

FINDING DATA TO SUPPORT YOUR PROJECT

A RESOURCE GUIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Finding reliable data sources is no small task. To get you started, we have outlined several places you may wish to go to find data.

I.	Demographic and Population Data.....	page 1
II.	Criminal Justice System Data.....	page 1
III.	Health and Healthcare Data.....	page 2
IV.	Housing, Education, and Labor Data.....	page 2
V.	Mapping and Data Visualization Tools.....	page 3
VI.	Datasets, directors, and dictionaries.....	page 4

I. DEMOGRAPHIC AND POPULATION DATA

AMERICAN FACTFINDER

This is a great place to start to find general population data on levels ranging from state-wide, down to the block level. While it can be overwhelming, as you become familiar with it will become very useful. Many tools that use “public available data” use that can be found using American FactFinder, including data used in PolicyMap and Social Explorer.

Community Facts: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml

Guided Search: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/guided_search.xhtml

STATE DATA CENTERS

States will also have Census data center with information that is sent to the government as well as some homegrown information that you may find useful. Many are affiliated with a public state university such as University of Connecticut.

- California State Data Center: http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/State_Census_Data_Center/
- Connecticut State Data Center <http://ctsdc.uconn.edu/>
- Missouri Census Data Center <http://mcdc.missouri.edu/>

II. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM DATA

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS DATASETS

The BJS has a range of data program that range from the 1980s to today. Watch out! Some of this data may be out-of-date. You can find the list here: <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dca>

- Deaths in Custody Reporting Program (2003 – 2014) <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=243>
- National Former Prisoner Survey (2008) <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=322>
- Indicators of School Crime Reports (2015) <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscls15.pdf>

CAMPAIGN ZERO

A grassroots police reform campaign proposed by activists associated with Black Lives Matter. They've compiled articles and studies related to police-related violence and intimidation

<https://www.joincampaignzero.org/research/>

POPULATION SURVEYS WITH JUSTICE-RELATED ITEMS

- NSFG 2011-2013 CAPI Lite Male. Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nsfg/nsfg_2011-2013_malecapilite_v2.pdf and CAPI Lite Female: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/nsfg_2011_2013_questionnaires.htm
- BRFSS 2014 Survey Questions. Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/questionnaires/pdf-ques/2014_brfss.pdf
- NLSY97 Round 16 Questionnaires. Available at: <https://www.nlsinfo.org/content/cohorts/nlsy97/other-documentation/questionnaires>
- NLSY79 2014 Questionnaires. Available at: <https://www.nlsinfo.org/content/cohorts/nlsy79/other-documentation/questionnaires>
- NLSY79 Child/ Young Adult 2014 Questionnaires. Available at: <https://www.nlsinfo.org/content/cohorts/nlsy79-children/other-documentation/questionnaires>
- NSDUH 2016 Questionnaire. Available at: <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHmrbCAIquex2016v2.pdf>

III. HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE DATA

HEALTHDATA.GOV

This site is dedicated to making high value health data more accessible to entrepreneurs, researchers, and policy makers in the hopes of better health outcomes for all. Direct downloads for health- and hospital-related datasets in the United States.

<https://www.healthdata.gov/search/type/dataset>

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS AND ROADMAP

County-level health indicator project and resource for finding state-by-state data.

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/using-the-rankings-data/finding-more-data>

COMMUNITY HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS

An interactive web app that produces health profiles for US counties which describe the population health status of a county and factors that have the potential to influence health outcomes, such as health care access and quality, health behaviors, social factors and the physical environment.

<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/communityhealth>

DARTMOUTH ATLAS

Information on healthcare utilization around the United States with important information on access, differences across regions. This is also a visual mapping tool used in understanding how health service and health policies are impacting people's lives. Healthcare data is displayed by state and by unique geographies based on how people use healthcare called hospital referral region (HRR), and hospital service areas (HSA).

<http://www.dartmouthatlas.org/>

IV. HOUSING, EDUCATION, AND LABOR DATA

AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING TOOL

Housing equity data and mapping tool to assess how the United States is doing towards goals of achieving fair housing.

<http://egis.hud.gov/affht/>

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

The NCES collects, analyzes and makes available data related to education in the U.S. and other nations.

<https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/>

STATE EDUCATION DATASET

States tend to have very expansive information on K-12 and post-secondary education. Search individual state governmental websites. Some examples include:

- Connecticut State Department of Education: <http://edsight.ct.gov/SASPortal/main.do>
 - California Department Education Data and Statistics: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/>
 - Missouri K-12 Education: <http://dese.mo.gov/>
 - Missouri Post-secondary Education: <http://dhe.mo.gov/data/>
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BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

U.S. Level Employment information including unemployment rates, inflation rates

<https://www.bls.gov/data/>

V. MAPPING AND DATA VISUALIZATION RESOURCES

AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING TOOL

Housing equity data and mapping tool to assess how the United States is doing towards goals of achieving fair housing.

<http://egis.hud.gov/affht/>

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS MAPPING DIRECTORY

Another great list of mapping tools. Definitely worth taking a look, probably not worth attempting to list them all here. ☺

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/using-the-rankings-data/visualize-the-dat>

POLICY MAP TOOL

Easy-to-use online mapping with data on demographics, real estate, health, jobs and more in communities across the US. A brief introduction to using Policy Map is available to and can be useful in starting a community asset mapping project.

<https://www.policymap.com/>

SOCIAL EXPLORER TOOL

Social Explorer provides easy access to demographic information about the United States. They provide thousands of interactive data maps going back to 1790. This data largely pulls from datasets available in the American FactFinder.

<http://www.socialexplorer.com/>

VIZHEALTH

Data Visualization allows for you effectively community information, particularly statistics and other potentially difficult data to the public.

This is data visualization wizard is evidence-based. Researchers tried several different types of data visualization based on what information they were trying to share, and tested which were the most effective. This comprehensive tool is a great place to start thinking about for information dissemination.

<http://www.vizhealth.org/>

VI. DATASETS, DIRECTORIES, AND DICTIONARIES

If you are looking for even more expansive ways to find data from all over, here are a few places that have compiled lists of datasets and how you can find them.

DATA SET DIRECTORY OF SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

List of datasets related to various dimensions of the social environment. This dataset directory is very extensive.

http://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/docs/data_set_directory.pdf

HEALTH INDICATORS WAREHOUSE

This easy-to-search website is a useful source for national, state, and community health indicators across multiple initiatives. This may be easier to use rather than tracking down each initiative itself (such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)). This also helps describe how different rates and metrics are measured.

<http://www.healthindicators.gov/>