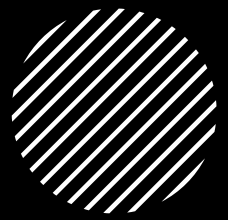
Using IPUMS Data for Course Projects

Ryne VanKrevelen (Elon University)

USCOTS 2021

What is IPUMS?



- Census/survey data integrated across space/time.
- Nine different options (e.g. USA, Time Use, Global Health, etc.)
- Create a “shopping cart” to choose your variables.
  - Read documentation for each variable
  - Select certain samples (e.g. years, locations, groups)

Why Use IPUMS?

- Documentation
- Large Real-World Data
- Multiple Dataset Versions
- Student Agency

How to Get IPUMS Data

Create an account

Select your variables

Choose your samples

Export

Download

Project Examples / Ideas

- Looked at personal income and marital status (topic from another course)
- Compared hours worked between those who did and did not receive food stamps
- Compared transit time to work between several counties
- Compared household income across educational attainments

Other Uses / Considerations

Chance to discuss limitations (e.g. observational data, question wording, etc.)

Pre-process or let students wrestle with data a bit

ipumsr package in R

Create class examples

Contact / Resources

If you have any questions about my experiences using IPUMS data in classes, you can reach out to me at rvankrevelen@elon.edu

Tutorials: https://ipums.org/support/tutorials

Thanks for attending!