

The Rocky Mountain (Federal Statistical) Research Data Center

RMRDC: <https://www.colorado.edu/rocky-mountain-research-data-center/>



Jani Little
Executive Director

jani.little@colorado.edu



Catherine Talbot
Administrator

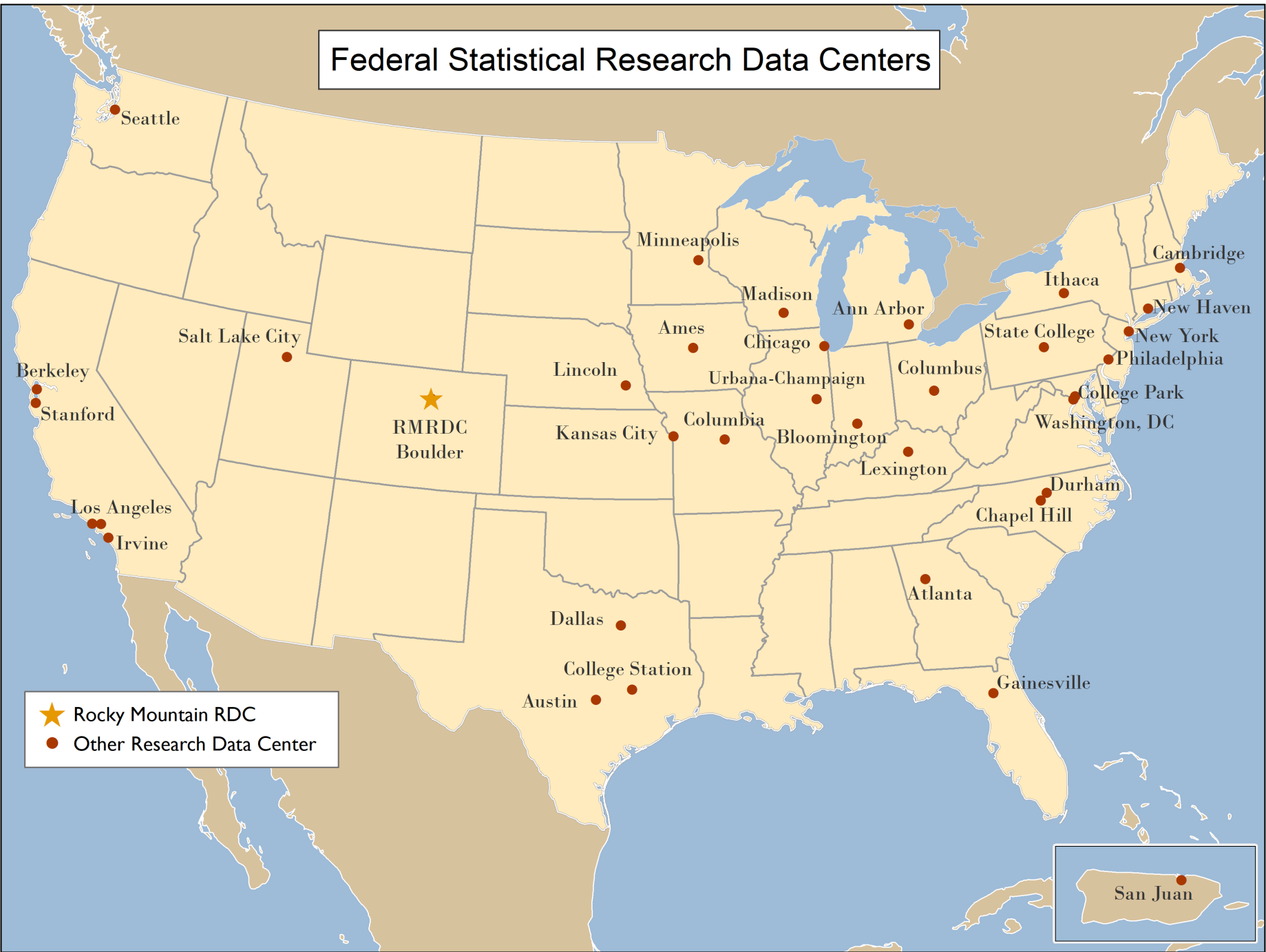
catherine.b.talbot@census.gov



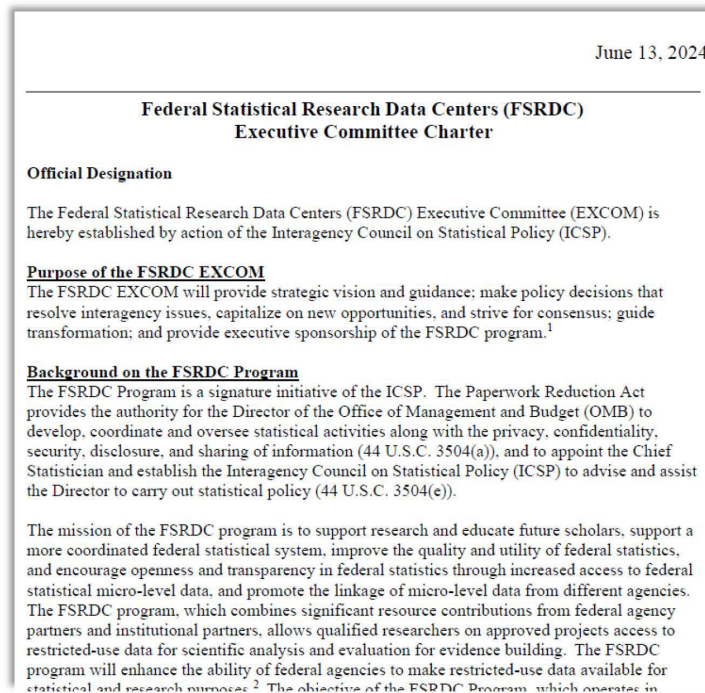
Haeseong Park
Grad Research Assistant

haeseong.park@colorado.edu

Federal Statistical Research Data Centers



The mission of the FSRDC Program is to...



“support research and
educate future scholars”

“support a more
coordinated federal
statistical system”

“improve the quality
and utility of federal
statistics”

“encourage openness
and transparency” in
federal statistics

“promote linkage of micro-level
data from different agencies”

Health Data Course: Spring 2025

Hosted by CU Denver

“Federal Data for Health Research and Policy”

Taught by CU Denver Econ Prof. Laura Argys, Jani Little, Catherine Talbot, Haeseong Park

1. No cost to member institutions, students register through independent study with DU faculty for 1 or 3 credits
2. Taught entirely through Zoom, Fridays 10am
4. Designed for early-career graduate students
5. Students develop the knowledge and skills required to effectively use a variety of federal statistical data sets for health research and policy analysis.
6. The semester project is a restricted-use project proposal.
7. 3-credit option: Students get “hands on” exercises using SAS to analyze public versions of the federal data sets to reproduce results in published papers.



FSRDC Agency Partners

“support a more coordinated federal statistical system”



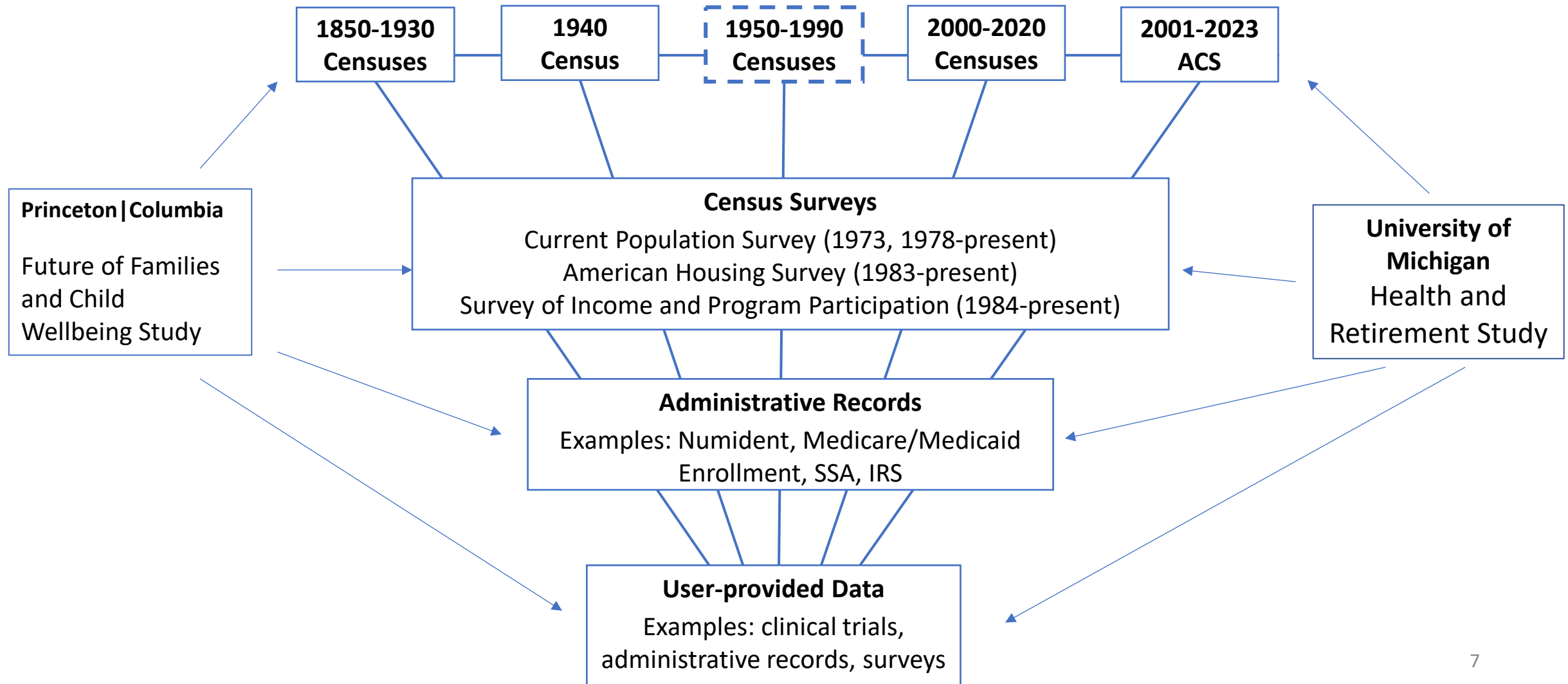
**U.S. Equal Employment
Opportunity Commission**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS of the
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**

FSRDC Collaborating Agencies:

- Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS)
- Bureau of Transportation Statistics
- Energy Information Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Social Security Administration (SSA)
- US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Current Longitudinal Infrastructure



Census Enhanced Health and Retirement Study (<https://cenhrs.isr.umich.edu/>)

- HRS is a longitudinal panel study that surveys a representative sample of approximately 25,000 people every two years.
- Started in 1992, new cohorts added every 6 years.
- Measures biology and physical and mental health, cognition, psychosocial well-being, income and wealth, consumption and employment.
- Link occupations and work history to health in retirement. Mental or physical health issues related to work and family life.

Census Enhanced Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FFCWS):

- 5000 children born in big cities between 1998 and 2000.
- Oversampled births to unmarried mothers ratio 3 to 1.
- Large number of POC and low-income families.
- Mothers and Fathers interviewed at birth, follow-up interview at ages, 1, 3, 5, 9, 15 and 22.
- Weighted sample is representative of births in large cities.
- Two big questions: How do children born into these families fare?
- and How do policies and environmental conditions affect families and children?

SSA and IRS Administrative Datasets

- SSA data
 - Numident
 - Supplemental Security Record (SSR)
 - 831 Disability File
 - Master Beneficiary Record (MBR)
 - Summary Earnings Record (SER)
 - Detailed Earnings Record (DER)
- IRS Form 1040
 - From Individual Master File (IMF) 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994
 - Contain PIKs

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Data

- Employment discrimination charges filed by individuals
 - Includes case information
 - statute, issue, and basis for the charge, case resolution
 - Employer information (geography, name, address, EIN)
 - Anonymized demographic information plus PIKs
- Employment Patterns for Minorities and Women—mandatory annual data collections for business establishments having employees:
 - In private industry
 - In referral local unions
 - In state and local governments
 - In elementary-secondary public schools

Vuletich, H. A., Sommet, N., & Payne, B. K. (2024). The Great Migration and Implicit Bias in the Northern United States. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 15(5), 498-508. <https://doi.org/>

Possible Restricted-Use Microdata Extensions:

1) Identify Great Migration Individuals:

Linked Censuses, 1930-1940, 1940-1950, 1950-1960, etc

Long Form of 1930 thru 2000 Censuses

2) Link Great Migration Individuals with structural bias

SSA life-time earnings

ACS wealth and home ownership variables

ACS health variables

3) Measure Implicit Bias in Individuals with

NHANES chronic stress/inflammation from blood sample

Schmeer, Kammi K., and Jacob Tarrence. 2018. "Racial-ethnic Disparities in Inflammation: Evidence of Weathering in Childhood?" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 59(3):411-28.

BRFSS depression, anxiety, adverse early life experiences, life satisfaction

	NHANES	BRFSS
Targeted U.S. Population:	all ages	adults
Geography available in restricted-use:	state, county, census tract, block group	county

NHANES	BRFSS
Mental Health	Mental Health
Health and Race and Ethnicity	Health and Race and Ethnicity
Health and Sexual Orientation	Health and Sexual Orientation
Health and Gender	Health and Gender
Alcohol/Substance Use	Alcohol/Substance Use

NHANES began in 1960s. Sample for the survey is selected to represent the U.S. population of all ages. To produce reliable statistics, NHANES over-samples persons 60 and older, African Americans, and Hispanics.

The diseases, medical conditions, and health indicators studied include:

- Drug Use
- Chronic Stress
- Mental Illness
- Environmental exposures
- Depression
- ADHD
- Nutrition and Food Scarcity

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS):

<https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>

- The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is the nation's premier system of health-related telephone surveys that collect state data about U.S. residents regarding their health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventive services.
- BRFSS completes more than 400,000 adult (18 and older) interviews each year, making it the largest continuously conducted health survey system in the world. In

2020 includes modules on Leisure time Physical activity, Tobacco Use

2022 includes modules on HPV Vaccine, Covid Vaccine

2019 includes modules on Marijuana Use, Adverse Childhood Experiences

National Survey of Child Health (NSCH):

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nsch.html>

Primary source of information about physical and emotional health of children ages 0-17. Collected by U.S. Census Bureau and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) since 2016.

- Oversample children with special needs and youngest children (ages 0-5)
- A substantive questionnaire of parent or caregiver of selected child
- Three topical questionnaires tailored for three age groups: 0-5; 6-11, and 12-17.



NSCH topics include:

- Child and family characteristics
- Physical and mental health status, including current conditions and functional difficulties
- Health insurance status, type, and adequacy
- Access and use of health care services
- Medical, dental, and specialty care needed and received
- School readiness, school outcomes, and activities
- Family nutrition, housing, health and activities
- Impact of child's health on family



National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

- Annually, 1973-2022 (changes in 2006, 2016). Most comprehensive data on people victimized by non-fatal crimes. Overcomes some limitations with reported crime
 - E.g. Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). What is missing from these data?
- Yearly, nationally representative sample of 240,000 people age 12+ in 150,000 households. Interviews total ~240,000, annually
- Interviews encompass socio-demographics, criminal victimization instances, offender/crime characteristics, reporting, medical response, and criminal justice system experiences
- Information from the survey supplements official crime reports to estimate likelihood of under-reported crimes



NCVS Sample Design

- Longitudinal household data from a rotating sampling frame
- Housing units remain in sample for 3.5 years, comprising 7 total interviews occurring every 6 months
- Initial interview is performed in-person with all household members age 12+, proxy interviews with incapacitated persons
- Subsequent interviews typically performed over the phone
- Update of sampling frame in 2016 to deliver representative state-level estimates; prior years not designed to yield



Current RMRDC Project using NCVS

The Social and Economic Consequences of Violent Victimization – Joshua Clapp, Ben Gilbert, Phil Pendergast (UWy, CSM, WWU)

- Estimates longitudinal impacts of violent victimization on victim employment, earnings, and housing stability

Restricted data article using NCVS: (Xie and Baumer, 2019)

Xie, M., & Baumer, E. P. (2019c). Neighborhood immigrant concentration and violent crime reporting to the police: A multilevel analysis of data from the National Crime Victimization Survey*. *Criminology*, 57(2), 237-267. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9125.12204>

National Longitudinal Surveys of Labor Market Experience (NLS)

- Original cohorts (1966-1968)
 - Older men (age 45-59)
 - Mature women (age 30-44)
 - Young men (age 14-24)
 - Young women (age 14-24)
- NLSY79
 - 12,686 males and females
 - 14 to 22 when first interviewed in 1979.
 - oversampled civilian Hispanic or Latino, Black, military, and economically disadvantaged
 - Annually 1979-1994 – biannually after
 - > 55,000 variables (ranging from 1,800 – 7,100 per year).
- Children of the women of the NSLY79
- NLSY97
 - 8,984 males and females
 - 12 to 16 as of December 31, 1996
 - Annually until 2011; biannually since that time



Health-related data

- General health indicators
- Health conditions, disability, mental health
- Eating behaviors, sleep, exercise
- Substance use
- Sexual activity, pregnancy, fertility
- Health insurance
- Cognitive tests

Findings from NLS

- Peer effects on academic outcomes (tracking in public schools)

Argys, L. M., & Rees, D. I. (2008). Searching for peer group effects: A test of the contagion hypothesis. *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, 90(3), 442-458.

- Peer effects on risky behaviors

Argys, L. M., Rees, D. I., Averett, S. L., & Witoonchart, B. (2006). Birth order and risky adolescent behavior. *Economic Inquiry*, 44(2), 215-233.

Averett, S. L., Argys, L. M., & Rees, D. I. (2011). Older siblings and adolescent risky behavior: does parenting play a role?. *Journal of Population Economics*, 24(3), 957-978.

Decennial Census

- Notes on work by Carolyn Liebler
 - “America’s Churning Races: Race and Ethnicity Response Changes Between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census
 - Used restricted data from the 2000 and 2010 census – responses linked at the individual level (N~162 million)
 - Examine changes in racial or ethnic self-identification over time and across contexts.
 - Found race response change was common among those who reported as American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, in a multiple-race response group, or Hispanic.

National Health Interview Survey

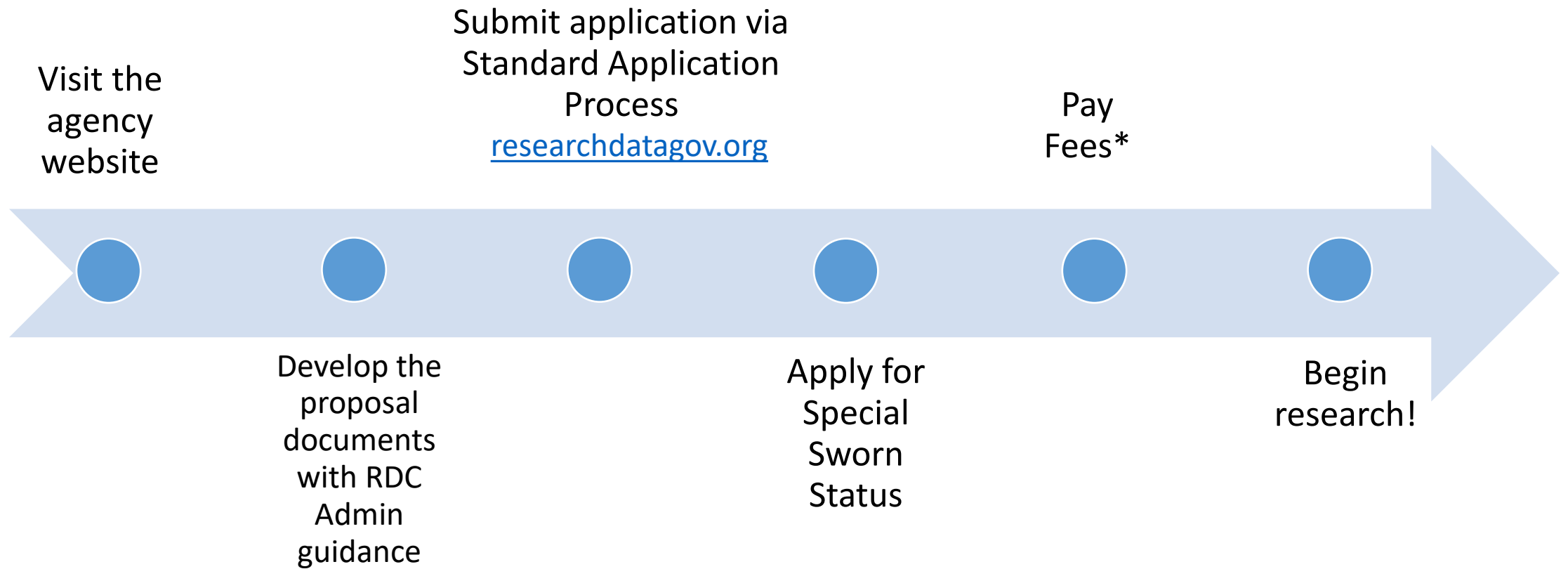
- Self Reported
- Extensive Physical Health Measures
 - Self rated health, ability to perform daily activities (functioning) and disability, illness and chronic conditions, health-related activities, healthcare access and use, health insurance coverage.
- Adult and Child Mental Health variables
 - Mental Health Care
 - Mental Health conditions and questions, such as; felt everything an effort (past 30 days), feelings interfered with life (past 30 days), how often felt hopeless (past 30 days), how often felt nervous (past 30 days), K6 psychological distress scale
 - Child Mental Health Indicators
- Daniel Simon
 - “Death by Despair? Individual and Contextual Predictors of Suicide and Mortality Risk”

National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH):

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/nsduh-national-survey-drug-use-and-health>

- Sponsored by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) another DHHS agency
- Statistical information on use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and mental health issues
- Tracks trends in specific substance use and mental illness measures; substance use disorders and treatment for these disorders, serious psychological distress, mental illness, and mental health care
- Restricted-Use data contains 30% more variables, 20% more observations, geographic variables (region, state, county), detailed age and industry (until 2014).

Steps of the FSRDC Application Process



* Not all project types have fees. Speak with your FSRDC administrator to get more information about whether there will be fees for your proposed project.

Where to start

- Contact Catherine Talbot, RMRDC administrator, or Jani Little, RMRDC director – we are here to support proposal development
- brief summary
 - Summary of research ideas
 - Restricted-use data needs
 - Key external datasets and linkages (if applicable)
 - General idea of methodology
- Learn all you can about the data
 - ResearchDataGov.org
 - Data pages on Census website
 - Key papers, including Census Working Papers

Getting Started: Browsing and Searching

Criminal Justice Administrative Records System (CJARS)

 Dataset

Description

The Criminal Justice Administrative Records System (CJARS) is an internal Census Bureau project with...
[show more](#)

 Request access

Begin an application for these data by adding them to your request.

Metadata

Identification and Summary

[Scope and Coverage](#)

[Detailed Methodology](#)

[Data Access](#)

[Application-related](#)

[Export Metadata](#)

Data files in this dataset **0**

Metadata: Identification and Summary

Title ?

Criminal Justice Administrative Records System (CJARS)

Alternative title ?

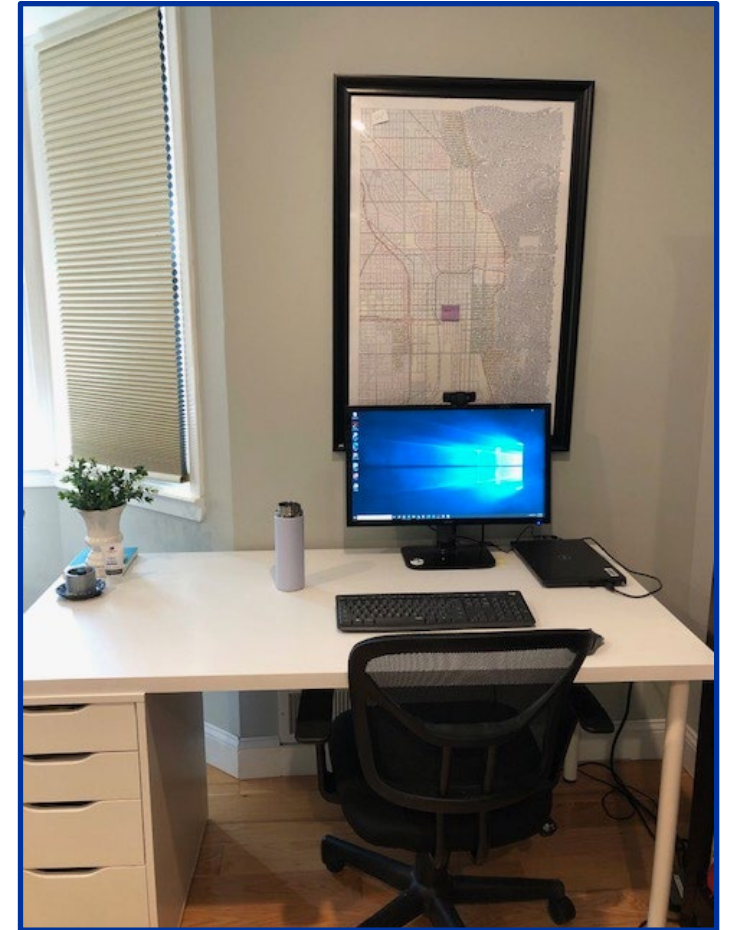
UM_CJARS

Description ?

The Criminal Justice Administrative Records System (CJARS) is an internal Census Bureau project with the ambition of creating a national, integrated, harmonized collection of criminal justice microdata at the Census Bureau. The project is a joint effort with the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan. CJARS started in 2016 with funding from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation now funds the project.

Remote Access: How it works

- Eligibility
 - Data owning agency approval to remotely access data
 - Successful completion of remote access training
 - Successful on-site FSRDC experience
- Rules of Behavior
 - Agreements
 - Mimics FSRDC environment
- Location
 - Locked room inside researcher's home
- Regular inspections by Census Staff



Things to keep in mind

- Model based output is the expectation
 - Tabular output is limited to supporting model-based output
- New data are being added all the time
- Other agencies govern how their data are used and accessed
 - Fees may apply to other agencies' data
 - Other agencies may limit the hours you are able to access the RDC
 - Policy analysis is not allowed when using certain datasets
- RDC work takes time – plan ahead!

Let's Talk!!



Jani Little
Executive Director

jani.little@colorado.edu



Catherine Talbot
Administrator

catherine.b.talbot@census.gov



Haeseong Park
Grad Research Assistant

haeseong.park@colorado.edu