce Development Hoosiers by the Numbers: Labor market information including monthly unemployment; also includes commuting patterns for Indiana counties
CRI: Helping leaders make informed decisions

Contract-based research and analysis services
  ◦ Quantitative
  ◦ Qualitative

Project management: Temporary capacity expansion

Client-driven

Pricing structure

Want to know more? See me after meeting
Community Research Institute

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