Welcome to the module on available data sources. My name is Shreya Paul and in this topic, I'm going to discuss publicly available data sources, key variables, and where to find these data sources. In this topic, I will describe first how the federal data collection works and how it is used in government decision-making. Next, I will move on to discuss four important surveys which collect data about people with disabilities in the United States. These surveys are the American Community Survey, the Current Population Survey, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey, and the survey administered by the Department of Education to collect information about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA. How Federal surveys work? Most surveys randomly select communities to include in their sample. After that, respondents are randomly selected from the community to interview. Each respondent is offered to answer the survey through one of the following modes. Paper, in-person interview or fill out an online questionnaire using the Internet. The captured responses are then collected by the agency conducting the survey. The survey agency uses the raw data to convert them into easily understandable statistics in the form of reports, tables, and applications. These statistics and sometimes raw data is made available to the public and often used for research. The outcomes of the research are in turn shared with the federal government agencies, tribal and local communities. Government agencies use these statistics to help with decision-making and allocate funds back to the community. For example, data-driven research may show that roads, schools, and hospitals may improve the socioeconomic status of a particular community. And therefore, the government allocates funds to build these roads, schools, and hospitals in that particular community. Next, we move on to the American Community Survey, which is one of the most important federal surveys which surveys people with disabilities. American Community Survey helps local officials, community leaders, and businesses understand the changes taking place in their communities. It is the premier source for detailed population and housing information about our nation. It provides important information about the people in the US. It generates data on employment, education, veterans, housing, and many more topics to determine how federal and state funds are distributed. When can one use the ACS dataset? ACS has a big sample size. And so ACS data can be used to find national and state level statistics on a variety of topics, some of which are referenced in the slide. Under social subjects, one could find data on disability status, citizenship status, school enrollment, and so on. On housing related topics, one could find information on the number of rooms, computer and internet use, and the number of vehicles a household owns. Data on employment status, industry and occupation and earnings are also available in the ACS. Moreover, data on demographic characteristics such as age, race, gender, ethnicity is also available in the ACS. Fact check. What is the approximate sample size of the ACS? The approximate sample size of the ACS is about two million. How often is the ACS data collected? Annually. What is the smallest geographic census unit in the ACS? Block groups You can refer to the US Census Bureau site for more information on this fact. Our second survey is the Current Population Survey, or the CPS. Cps is one of the oldest, largest, and most well-recognized surveys in the United States. It is the primary source of monthly labor statistics and provides information about the economic and social well-being of people in the United States. Some of the topics covered by the current population survey or CPS are employment, child support, volunteerism, health insurance coverage, school enrollment, and so on. The website to access the data for the current population survey is given on the slide. The current population survey can be used to calculate monthly national level statistics on a variety of topics. Some of these subjects are listed in the slide. These are social subjects like disability status, citizenship status, and so on. Economic subjects, such as employment status, industry, occupation and earning status. Demographics subjects like age, race, sex, income, and so on. The CPS also releases a supplemental data on subjects such as voting and registration, fertility, veterans, civic engagement, and so on. Please refer to the CPS website for the full list of subjects covered by the survey. Fact check. What is the approximate sample size of CPS? It's approximately 80 thousand. How often is the CPS data collected? Monthly. State-level statistics can be calculated easily using CPS. Is the statement true or false? This is false because the CPS has a smaller sample size. So it may be challenging to calculate state-level statistics. And especially for groups like people with disabilities or other intersectional statistics. Our next survey is the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, or BRFSS. It is the nation's premier system of health-related telephone surveys that collects state data about US residents regarding their health related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and the use of preventative services. Established in 1984, with 15 states, BRFSS now collects data in all 50 states, as well as District of Columbia, and three US territories. BRFSS completes more than 400 thousand adult interviews each year, making it the largest continuously conducted Health Survey System in the world. The BRFSS questionnaire, is divided into three parts. The core component, which is compulsory for any BRFSS survey, optional modules to choose from and state added questions. The website to access the BRFSS data is given on the slide. BRFSS can be used to calculate annual state-level statistics on a variety of health-related subjects, some of which are listed in this slide. Some of the subjects are caregiving, disability, tobacco use, health care, access, chronic health conditions, and so on. To see a full list of topics covered by BRFSS, please refer to the BRFSS website. Fact check. What is the approximate sample size of BRFSS? It is approximately 400 thousand. How often is the BRFSS data collected? It's collected annually. What is the target population of BRFSS? Non institutionalized adults above the age of 18 years is the target population of BRFSS. Our next survey is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act survey. IDEA, or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, is a law that makes available a free, appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensure special education and related services to these children. The IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to more than 7.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities. The US Department of Education collects data on IDEA. This data is available to the public and the US Department of Education submits an annual report to the Congress based on this data. When is IDEA data used? IDEA data can be used to calculate annual state level statistics on a variety of subjects related to education of children with disabilities. Some of these subjects, are child count, educational environment, discipline, maintenance of effort reduction, and coordinated early intervening services, and so on. To see a full list of topics covered by IDEA, please refer to the US Department of Education website. Fact check. Which program supports the IDEA data collection and reporting? It is the Office of Special Education Programs with the US Department of Education. How can IDEA data be used? To conduct research on education of children with disabilities. What is the target population of IDEA? Children and people with disabilities below the age of 21 years. In conclusion, some of the publicly available data sources include the American Community Survey or the ACS, the Current Population Survey, or the CPS, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey, or the BRFSS. And the IDEA or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act survey ACS provides annual data on jobs, education, veterans housing situation, and so on. The CPS provides monthly data on employment, child support and so on BRFSS provides health-related behaviors data of US residents. IDEA provides data on education of children with disabilities. Please see additional materials for this module where you will find a quiz. After you have finished the work for this module, we invite you to move to our next module on accessing and using these data sources. Thank you and see you there.