

Data purchase and access working group meeting

Community Data Program · Wednesday, September 26, 2012

ATTENDEES: Mary (Acacia), Brendan (Acacia), Louisa (Hamilton), Ken (Winnipeg), Isabelle (Montreal), Ian (Victoria), Irena (Simcoe)

- AGENDA -

1. Process for collecting custom geographies including deadlines

- Email to go out to leads next week (Brendan will send out on Monday) saying that we are ready to receive concordance files or shape files.
- Postpone deadline to mid-December to receive files because many Consortium have still not signed MOUs and will not have the geographies ready.
- This should still give us plenty of time to submit to StatsCan before the NHS data is available in 2013.
- Update the master file as we receive files.

Notes:

- Procedural notes on GIS data management:
 - Have files zipped or organised in folders clearly identified by consortium, geographic area, and (where possible) source organisation.
 - Establish a workflow to ensure that file changes are tracked.
 - Maintain a table that identifies the source organisation's set of custom geography, to facilitate invoicing.
- Questions to ask Kirsten at our face-to-face meeting on October 5, 2012:
 - What additional costs does Statistics Canada require to generate custom geographies based on place of work (in addition to place of residence)?
 - What additional costs does Statistics Canada require to generate custom geographies based on the National Household Survey (in addition to the Census)?
 - How much of the technical work will Statistics Canada allow local organisations undertake? Previously, local organisations were given access to the block face points and did most of the mapping work in-house. Will Statistics Canada accept shapefiles if they have slivers? How are these reconciled with existing Census boundaries?
 - Do we need to include residuals in our requests for custom geography? That is, if a set of custom geographies make up 2/3 of a CSD, do we have to request the remaining 1/3 to compare with the CSD values? If not, is this a good idea? How does this affect pricing?
 - What differences exist between urban and rural sampling for the National Household Survey? How does this affect data accuracy? Are protocols or confidence intervals available for consultation?

- Is there a master list of differences in variables and categories between this and previous National Household Surveys? Between this and previous Censuses?
- Custom geographies use entirely different boundaries from those that Statistics Canada uses (CMA, CD, CSD, CT, DA, etc.).
- Semi-custom geographies are aggregated from existing Statistics Canada standard geographies, e.g. Simcoe's health unit, which is made up of two Census Divisions.
- We will always ask for roll-ups for custom geographies.
- A table won't be released until the last variable requested in the table becomes available. Income variables are often among the latest to be released.
- Brendan will add to the Community Data Catalogue any openly-available data from Statistics Canada as it is made available.
- The rest of the Statistics Canada data will fall into two sets: (1) Standard tables with custom geographies, and (2) Custom tables by both standard geographies and custom geographies. Brendan will order both sets as soon as the requisite information has been acquired (custom geographies and desired custom tables).

2. Review of custom tables to be ordered (likely starting in fall 2013)

- We have an Excel spreadsheet that lists all the tables that we bought for 2006.
- What steps do we take to revise the list and accept requests for more tables for 2011?

Notes:

- Isabelle has sorted through many of the orders and simplified the 2006 order table.
- We need three additional columns to identify whether each table involves (1) custom crosstabulations and/or (2) custom geographies, and whether or not it will be (3) freely available.
- The simplified master list will accompany the master custom geographic list. Brendan will send these to consortium leads in order to gauge what additional tables are required, and what tables should be dropped.

3. Reviewing the catalogue structure and uploading of free tables

- Brendan is reviewing the website and the catalogue.
- For now, free data will be added to the Community Data Catalogue to keep things centralized.

Notes:

- A new working group may need to be established to oversee the website redesign.
- For those interested in helping, there will be opportunities to participate in user testing and other feedback mechanisms. Brendan will provide details on these in advance.

4. Brendan and Michel to meet Statistics Canada representative (Kirsten) in Toronto

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Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 31, 2012, 1:30 p.m. EST