Data Purchase and Access Working Group meeting
1:30 - 2:30pm EST - March 23, 2016
Teleconference number: 1-888-271-3643

PRESENT

Michael Ditor - CCSD
Isabelle Lépine - Montreal
Kira Kamocki - York
Andrea Dort - Peel
Louisa Wong - Hamilton
Heath Priston - Toronto
Jasmine Ing - Calgary

Agenda

1. Follow up on data orders and acquisitions
2. Follow up on custom geographies for T1FF
3. PCCF testing
4. Follow up on discussions with Equifax
5. Discussion of draft Schedule B
6. Data requests for program year 2016/17
7. Other business
8. Next meeting

1. Follow up on data orders and acquisitions

Data that has been recently added to the catalogue:

- Estimates of population by age and sex, 2001-2015: Intercensal and postcensal population estimates at the Census Subdivision level. 2001-2015
- Credit Report Characteristics, 2015 Q1: Credit score, bankruptcy score and non-mortgage consumer debt from TransUnion
- Canadian business counts, establishment and location counts, employment size and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), December 2015
- Labour Force Survey - LFS characterisfics by 2011 Census Division boundaries - two year average estimates. 2001/02 to 2014/15
- Building Permits, 2015
- CCHS - PUMF-FMGD - Annual Component, 2013 and 2013-2014 - Health indicator profile, annual and two-year period estimates, by age group and sex, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions

The following tables had been received already, but custom geographies were recently added:

- [CPP Table 1](): Age groups (22), sex (3), income status (7) and selected cultural, activity limitation and demographic characteristics (37) for the population in private households, NHS, 2011 **(Phase 2 & 3 custom geographies added)**
- [98-311-x2011018](): Age (131) and sex (3) for the population, Census, 2011 **(Phase 2 & 3 custom geographies added)**
- [99-010-X2011030](): Visible minority (15), immigrant status and period of immigration (11), age groups (10) and sex (3) for the population in private households, NHS, 2011 **(Phase 2 & 3 custom geographies added)**
- [99-014-X2011040](): Income in 2010 (34), age groups (10C), sex (3) and highest certificate, diploma or degree (11) for the population aged 15 years and over in private households, NHS, 2011 **(Phase 2 & 3 custom geographies added)**
- [99-014-X2011028](): Age groups of primary household maintainer (13), household total income groups in 2010 (11), housing tenure (4), shelter-cost-to-income ratio (5), housing suitability (3), condition of dwelling (3) and household type (17) for private households, NHS, 2011 **(Phase 2 & 3 custom geographies added)**
- [Custom geos (pt2)]():Age groups of primary household maintainer (13), household total income groups in 2010 (11), housing tenure (4), shelter-cost-to-income ratio (5), housing suitability (3), condition of dwelling (3) and household type (7)...NHS, 2011 **(Phase 2 & 3 custom geographies added)**
- [Target group profile]() of the population living alone, Census, 2011 **(Phase 1, 2 & 3 custom geographies added)**
- [Target group profile]() of the population living alone, NHS, 2011 (custom geographies added) **(Phase 1, 2 & 3 custom geographies added)**

2. <u>Follow up on custom geographies for T1FF</u>

We will be proceeding with the taxfiler custom geography and custom tabulation orders in 2016/17. As indicated previously there will be some error associated with the process of converting postal geographies to Census or other non-postal geographies. We will go over the details of the order at the annual meeting.

- Heath: Toronto has been investigating ordering custom geos from Income Division. Toronto's custom geos typically scale up to higher geography by combining CTs, so this has been a useful geography for purchasing cuts of the data where there has been risk of suppression at the individual CT level.
- Jasmine: Calgary ordered communities and wards for 3 years of taxfiler data, with some communities being quite small (a couple hundred) and they weren't notified of any major problems. The data seem complete. Turnaround time on custom taxfiler was about 4 months.

3. PCCF testing

The City of Calgary carried out a comparison of the Environics Analytics Enhanced Postal Code Conversion File and the Statistics Canada version. [Here is a summary](#) of the analysis that was done. The EA ePCCF does not seem to suffer any great disadvantage, except that the documentation of the product is not as complete as is found with the Statistics Canada version.

The result of this comparison is that we will recommend continuing to use the EA PCCF, but ask for better documentation.

Thanks to Jasmine and her colleagues in Calgary for this excellent work.

4. Follow up on discussions with Equifax

We received a price estimate from Equifax for obtaining aggregate data on credit and bankruptcy risk and debt. Equifax has mortgage debt data, while TransUnion does not (although we recently learned they are planning to acquire these data).

On a related note, the TransUnion data showed a large increase between 2013 and 2014 in the number of postal codes reported and in the number of files represented. We found TransUnion slow to respond on question as to what caused the increase and if data between years were comparable. We will send out an update once we have answers to this question.

TransUnion has stated that they are trying to rectify this problem with customer service. It should be noted that Equifax has been much more responsive to requests, however this is often the case for companies in the 'client acquisition' phase.

- Jasmine expressed a preference for Equifax and indicated the need for some documentation comparing the two data sources that she could get to Calgary's users ahead of the AGM in order to better make a decision.

ACTION ITEM: Produce comparison of Equifax and TransUnion data ahead of the AGM to circulate to CDP leads.

5. Discussion of draft Schedule B

A [draft version of Schedule B](#) was circulated before the meeting. The questions that immediately come out of this document are whether the General Social Survey should be ordered and if there is value in acquiring Labour Force Survey data at the CMA level.

As indicated in the Census delivery event schedule listed below, the only data products to come out of the 2016 Census during the next program year will be the population and household estimates in February 2017. This version of Schedule B does not present any detail on our 2016/17 Census acquisitions, but it will likely be limited to the standard tables that are released February 8, 2017.

Timing for 2016 census acquisition:
   a) Custom geographies can be worked on by STC as soon as standard geos are released
   b) Earliest will be when census pop is released: Feb 8, 2017
   c) Last release is November 2017
   d) List of custom geographies can be provided to STC by Feb 2017
   e) Preliminary order in Spring 2017
   f) Fall 2017 would be a good time to aim for a final order,

- Jasmine: STC has put up LFS at CMA level on CANSIM.
- Andrea: The GSS was useful to Peel, but not when using the age breakdowns - only total populations weren't suppressed. The data were good at the CD level and for 2 CSDs.

   6. Data requests for program year 2016/17

Requests can be submitted directly to Michael Ditor. This process can begin now.

- Andrea: Peel is interested in custom cross-tabulations from the taxfiler data, more age breakdowns.

   7. Other business

No other business raised.

   8. Next meeting

With the AGM being held in two months, it was decided that no meeting was required in May 2016.

ACTION ITEM: DPAWG members want to have as much about documentation as possible beforehand regarding decisions to be at the AGM.

MEETING ENDED AT 2:25PM