



Office of Research & Sponsored Projects

Institutional Review Board

Existing Public Use Datasets Guidance

Secondary data analysis of publicly available data is a common research method. Increasingly federal agencies supporting research require investigators to make the data they collect publicly available. In an effort to reduce the burden on investigators whose research relies solely on public use data, the IRB has determined that research involving the following public use datasets and archives does not constitute research with human subjects and therefore is not subject to UWG IRB review and approval.

The datasets to which this guidance is applicable are limited to those identified below. This guidance will be updated as needed to include additional datasets that are determined by the UWG IRB to meet the conditions of this guidance.

Research projects that merge more than one dataset/archive are not covered by this guidance and require review and approval by the UWG IRB.

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), including the National Center for Health Statistics

Public datasets not limited to the following:

[Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#) (federal level only)

[Longitudinal Studies of Aging](#)

[National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey \(NAMCS\)](#)

[National Center for Health Statistics](#)

[Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey \(HHANES\)](#)

[National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey](#) (public data only)

[National Health Interview Survey](#)

[National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey \(NHAMCS\)](#)

[National Hospital Care Survey](#)

[National Immunization Survey](#)

[National Mortality Followback Survey \(NMFA\) 1993](#)

[National Nursing Home Survey](#)

[National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs](#) (public version)

[National Survey of Children's Health](#) (public version)

[National Survey of Family Growth](#)

[National Vital Statistics System](#)

[Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System](#)

[State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey \(SLAITS\)](#)

[Youth Risk Behavioral Survey Study \(YRBSS\)](#) (federal level only)

Duke University-National Institute on Aging
[National Long-Term Care Survey](#)

[National Election Studies](#)

Substance Abuse and mental health Services Administration
[National Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\) Series](#)
[Drug Abuse Warning Network \(DAWN\) Series](#)
[Treatment Episode Data Set- Admissions \(TEDS-A\) Series](#)
[Treatment Episode Data Set- Discharges \(TEDS-D\) Series](#)
[National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services \(N-SSATS\) Series](#)
[National Mental Health Services Survey \(N-MHSS\), 2010 \(ICPSR 34945\)](#)
[National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2012 \(ICPSR 34933\)](#)

[University of Michigan Institute of Social Research](#)

Panel Study of Income Dynamics (public version only)
Health and Retirement Study (public version only)

[U.S. Census Bureau](#) <http://census.gov>

US Department of Education

National Center for Education Statistics <http://nces.ed.gov/> (public version only)

US Department of Justice

[National Crime Victimization Survey: School Crime Supplements](#)

Research projects that merge public use datasets in a way that individuals may be identified or which are designed to enhance a public use dataset with identifiable or potentially identifiable data are not covered and require prior UWG IRB review and approval.

SUBMITTING A DATASET FOR CONSIDERATION

Investigators may apply to the UWG IRB to have a dataset registered as a public use dataset for UWG exemption. The dataset must be a pre-existing, publicly available dataset. Please complete the Public Dataset nomination form available on the IRB website.