

# Administrative Record Linkage at the Social Security Administration

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# Current Linkage Involvement

- Census SIPP and CPS
- Health and Retirement Survey (HRS)
- 1982/1991 New Beneficiary Survey (NBS)

## Future directions

- Synthetic data with real backup
- Assignment of linkage from Government address files (Census PRED)
- Broader HRS consent form

# Files promising for linkage

- Possible future linkages
  - 1040 Tax record (IRS)
  - National Compensation Survey (BLS)
  - Medicare bills (CMS)
- Current SSA linked files
  - Master Beneficiary Record (Title II)
  - Supplemental Security Record (Title XVI)
  - Numident
  - Summary Earnings Record
  - Detailed Earnings Record
  - Medicare Part D Extra Help Application (feasible not actual)

# Rules for use

- Census– secure Census site, Title 13 purpose, sworn Census agents, Census approved project
- HRS
  - HRS approved research project
  - Federal grant or use secure data center at Michigan
  - Isolated computer
  - Agree to restrictions on access/public release
  - Geographic detail can't be used with SSA records except at Michigan secure site

# Potential costs of non-use

- Validity/reliability of some data compromised
  - Administrative records more valid and reliable than self-reports
  - Ignorance on some subjects– ex. details of SSA programs
- Higher costs particularly for longitudinal data
  - Earnings from 1951 to current year
  - SSA benefits from 1962 to current month
  - SSI benefits from 1974 to current month
  - Deferred earnings for defined contribution pensions 1982 to current year

## Whats new

- Publicly available synthesized administrative records on earnings and SSA benefits for 1990's SIPP panels—next couple of months
- More complete release of administrative data for HRS— next couple of months