



CENTER FOR STUDIES IN
DEMOGRAPHY & ECOLOGY

UWDC

**UW Data
Collaborative**

Innovative Data for Social Research

The UW Data Collaborative (UWDC) provides the infrastructure to harness innovative, but hard-to-access and highly sensitive data for the development of novel, high-quality research and evidence-driven policy making. Central to the UWDC is a state-of-the-art computing cluster that provides access to sensitive and/or restricted data in a secure and computationally sophisticated environment.

Computing Services

The UWDC servers consist of state-of-the-art hardware including:

- multi-core processors
- large amounts of RAM (memory)
- multi-disk arrays to support working with small, medium, or large data sets

Software applications include:

- Stata
- SAS
- StatTransfer
- R/RStudio
- MS Office
- ArcGIS
- PostgreSQL / PostGIS
- QGIS / OSGEO4W
- Data Grip (for SQL databases)
- Cygwin tools (Unix shell utilities)
- ... and more!

UWDC Director: Phil Hurvitz

Email: phurvitz@uw.edu

WWW: <https://dcollab.uw.edu>



Secure Systems

Our systems are built with security as the primary concern. We build secure systems and worry about security so you don't have to!

Security features

- Data set usage restricted to named researchers
- End-to-end encryption with Husky OnNet VPN
- Secure authentication with DUO Mobile two-factor authentication
- Restricted network access
- Individual screening of research results to avoid disclosure of sensitive information

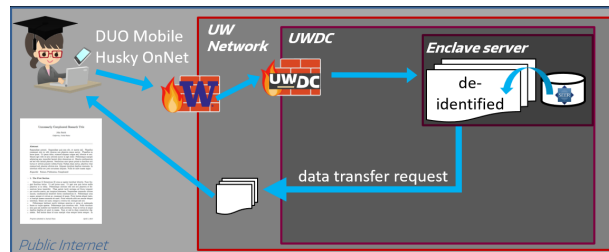
Security standards

The UWDC is aligned with several security standards and has approval or a waiver to host data from several organizations

- NIST 800-171
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- WA Department of Licensing
- WA Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)

Data Hosting

If you have data sets that contain protected health information (PHI) or personally identifiable information (PII), we can host your data and provide Windows Remote Desktop access 24/7.



Hosted Data Sets

We currently host a number of data sets, some of which are available for general UW access with data use agreements, including:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
 - Acute care claims and post-acute care claims and assessment data for 100% of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries for CY2018-2021
 - Minimum Data Set (MDS) from a nursing home resident survey and the Master Beneficiary Summary File (MBSF) Base data covering beneficiary enrollment from 2018.
- Data Axle (formerly Infogroup) Historical Business and Consumer Data
- Chitwan Valley Family Study data
- Fragile Families
- IBM Watson MarketScan data
- Add Health Restricted-use data
- Washington Merged Longitudinal Administrative data

Contract & Data Use Agreement Review

UWDC administrative and IT staff can help with completing sections of contracts and data use agreements that require documentation of security controls, user access, and data handling.

Supported By

- Eunice Kennedy Shriver NICHD
- Population Health Initiative
- Student Technology Fee
- Urban@UW
- UW-IT
- UW Libraries





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Northwest Federal Statistical Research Data Center

A partnership between the U.S. Census Bureau and the University of Washington, the NWFSRDC serves as a secured access-point for qualified researchers with approved projects to conduct research using non-public data from partnering government agencies and entities across the U.S. federal statistical system. The NWFSRDC is part of a network of 33 open Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs) but the only one in the Pacific Northwest of the United States.

Better Suited, More Accurate & Accessible Data

Through the NWFSRDC, researchers may access restricted microdata that contain variables not available in public versions of datasets, detailed versions of variables, sensitive variables, full counts and/or larger samples, original responses, more detailed geography, less censoring, and previously linked data. Researchers may also have the opportunity, if approved, to enhance the reach of their research by linking data.

Supported Fields of Research

Business, Trade, Finance, and Management • Crime and Crime Victimization • Demography and Population Studies • Economics, Labor Markets, Entrepreneurship, Employment and Industry • Education and Education Policy • Hazard Reduction, Environmental Impact Assessment, Pollution Abatement • Health and Wellbeing, Health Insurance, and Health Policy • Housing, Housing Markets, and Residential Patterns • among others

Accessing the NWFSRDC

A standard, multiple-step process is required to conduct research at any FSRDC, including the NWFSRDC. This process requires time but is simple if you work closely from the beginning with the Executive Director and with the Administrator of the NWFSRDC. Both will help you navigate the process and answer your questions.

There may be fees associated with your use of the NWFSRDC, but if you are a UW faculty or staff (whose appointment is over 50% of time at UW) or a UW student, your fees are covered. Partnering agencies may charge fees to access their data, regardless of your status at UW. Foreign nationals are allowed to work with U.S. restricted-use data at any FSRDC, but must have lived in the United States for at least 3 of the last 5 years.

Access Process at a Glimpse:

1. Discuss your research idea or project with the Executive Director of the NWFSRDC and familiarize yourself with the FSRDC Research Proposal Guidelines.
2. Work with the NWFSRDC Administrator to develop your application package: a research proposal (with sections for project description, requested data, research questions, timeline, empirical methods, and expected research outputs/disclosure risk, among others) and a statement of benefits to the US Census Bureau and the federal statistical system.
3. Submit your application through the Standard Application Process portal after approval from the Executive Director and Administrator.
4. Apply for Special Sworn Status (SSS) after your project has been approved.
5. Once your project is approved and SSS granted, conduct your analysis in the secured computing environment of the NWFSRDC on the UW Seattle Campus.

Learn More

Be on the look out for our new NWFSRDC website. It will be live soon under services provided by CSDE, visit: <https://csde.washington.edu/>

We are also planning exciting opportunities for you to learn more about the NWFSRDC and how to start using federal restricted-used data successfully in your research. If you are interested in attending upcoming NWFSRDC workshops, contact our Executive Director, Sofia G. Ayala (sgayala@uw.edu), to be added to our mailing list.

Contact Us

NWFSRDC Executive Director: Sofia G. Ayala, PhD

E-mail: sgayala@uw.edu

NWFSRDC Administrator: Carlos Becerra, PhD

E-mail: carlos.becerra@census.gov

Supported By

- US Census Bureau
- UW College of Arts & Sciences
- UW Office of the Provost
- UW Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology
- UW Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy & Governance
- UW Department of Epidemiology
- UW Department of Health Systems and Population Health
- UW Runstad Department of Real Estate

