

# Data Sharing for Demographic Research

A project of the **Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research**, in collaboration with the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota, and the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan.

# Data Sharing for Demographic Research (DSDR)

DSDR is a project of ICPSR in collaboration with the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota, and the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan. The project is supported by the Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. DSDR supports research investigators — both those who collect data and those who wish to use data — in dealing with complex data and data requiring special security.

## Data Producers

DSDR provides support to investigators and the research centers in which they work for data sharing and archiving. We provide the following:

- Tools and resources for dissemination of public-access data
- Tools and strategies for dissemination of restricted-access data
- Long-term secure archiving of public-use and restricted-use data
- State-of-the-art training in the preparation and dissemination of public- and restricted-use data and metadata
- Assistance in developing data discovery mechanisms

## *Services Available to Data Producers*

We help investigators who are creating datasets make data public in a way that is efficient for them, useful for other researchers, and productive in the long term. Beginning as early as project conceptualization, DSDR staff is available for consultation about designing data files and data dissemination procedures. We assist data producers in the creation of metadata that are effective for the entire lifetime of the study, and we encourage them to begin the documentation process as early in the study's life as possible. In addition, DSDR provides professional consultation to investigators about the risk of disclosure and the steps to be undertaken to avoid breach of confidentiality through disclosure.

## *Archiving Public-Use Data with DSDR*

The DSDR project also has capacity to archive data at ICPSR. Archiving may mean preserving an archival copy of the data, but not disseminating the data immediately. Additionally, data producers can request that DSDR disseminate their data. There are several benefits in working with DSDR to disseminate data:

- Long-term preservation
- User support of public-use files
- Promotion of the data as a resource for the scientific community
- Tracking usage statistics
- A searchable online database of publications that utilize DSDR data

## *Archiving Restricted-Use Data With DSDR*

Data can be divided into four levels of sensitivity:

- Public-use data
- Restricted-use contractual data
- Special subsets of data
- Sensitive data accessed only through our secure data facility (data enclave)

We are available to consult with and assist researchers in the preparation of data at all levels of security. DSDR can assist you by providing restricted data access through contractual agreements, custom subsetting, and our on-site data enclave. The Carolina Population Center, a partner in the DSDR project, has developed considerable expertise in the area of protection of confidential data. Through this collaboration, DSDR plans to share state-of-the-art data protection methods with the research community.

## **Data Users**

DSDR provides support to those in the demographic research community who are interested in using demographic data for secondary analysis. We help data users locate, access, and analyze data by providing

- A searchable index of demographic data
- Access to public-use and restricted-use data
- Assistance in meeting security requirements when applying for restricted-use data
- User support
- Online analysis
- Training in data use

## **General User Support**

DSDR staff and ICPSR User Support are available by phone and e-mail to answer general questions about DSDR data. What are the features and variables of a dataset? How can the user acquire data? Our objective is to answer these questions quickly and efficiently, making sure that users get their initial questions answered promptly by a responsive staff member.

You can contact DSDR staff by e-mail at [DSDR@icpsr.umich.edu](mailto:DSDR@icpsr.umich.edu) or by telephone at (734) 615-4979. You can reach general ICPSR User Support by e-mail at [netmail@icpsr.umich.edu](mailto:netmail@icpsr.umich.edu).

## **Advanced User Support**

DSDR staff at ICPSR and the University of Michigan's Population Studies Center have a high level of knowledge about demographic research under way in the field and sources of data and methods used to accomplish that research. DSDR staff are available to answer advanced user support questions and make outside referrals.

For more information please contact DSDR by e-mail at [DSDR@icpsr.umich.edu](mailto:DSDR@icpsr.umich.edu) or by telephone at (734) 615-4979.

## **Training**

The ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research offers a comprehensive, integrated program of studies in research design, statistics, data analysis, and social methodology. Basic methodological and technical training is offered, along with opportunities for advanced work in specialized areas. Instruction is grounded in interactive participatory data analysis and is complemented by formal lectures and discussions.

For more information about DSDR, please visit [www.icpsr.umich.edu/DSDR](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/DSDR).

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