RDC FY12

Peter Meyer

What is Restricted Data?

- Data System and/or Disclosure Review Board determines what variables to restrict
  - Varies from year to year
- Confidential Information but no direct identifiers
  - Geographic variables (state, census tract, latitude and longitude)
- Medium to high risk of disclosure
- Limited Access

Research Data Center (RDC)

- **Secure Environment**
  - Researcher activity monitored at all times
  - 3-5 Stand alone computers
    - No network access
    - Cipher Locks on all doors to entering the RDC and the Lab

Mode of Access	Features
On-site	• Ability to view raw data • In-person access to RDC Analyst
Census RDC	• Ability to view raw data • Phone and e-mail access to RDC Analyst
Remote	• Programs and output only, no data • Available 7 days a week/24 hours • Only uses SAS/SUDAAN • Multilayered authentication mechanism
Staff-Assisted	• Alternative to remote for users of other statistical packages • Limited by staff availability

Proposal Review

- **Consecutive Review**
  - The proposal is reviewed in sequential order
    1. RDC Analyst
    2. Data System Representative
    3. Confidentiality Officer
    4. RDC Director
  - Proposal is updated by the researcher after each review
  - The most up to date version of the proposal is sent on to the next reviewer
- **Criteria**
  - Appropriate use of the data
  - Technical feasibility of the project
  - Availability of resources at the RDC
  - Risk of disclosure of restricted information
  - Use of the data agrees with informed consent
- **Provide a decision in 6- 8 weeks**
  - 2 weeks per proposal review is acceptable

Proposals

- Most popular request are for geographic variables
- Proposal topics vary

Chronic Heart Disease	Environmental Factors
Long Term Care	Health Care
Oral/Dental Health	Health Insurance

- 149 proposals FY2010
- 132 proposals FY2011

Usage

- FY 2010
  - Number of researcher days- 814
  - Number of remote access users – ~30 per month
  - Number of active Census Projects – 26

- FY 2011
  - Number of researcher days – 734
  - Number of remote access users – ~37 per month
  - Number of Census projects – 35

What's Next

- **NCHS RDC is positioned to be the data enclave for DHHS**
  - Data Hosting
    - National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR)
    - Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Data (CFS)
  - Data Use Agreement
    - AHRQ
- **RDC Website**
  - More examples of data dictionaries and sample proposals
  - Clearer instructions for creating the researcher supplied dataset
- **Outreach**
  - Expand the RDC Presentation Series
    - Conference
    - Survey Sponsors
    - Universities
    - Other Government Agencies (EPA)
    - Other Statistical Agencies (Economic Research Service)
- **RDC Operations**
  - Improve proposal tracking system
  - Update Standard Operating Procedures