

CPRDC

CENTRAL PLAINS RESEARCH DATA CENTER

Newsletter, December 2020

CPRDC REOPENED

The Central Plains Restricted Data Center located at the University of Nebraska Lincoln has provisionally reopened, following its closure due to the pandemic last Spring, and is allowing researchers to use the facility by appointment. If you have any ongoing / approved projects you would like to reactivate, you should contact our administrator Seth Kingery (seth.j.kingery@census.gov).



NEW PANDEMIC AND HEALTH RESEARCH RESOURCES

In the meantime, the Federal Statistical Research Data Center Network has seen growing interest in research of health issues and the provision of social services related to the pandemic. The Census Bureau launched two new data products in response to the novel issues raised by the challenges of responding to Covid-19: (i) the Household Pulse Survey and (ii) the Small Business Pulse Survey. There are ongoing efforts to bring those two data sets into the RDC and allow it to be linked to existing firm and individual data there. Proposals using these data and such linkings would not yet be accepted, but if you would be interested in participating in the first wave of such projects you are encouraged to contact Dr. Kingery or Prof. John Anderson (janderson4@unl.edu).

Also, new data is becoming available for linking in the RDC on an ongoing basis. As you know, the CDC and its associated agencies have long provided excellent resources for working in the RDC on restricted health data. Census also continues to add to its available health-related data available in the RDC, such as the recent addition of CMS's T-MSIS which gives monthly-level data on individuals' participation in Medicare and is now available for linking to other Census data such as the ACS or SIPP. In addition, two data sets have recently been updated with 2019

data which allow assessment of the state of medical and social spending immediately prior to the onset of the pandemic. First, the Medical Expenditures Panel Survey - Income Component (MEPS-IC) has just been made available for the year 2019. Second, Census staff working in cooperation with HUD has recently added 2019 ACS micro-data linked to administrative data about Public Housing, House Choice Voucher, and Project-Based Rental Assistance programs. If you would like more details about when existing data sets are updated and become available in the RDC, please contact Dr. Kingery.

FACILITY MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY

The CPRDC, as well as the FSRDC Network and the Department of Commerce, places a high priority on the health and safety of its employees and visiting researchers. As many projects as possible have been moved to remote access, though remote access is only available for certain data. (If you have an existing approved project that you think should be remote access and is not, please contact Dr. Kingery.) At present, visits to the lab are being scheduled so that no two people, researcher or staff, are physically in the lab within twelve hours of one another. In addition, we are taking pains to sterilize surfaces, encourage mask wearing at all times, and assure that – to the greatest extent possible – researchers are not forced to use the same terminal in any seven-day period. If you have any questions about our policies, or would like to discuss alternative arrangements for greater safety, please do not hesitate to contact our team.



Contact the CPRDC

John Anderson, Executive Director
310 Whittier Research Center
janderson4@unl.edu
(402) 472-1190



Seth Kingery, Census Administrator
Central Plains Research Data Center
seth.j.kingery@census.gov
(402) 472-0362



The Central Plains Research Data Center (CPRDC) is a special research facility at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln that is operated in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau to provide researchers with approved projects access to restricted-use federal data. Data are available from a number of federal agencies, including the Census Bureau, the National Center for Health Statistics, the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and other agencies. Restricted access data sets are typically more detailed and provide finer geographic coverage than public use data sets. A Census administrator is on site to assist researchers in the development of proposals, to facilitate security clearances, and to assist in implementation of approved research projects. The purpose of the CPRDC is to enhance academic research, research infrastructure, and the recruitment of research oriented faculty and graduate students. The CPRDC is supported by a consortium of university entities including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Iowa State University, and the University of South Dakota.

