To raise awareness of data resources about racial and ethnic minority populations, the ICPSR Summer Program offers a four-week course titled “Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity.” This course examines research design, measurement, and analysis issues involved in research on minority populations in the United States.

The class is interdisciplinary, with examples drawn from such fields as sociology, psychology, political science, and economics.

Topics include:

- Reliable and valid measurement of racial and ethnic variables in major survey studies
- Innovative sampling strategies for diverse populations
- Race-related measurement errors in data collection
- Analysis traditions and trends within various social/behavioral science fields

To apply:

www.icpsr.umich.edu/sumprog

About ICPSR

ICPSR is the world’s largest archive of digital social science data. Located at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, ICPSR acquires, preserves, and distributes original social science research data.

To find out more about RMCD, see www.icpsr.umich.edu/RCMD. Contact us by email at ICPSRRCMD@isr.umich.edu or telephone at 734.936-5784.
The changing demographic composition has expanded the scope of the U.S. racial and ethnic mosaic. Since the late 1990’s, there has been a marked increase in studies and projects on minority communities with the goal of exploring a wider range of experiences and relationships.

An initiative of ICPSR, RCMD seeks to assist in the public dissemination and preservation of quality data to generate more “good science” for years to come. RCMD wants to be part of an interactive community interested and involved in minority-related issues/investigations in order to broaden the scope of research endeavors and examinations.

About the Project

The Learning section of the RCMD Web site is comprised of tutorials, Webinars, user guides, video tours, and online learning modules that provide:

- Resources for educators, researchers, and students
- Usage and learning guides
- User support documentation

To increase quantitative literacy, RCMD has created tools for instructors, such as the learning guide “Attitudes about Racial Discrimination and Racial Inequality in the US and Racial Disparities in Mental Health” and the Detroit Area Study, 1994. As new technology is introduced, the RCMD will provide accompanying documentation modules so that users not only have access to the tools, but to a virtual training environment as well.

Access

To gain access to our data, users must first create a MyData (the ICPSR user registration and authentication system) account. The system generates a more secure environment for users and provides the following user-friendly features:

- Ability to use an email address as a login ID
- Password authentication to the Web site
- Account creation and preference setting
- Resetting forgotten passwords
- Prior download history
- Subscription to an update notification service that emails users when a study they’ve previously downloaded is substantially updated

In addition, the Access section provides a Data Use Tutorial, User Help Center, Resources for New Users, and a Glossary of Terms used on the RCMD web site.

Data

To enhance the user experience, RCMD provides listings of:

- Most downloaded studies
- Most cited studies
- Recently released studies
- United States government sponsored studies like the American Housing Survey
- Recently updated studies
- Studies for which online analysis is available

The RCMD further assists users by making the ICPSR Thesaurus available. This allows users to see the keywords ICPSR uses to classify studies. RCMD provides SAS, SPSS (now PASW), and Stata files and, in some cases, online analysis for the studies in the collection. Users can perform the analyses in the statistical package of their choice or online. R users can read the data in through tab-delimited files or by importing another package’s files.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Resource Center for Minority Data (RCMD) is to provide educators, researchers, and students with data resources to analyze issues affecting racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States.

RCMD provides access and analytic tools for use with the vast array of minority data available from ICPSR. RCMD enhancements assist researchers, educators, and students in their quest to effectively utilize data on underrepresented populations.

Learning

Access

Tools