Using the Census
(and other data sources)
in the Social Sciences

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Today’s program

• Canadian Census of Population, and why you want to use it in your courses
  – and other sources of data

• Tools to make using the Census easier and more interesting
Census of population

• Canadian survey with longest history
  - first census in Canada -- 1666
  - first national census -- 1871
  - 98 colonial and regional censuses in between
  - 1871-1951 -- every ten years
  - 1951-2001 -- every five years

• widest range of topics covered
  - up to 565 questions asked in a single census

• more census history on STC website
Uses of census in SOSC teaching

- wide range of variables and fine geographic detail
  - no health component

- required whenever questions about ethnicity are considered

- survey with longest historical range
What STC surveys are used for

- analyze economic performance
- develop fiscal, monetary, and foreign exchange policies
- shape international tariffs and trade negotiations
- develop policies and programs to assist small businesses
- support policy development and evaluate government programs on economic and social well-being
- improve allocation of government program funding by determining their social and economic effects
- support the regulatory and legislative requirements of government;
- draw electoral boundaries
- determine equalization payments and other federal-provincial fiscal transfers
- adjust inflation-indexed contracts and entitlements
- develop programs to promote domestic and international competitiveness
- support immigration policies and programs
- support tourism strategies and programs
- assess the cost-effectiveness of health care and education programs
- monitor the justice system’s effectiveness and efficiency
- select sites for schools and public transportation
- develop programs such as day care and subsidized housing.
why other surveys are different from the census

- much smaller sample size
  - more problems with confidentiality
  - greater variances, therefore more difficulty attaching statistical significance to results
  - less geographic detail

- fewer opportunities for time series analysis
  - many surveys only done once, or on an irregular basis

- some longitudinal surveys
types of surveys

Agriculture 49
Arts, culture & recreation 15
Business enterprises 23
Communications 15
Construction 4
Education 49
Energy 29
Environment 8
Government 30
Health 36
Justice 23
Labour 50
Manufacturing 47

National accounts 52
Personal/household finance 17
Population and demography 27
Prices and price indexes 32
Primary industries 13
Science and technology 19
Service industries 41
Social conditions 16
Trade 24
Transport and warehousing 30
Travel and tourism 14
education surveys

• close to 30 institutional surveys and household surveys

• PUMFs not available for most surveys
health surveys

• Canada health survey
• Canada's alcohol and other drugs survey
• Canadian community health survey (2+)
• Canadian health and disability survey
• Canadian study of health and aging (3)
• Canadian tobacco use monitoring survey (5+)
• Consumption of prescribed drugs in Canada
• Health and activity limitation survey (2)
• Health promotion survey (2)
• Joint Canada-United States survey on health
• National alcohol and drug survey
• National longitudinal survey of children and youth (3+)
• National population health survey (4+)
• Participation and activity limitation survey
• Smoking habits of Canadians (12)
• Violence against women
• Youth smoking survey (2)
General Social Surveys

• primary objectives of the GSS are
  – to gather data on social trends in order to monitor changes in the living conditions and well-being of Canadians over time; and
  – to provide immediate information on specific social policy issues of current or emerging interest

• cycles allow for limited analysis of trends
## GSS cycles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GSS Cycle Topics</th>
<th>Date of GSS (cycle #)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1985 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Use</td>
<td>1986 (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victimization</td>
<td>1988 (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education, Work &amp; Retirement</td>
<td>1989 (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>1990 (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Support</td>
<td>1985 (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to &amp; Use of ICT</td>
<td>2000 (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Support and Aging</td>
<td>2002 (16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Engagement</td>
<td>2003 (17)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/LibraryDataServices/SubjectGuides/gss.htm](http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/LibraryDataServices/SubjectGuides/gss.htm)
labour surveys

• many with some labour content

• primary ones are
  – Labour Force Survey (LFS)
    • monthly, from 1945; microdata available from 1976
    • cross-sectional

  – Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID)
    • annual, from 1993
    • longitudinal and cross-sectional
selection of household surveys

- Aboriginal Peoples Survey
- Adult Education and Training Survey (AETS)
- Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating
- Canadian Community Health Survey - Nutrition
- Canadian Health Measures Survey
- Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey
- Canadian Travel Survey
- Changes in Employment Survey
- Ethnic Diversity Survey
- Homeowner Repair and Renovation Survey
- Household Internet Use Survey
- Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada
- National Graduates Survey
- National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth
- Ontario Employment Benefits and Support Measures Survey
- Survey of Financial Security
- Survey of Household Spending
- Youth in Transition Survey
CANSIM

- premier source of Canadian time-series data on labour, health, income, trade, education, manufacturing, investment and more

- over 26 million series
E-STAT

• “dynamic interactive teaching and learning tool for the education community”

• easy access to census, CANSIM, environmental data

• interactive mapping tools
STC resources for educators

• learning resources for the post-secondary community

• everything you need to start designing assignments using statistics

• links to assignments from other postsecondary institutions
ICPSR

• Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research
  <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>

• maintains and provides access to a vast archive of social science data for research and instruction

• offers training in quantitative methods to facilitate effective data use
Part 2: Using statistics in the classroom

- Learning resources
- *The Daily*
- Course assignments
- Search Map 2001
Learning resources

http://www.statcan.ca/english/edu/list.htm

Some of what you will find:

- Dynamic population pyramids
- Canada quiz
- Flash animations
- Animated maps
Other helpers

Illustrated glossary

http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Reference/COGG/Index_e.cfm

Thematic maps

http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Maps/ThematicMaps/index_e.cfm
The Daily

http://www.statcan.ca/english/dai-quo/

• Released every day at 8:30 a.m.

• The Daily issues news releases on the current social and economic conditions

• Today’s release is often tomorrow’s news.
Course assignments

http://www.statcan.ca/english/liaison/course.htm

- Covers many topics in the social sciences, developed by university teachers

Teacher’s Kits

http://www.statcan.ca/english/kits/kits.htm

Secondary level assignments could be modified for university
Search Map 2001

- Produce customized maps based on census for 2001
- Helps learners to visualize census information
- Can be executed at varying levels of detail
Map showing Average family income in 2000
Map showing Average family income in 2000
Legend

119,023 - 138,407
154,447 - 174,250
176,202 - 195,976
199,019 - 318,530
360,187 - 478,139
No data available
Conclusion

• Interactive online tools engage students with the census and other statistical information
• Encourage exploration and experimentation.
• Questions?? Ask Walter!
http://www.library.yorku.ca/LibraryDataServices/

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