Summer Dissertation Proposal Workshop
Data Sources and Retrieval

Charles L. Betsey
Co–Director, Howard University Center on Race and Wealth
Data Sources and Retrieval: Public Data Sources

- U.S. Census (census.gov)
  - Poverty Tools
    - American Fact Finder
    - CPS Table Creator
    - Data Ferret
  - Poverty Databases
    - CPS Dataweb FTP
    - CPS ASEC
    - CPS Extract Files
Data Sources and Retrieval: Public DataSources

- U.S. Department of Labor (www.bls.gov)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (www.huduser.gov)
- Board of Governors of Federal Reserve System (www.federalreserve.gov)
  - Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF)
  - Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking (SHED)
Data Sources and Retrieval: Public Data Sources

- Longitudinal Data
  - Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID)
  - National Longitudinal Surveys
  - Fragile Families and Child Well Being Study
  - Baccalaureate and Beyond

Data Archives
  - Interuniversity Consortium on Political and Social Research (ICPSR)(Michigan)
  - IPUMS (Minnesota)
Administrative Data

- Federal, state, and local governmental agencies collect data in the course of their program operations.
- Increased efforts to access these data or make them available for research purposes.
- Great potential/risk for linked databases to provide in-depth data on individuals useful for research purposes.
- Administrative datasets often idiosyncratic and availability of data on race and ethnicity varies considerably.
- Examples
Two examples of studies using administrative data:

- Evaluating a Large-Scale High School Reform Using Administrative Data from a Naturally-Occurring Randomized Trial (Bloom et al.)

- Treatment Costs Among Adults with Serious Mental Illness (Robertson et al.)
Pros and Cons of Primary Data Collection

**Pros**
- Control of questions
- Determination of sampling, data collection, data processing decisions

**Cons**
- Monetary costs
- Logistical and management challenges
- Time commitment