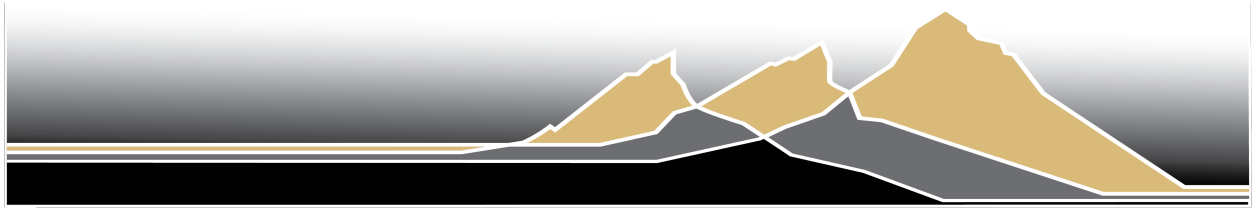# RMRDC

Rocky Mountain Research Data Center
Member of Federal Statistical RDC Network

RMRDC 2024 Newsletter

A report of activities of the Rocky Mountain Research Data Center

Overview of 2024 at the RMRDC

Still one of the busiest RDCs in the network with 31 active projects --not bad for a rebuilding year. This is due in large part to our administrator, Catherine Talbot, who has just completed her first year. She has been very busy getting new projects started and working on 18 different projects in development. Some have already been submitted for review and a few are being revised for resubmission. We expect 2025 to be a very successful year!

In person outreach builds excitement and enthusiasm at our member institutions. Recent trips were to the University of New Mexico, University of Texas at El Paso and the University of Denver. We have a trip to University of Wyoming in the works for early February.

New 3-year agreements were recently signed with University of Wyoming and University of Texas at El Paso. In addition, we finalized our first 3-year agreement with the University of New Mexico.

People News

Jani Little, Executive Director, stepping down

It's been a pleasure working to establish the RMRDC over the last 10 years! I've had the joy of working with many great researchers, learning about new data collections, and being stimulated by innovative research ideas. Special thanks to all of you and my administrators, Katie Genadek, Phil Pendergast, and Catherine Talbot. Success could not have happened without them. The RMRDC has been a passion project for me, and I've enjoyed it tremendously. However, it's time to pass the baton and move on to other endeavors. We hope to announce my successor soon. The selection process is underway. In the meantime, I will continue to work on new agreements, project development, and outreach, as well as the Health Data Course in the spring.

Jani

Kevin Duncan, CSU Pueblo Campus Representative, stepping down.

Distinguished Professor of Economics, Kevin Duncan, has provided invaluable support and a strong presence on the CSU Pueblo Campus since the RMRDC was first established. We have appreciated his involvement and his pioneering research with his collaborators at the Wasatch Front RDC in Salt Lake City, Utah. For the very first time, Kevin's project linked business establishment data from the Economic Censuses with the Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. His project title is "Effects of Subcontracting and other Contractor Characteristics on Injuries in the Construction Industry." Thank you, Kevin, and best wishes!

The Health Data Course to be offered in Spring 2025

In the spring of 2024, the Health Data Course was the most impactful since it began in 2020. 18 graduate students enrolled, and at least 3 of them have projects now in development. This course has turned out to be a very good strategy for expanding the culture of restricted-use data on campuses. In the four years that the course was been offered, students have only represented the three CU campuses. We encourage more participation by member universities and this can be done by having your students enroll in an independent study with a faculty member overseeing it. For more information see the RMRDC website on the right tab under the heading: [Opportunities for Graduate Students](#)

New Data Offerings by Federal Agencies:

The data collections available through the FSRDC program continue to expand at a very fast pace. Just a few are highlighted here, and all of these are free to RMRDC consortium members and their affiliates. All but the Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Consumer Finance are linkable at the individual level or the business establishment level, creating many exciting research avenues.

Social Security Administration (SSA) (linkable at the individual level)

Supplemental Security Record (SSR): Contains information that is needed to calculate and distribute Social Security Income (SSI) benefit payments.

831 Disability File: Contains information needed to determine eligibility for Old-Age, Survivor Insurance, and SSI benefits.

Master Beneficiary Record (MBR): A system of electronic records that contain certain information about all Social Security beneficiaries who are, or were, entitled to receive Retirement and Survivors Insurance.

Summary Earnings Record (SER): Summarizes all earnings information found in the SSA Master Earnings File (MEF) for each year from 1951 to the present.

Detailed Earnings Record (DER): Reports earnings from FICA, non-FICA and self-employment income, from the Detail Segments of the SSA's Master Earnings

File for each year starting with 1978. The DER contains individual entries for every W-2 form reported for a worker.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS): IRS 1040 Forms (linkable at the individual level)

From the Individual Master File (IMF)1040 forms of individual reported income for 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) (linkable with individual and employer data)

Employment discrimination charges filed by individuals. This dataset consists of employment discrimination charges filed with EEOC by individuals and records information including the statute, issue, and basis for the charge, and case resolution.

Employment Patterns for Minorities and Women, which is a mandatory annual data collection for business establishments having employees (linkable to business establishment data).

Federal Reserve Board (FRB) in cooperation with the Treasury Department: Survey of Consumer Finances (not linkable)

Triennial cross-sectional surveys, 1983-2022 with the next one in 2025. Samples sizes of 4,000 to 6,500 households. Oversamples Black, Hispanic, and Asian families. Samples include specially selected wealthy households. Provides better coverage of distribution of wealth than ever before with a detailed household balance sheet that includes many types of assets and liabilities.

Other News from the FSRDC Program:

New Metadata offers extensive information on all FSRDC projects past and present and includes: a spreadsheet listing active and completed projects and a spreadsheet listing research outputs.

The IRS has expanded remote access
It is now available for most IRS data including the Longitudinal Business Database (LBD) and the Economic Censuses.

New RDCs
New RDCs were opened in Puerto Rico, Ohio State and Indiana University, and others are in process at Iowa State University, University of Chicago, University of Tennessee and University of Pittsburgh, and the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank.

The Standard Application Process (SAP)
The Standard Application Process(SAP) continues to be built out and is becoming the best source of data discovery when planning an RDC project. A detailed listing of available restricted data sets from all federal agencies is provided at the ResearchDataGov Web Portal which includes links to documentation and survey sponsors. Researchers still need to consult with the RDC Administrator before writing research proposals.

Wishing you new research frontiers in 2025!