

RMRDC News

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RMRDC is Five!

After five years, we've started to see some of our early projects wrap up and come off the list of active projects, and, at the same time, we are welcoming a new generation of young scholars to the world of restricted data. The original contract between CU Boulder with the Census Bureau that established the RMRDC was signed on December 2, 2016. The renewal agreement was just signed on December 17, 2021 with only minor modifications. So, we're in business with the Census Bureau for another five years!!

Expansion was a consistent theme in 2021 and it has taken several forms. Here are some examples. The RMRDC consortium added a new institutional member. The agencies providing data to the FSRDC network, of which RMRDC is a part, added exciting new data collections this year. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) became a new partnering agency contributing their invaluable historical database of charges filed alleging violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Finally, the FSRDC directors have voted to provide sponsored access to researchers associated with historically underserved communities. Read more about each of these and other developments below.

Remote Access Now Permanent

When the pandemic first started early in 2020, FSRDCs closed down and the Census Bureau rushed to keep research alive by allowing remote access to certain data collections. This made access particularly convenient for geographically distant colleagues. Initially, remote access was authorized on a temporary basis, but it has now been adopted as a permanent mode of access for data that are protected by Title 13. This includes Census products such as the National Survey of Child Health (NSCH), the Decennial Censuses, ACS, CPS, and other non-Census data such as the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Other good news on this front is that the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is testing methods of remote access for restricted-use versions of their data collections. They expect to have a policy in place by Summer 2022.

New Consortium Member

We are very happy to welcome University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) as the newest member of our Rocky Mountain network of institutions supporting the RMRDC and building our network of restricted data scholars. Phil Pendergast and Jani Little were able to travel to UTEP in October to give information sessions and to meet one-on-one with researchers there. UTEP researchers are especially interested in using restricted data to advance their studies related to covid vaccination resistance, immigration and border policy, and prison release programs. Prof. Cristina Morales is the UTEP representative to the RMRDC consortium. Welcome aboard UTEP!

New Approved Projects

Nine projects, listed below, became fully operational in the past year. Three are faculty-led, and all include at least one CU Anschutz faculty member. Six of the new projects are graduate student-led.

William Ben Allshouse, Danielle Sansone-Poe, Lisa McKenzie & Peter Maniloff. “Oil and Gas Siting, Housing Choices, and Environmental Justice.” **CU Anschutz - Colorado School of Public Health** and **Colorado School of Mines - Economics.**

Blair Darney, **Kate Coleman-Minahan, Fernando Riosmena & Emily Boniface.** “iSALE!: Social determinants of health and adolescent pregnancy in US Latinas.” **IBS, CU Anschutz - Nursing,** and **CU Boulder - Geography.**

Goleen Samari & **Kate Coleman-Minahan.** “State Policies and Immigrant Sexual and Reproductive Health.” **IBS** and **CU Anschutz - Nursing.**

Since its founding, graduate student training and gaining experience using restricted data have been high priorities for the RMRDC. Six graduate student projects were fully launched this year, and five of the six were financially supported by the RMRDC. They are described here with the student listed first and the faculty advisor second. Two projects were developed during the RMRDC-sponsored Health Data Course offered in Spring, 2020.

University of Denver Graduate
Student Selected for Census
Mentorship Program

Joe Chestnut (PhD Student - Geography) has been selected for the Center for Economic Studies (CES) Dissertation Mentorship Program. He will be working with the CES Development and Applications Innovation Group to make some of the results from his dissertation research publicly available via OnTheMap, an online Census application that lets users generate public-use geographic characteristics of interest from the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) data. Joe is making novel use of the LEHD data in conjunction with American Community Survey (ACS) and public transit data to estimate commuting times and identify disparities in workers' transit accessibility.



The course continues to be offered and will run again in Spring, 2022.

Jing Deng & Janet Bercovitz. “Turn the Sailboat as the Wind Turns: Startup Relocation Into and Out of Prominent Clusters.” **CU Boulder - Business**

Kas McLean & Richard Mansfield. “Hyper-Local Economic Ecosystems.” **RMRDC and CU Boulder - Economics.**

Soumak Basumallik & Andrew Friedson “Did ACA Reduce Disparities in Preventive Healthcare between Hispanics and Non-Hispanic Whites?” **CU Denver - Economics.**

Dan Simon & Ryan Masters. “Death by Despair? Individual and Contextual Predictors of Suicide Mortality Risk.” **IBS and CU Boulder - Sociology.**

Kim Truong-Vu & Stefanie Bailey-Mollborn. “Gender and Racial/Ethnic Differences in the Timing of Initiating the HPV Vaccine: The Case of Southeast Asian Americans.” **IBS and CU Boulder - Sociology.**

James Flynn & Francisca Antman. “Do Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Taxes Work?” **IBS and CU Boulder - Economics.**

New Data Collections Available

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has made earnings data available for the Current Population Survey (CPS) and Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) samples. These data allow researchers to access lifetime earnings for the vast majority of respondents included in these surveys, with detailed (W-2 level) earnings (Detailed Earnings Record (DER)) since 1978, summary, annual earnings since 1951, and aggregated earnings over the period 1937-1950 (Summary Earnings Record (SER)). The unprecedented level of coverage and detail that these earnings records provide will be invaluable for researchers interested in studying earnings trajectories and gender or racial/ethnic wage gaps, how program participation varies with earnings, and the timing of childbirth over the life course.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is making their data collections available starting in 2022. These

Sponsored Access for HBCUs and Other Minority-Serving Institutions

The FSRDC Executive Directors have agreed to provide access to approved researchers affiliated with institutions associated with historically underserved communities. This includes, but may not be limited to, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Native American-Serving Non-tribal Institutions (NASNTI), or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institution (ANNHI), or Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). Details of expanded access will be determined locally by each individual FSRDC and will typically include waiving institutional membership fees and providing other assistance leading to successful project development and completion.

include demographics of the US workforce at the establishment/organization level and individual-level employment discrimination charges filed under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Charges may be filed on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, or genetic information discrimination, with data covering the period 1970-2020 and including employer name, industry, date, and legal outcome in addition to details of the charge.

The Census Bureau has made restricted-use versions of the Household and Small Business Pulse Surveys available. Both surveys have been conducted weekly throughout the pandemic to assess the real-time social and economic impacts of COVID-19. The household survey measures employment, spending, food security, housing, education disruptions, and physical and mental wellness, is linkable to other Census microdata records, and features geography down to the county level. The small business survey focuses on economic impacts amongst small establishment firms with more than \$1000 in receipts and fewer than 500 employees, with geography down to the state level.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has made the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) available through the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). These data collect detailed information on tobacco, alcohol, and drug use, mental health, and other health-related issues, and will be very useful for researchers interested in monitoring substance use trends, estimating the need for treatment, or evaluating prevention strategies. The NSDUH began in 1971 and is conducted annually in all 50 states, with current yearly sample sizes of nearly 70,000, making it possible to estimate trends over time and evaluate state or local public health policies targeting drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.

The Census Bureau has made the 2016-2020 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) available. The NSCH is unique among Census collections in that it focuses on measuring the physical and emotional health of children ages 0-17 in the US. In addition to collecting health data, the survey also assesses several factors that may relate to child well-being, including family interactions, parental health and well-being, school experiences, and neighborhood safety. Importantly, the Colorado Department of

Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) partnered with Census to sponsor an oversample of Colorado children designed to deliver representative estimates of the State's health service regions starting in 2020 and moving forward, making these data an especially valuable tool for local researchers interested in public health in our region.