About ICPSR

ICPSR is the world’s largest archive of digital social science data. We acquire, preserve, and distribute original social science research data.

What We Do
ICPSR is a vital partner in social science research and instruction. We support students, faculty, researchers, and policymakers who seek to:

- Write articles, papers, or theses to fulfill undergraduate or graduate requirements
- Conduct secondary research to better understand study results, support findings of primary research, or generate new findings
- Study or teach statistical methods in quantitative analysis
- Preserve and disseminate primary research data.

Value-added Data Resources

- Bibliography of Data-Related Literature with links to full-text articles and reports
- Analysis-ready data in multiple software formats including SPSS, SAS, Stata, and SDA (the Survey Documentation and Analysis online software package).

Online Data Analysis

A significant number of ICPSR studies include online data analysis (SDA) tools. SDA allows users to run analyses, recode, and compute new variables with no requirements for additional software. SDA is a solid package for students who need to explore data or run analyses to complete in-class or homework assignments.

Data Preservation and Dissemination

Archiving data with ICPSR ensures the long-term safekeeping of data, protecting them from obsolescence, loss, or deterioration. Our trained staff are available for user support, removing that responsibility from the original research team. Researchers can fulfill funding agency requirements by archiving data with ICPSR.

Membership in ICPSR

Our membership consists of approximately 700 educational and research institutions around the world. Members include universities and colleges, national data archives, statistical and research agencies, government departments, and nonprofit organizations.

Individuals at member institutions have direct, free access to all of ICPSR’s data resources and user support. They also receive discounted tuition rates to attend the Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research.

Membership is available to all institutions. Fees are based on a university’s Carnegie classification. Associate memberships are also available for nonacademic institutions.

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ICPSR
A PARTNER IN SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
www.icpsr.umich.edu
Our data holdings offer a wealth of analysis opportunities, including:

- Surveys on U.S. and international voting behavior and political attitudes
- Voting behavior data on important sub-populations including African Americans, Hispanics, and women
- Exit polls and media polling data
- U.S. Congress roll call data
- Series data for comparisons across time, including the National Black Election Study, the American National Election Studies, and the United States General Election Exit Poll Series.

ICPSR holds topic-specific thematic collections on political science research subjects:

- The Terrorism & Preparedness Data Resource Center, providing data from governments, non-governmental organizations, and researchers on domestic and international terrorism
- The International Data Resource Center, including studies from Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa
- The Resource Center for Minority Data, containing data on African Americans, Asians, Latinos, Native Americans, immigrants, and other U.S. minority populations.

Our research tools include:

- Faceted searching and multiple ways to browse the ICPSR collection
- The Publication-Related Archive, a repository of data and command files used in published works
- The Social Science Variables Database, allowing users to search a large portion of ICPSR’s collection at the variable level. This simplifies the process of finding the best dataset for a particular analysis. The database also provides a quick way to explore question wording, response options, and resulting frequency distributions over many surveys.

Resources for Teaching and Training in Political Science

ICPSR offers robust opportunities for in-class instruction using data, as well as advanced training in quantitative methods.

ICPSR’s instructional resources give professors and students access to lesson plans and in-class exercises meant to improve quantitative literacy and familiarity with social science research data:

- The Online Learning Center (www.icpsr.umich.edu/OLC) provides numerous self-contained lessons using predefined online analyses of ICPSR data.
- Teaching With Data (TeachingWithData.org) is a one-stop shop for faculty, with links to exercises and activities, simplified data and datasets, and pedagogical information.

These classroom-ready modules focus on questions with direct bearing on political science research:

- SETUPs: Voting Behavior: The 2008 Election, exercises based on the 2008 National Election Study
- Investigating Community and Social Capital, a series of lesson plans teaching online research concepts and basic analyses using Robert Putnam’s 2000 book Bowling Alone as a case study
- The Terrorism & Preparedness Data Resource Center provides instructional resources and datasets for undergraduates.

ICPSR’s Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research offers courses in social science methodology including research design, statistics, and data analysis.

Instruction is for beginning or advanced students of quantitative methods. The program attracts university faculty and researchers, graduate students, and nonacademic research scientists.

Members of ICPSR receive discounted tuition.

www.icpsr.umich.edu