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| **Commonly Used Datasets in Sociology and Other Social Sciences** |

[**GSS**](http://gss.norc.org/get-the-data)  **The General Social Survey (National Opinion Research Center)**

The GSS gathers data on contemporary American society in order to monitor and explain trends and constants in attitudes, behaviors, and attributes.  Hundreds of trends have been tracked since 1972. In addition, since the GSS adopted questions from earlier surveys, trends can be followed for up to 70 years.

The GSS contains a standard core of demographic, behavioral, and attitudinal questions, plus topics of special interest. Among the topics covered are civil liberties, crime and violence, intergroup tolerance, morality, national spending priorities, psychological well-being, social mobility, and stress and traumatic events.

Altogether the GSS is the single best source for sociological and attitudinal trend data covering the United States. It allows researchers to examine the structure and functioning of society in general as well as the role played by relevant subgroups and to compare the United States to other nations.

[**U.S. Census**](http://www.census.gov/2010census/data/)

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States. It is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution and takes place every 10 years. The data collected by the decennial census determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities.

The 2010 Census represented the most massive participation movement ever witnessed in our country. Approximately 74 percent of the households returned their census forms by mail; the remaining households were counted by census workers walking neighborhoods throughout the United States.

[**American Fact Finder**](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t) **(U.S. Census)**

American FactFinder provides access to data about the United States, Puerto Rico and the Island Areas. The data in American FactFinder come from several censuses and surveys.

[**UCI**](https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr) **The Uniform Crime Reports (Federal Bureau of Investigation); and many others related**

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program has been the starting place for law enforcement executives, students of criminal justice, researchers, members of the media, and the public at large seeking information on crime in the nation. The program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to meet the need for reliable uniform crime statistics for the nation. In 1930, the FBI was tasked with collecting, publishing, and archiving those statistics.

Data are received from over 18,000 city, university/college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies voluntarily participating in the program. The crime data are submitted either through a state UCR Program or directly to the FBI’s UCR Program.

In addition to these reports, information is available on the Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) Program and the Hate Crime Statistics Program, as well as the traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS) and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

[**NCVS**](http://www.bjs.gov/developer/ncvs/index.cfm) **The National Crime Victimization Survey (Bureau of Justice Statistics)**

The NCVS RESTful API is a web service that provides criminal victimization data obtained annually from a nationally representative sample of about 90,000 households and 160,000 persons interviewed each year. NCVS data describe the frequency, characteristics and consequences of criminal victimization in the United States. The NCVS provides the largest national forum for victims to describe the impact of crime and characteristics of violent offenders. It is one of two primary data collections about crime in the United States and is the only source of data about crimes not reported to the police.

[**EDAT**](https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/els2002/avail_data.asp) **The Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002 (National Center for Education Statistics)**

The ELS:2002 is a nationally representative, longitudinal study of 10th graders in 2002 and 12th graders in 2004. It followed students throughout secondary and postsecondary years, surveying the students, their parents, math and English teachers, and school administrators. It also contains student assessments in math (10th & 12th grades) and English (10th grade) and high school transcripts (on a restricted basis—see below).

Key questions for the survey are: What are students' trajectories from the beginning of high school into postsecondary education, the workforce, and beyond? What are the different patterns of college access and persistence that occur in the years following high school completion

ELS:2002 Data Collection Waves:

* Base Year (2002) – Available now
* First Follow-up (2004) – Available now
* High School Transcripts (2005) – Available now (Restricted-use only)
* Second Follow-up (2006) – Available now
* Third Follow-up (2012) – Available now
* Postsecondary Transcripts (2013) – Available now

Note, this tool also provides access to other education-related data sets: ECLS-K (Early Childhood Longitudinal Study - Kindergarten Class of 1998-99), HSLS (High School Longitudinal Study of 2009), NELS (National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988), NHES (National Household Education Survey), SASS (Schools and Staffing and Teacher Follow-up Surveys), and SSOCS (School Survey on Crime and Safety)

[**Roper**](http://ropercenter.cornell.edu/) **Center for Public Opinion Research (Cornell University)**

*Note: Carroll College is not a member of Roper. One can get an individual membership.*

The **Roper Center for Public Opinion Research** is the largest archive of public opinion data in existence. The Center holds data dating back to the 1930s and from over 100 nations.

[**Bureau of Labor Statistics**](http://stats.bls.gov/data/)**(U.S. Department of Labor)**  
The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor is the principal Federal agency responsible for measuring labor market activity, working conditions, and price changes in the economy. Its mission is to collect, analyze, and disseminate essential economic information to support public and private decision-making. As an independent statistical agency, BLS serves its diverse user communities by providing products and services that are objective, timely, accurate, and relevant.

[**The ARDA (Association of Religion Data Archives**](http://www.thearda.com/)**)**  
The ARDA Data Archive is a collection of surveys, polls, and other data submitted by researchers and made available online by the ARDA. There are nearly 950 data files included in the ARDA collection. You can browse files by category, alphabetically, view the [newest additions](http://www.thearda.com/Archive/Browse_n.asp), most popular files, or [search for a file](http://www.thearda.com/Archive/Browse_s.asp). Once you select a file you can preview the results, read about how the data were collected, review the survey questions asked, save selected survey questions to your own file, and/or download the data file.

[**CDC**](http://www.cdc.gov/DataStatistics/) **(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)**The CDC is one of the major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services. CDC works 24/7 to protect America from health, safety and security threats, both foreign and in the U.S. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are chronic or acute, curable or preventable, human error or deliberate attack, CDC fights disease and supports communities and citizens to do the same. CDC increases the health security of our nation. As the nation’s health protection agency, CDC saves lives and protects people from health threats. To accomplish our mission, CDC conducts critical science and provides health information that protects our nation against expensive and dangerous health threats, and responds when these arise.

See also the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](http://www.ahrq.gov/research/index.html) and the [Health Resources Services Administration’s Maternal and Child Health](http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/) as well as other agencies under the Department of Health and Human Services.

[**Immigration Statistics**](https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics) **(Office of Immigration Statistics of the Department of Homeland Security)**The Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) develops, analyzes, and disseminates statistical information needed to inform policy and assess the effects of immigration in the United States. Their goal is to provide high-quality statistical information that is relevant, timely, cost-effective, and customer-oriented.

[**World Bank Data Catalog**](http://datacatalog.worldbank.org/) **(World Bank)**  
Free and open access to data about development in countries around the globe.

[**World Economic and Financial Surveys**](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2016/01/weodata/index.aspx) **(International Monetary Fund)**The World Economic Outlook (WEO) database contains selected macroeconomic data series from the statistical appendix of the World Economic Outlook report, which presents the IMF staff's analysis and projections of economic developments at the global level, in major country groups and in many individual countries. Use this database to find data on national accounts, inflation, unemployment rates, balance of payments, fiscal indicators, trade for countries and country groups (aggregates), and commodity prices whose data are reported by the IMF. Data are available from 1980 to the present, and projections are given for the next two years.

[**UN Data**](http://data.un.org/) **(from the United Nations**The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) launched a new internet based data service for the global user community. Users can now search and download a variety of statistical resources of the UN system.

Since its foundation, the United Nations System has been collecting statistical information from member states on a variety of topics. The information thus collected constitutes a considerable information asset of the organization. However, these statistical data are often stored in proprietary databases, each with unique dissemination and access policies. As a result, users are often unaware of the full array of statistical information that the UN system has in its data libraries. The current arrangement also means that users are required to move from one database to another to access different types of information. UNdata addresses this problem by pooling major UN databases and those of several international into one single internet environment. The innovative design allows a user to access a large number of UN databases either by browsing the data series or through a keyword search.

The numerous databases, tables and glossaries containing over 60 million data points cover a wide range of themes including Agriculture, Crime, Education, Employment, Energy, Environment, Health, HIV/AIDS, Human Development, Industry, Information and Communication Technology, National Accounts, Population, Refugees, Tourism, Trade, as well as the Millennium Development Goals indicators.

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| **Massive Data Warehouses** |

[**ICPSR**](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/membership/partners/archives.html) **(Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan)**

ICPSR advances and expands social and behavioral research, acting as a global leader in data stewardship and providing rich data resources and responsive educational opportunities. Although some data are privy to member institutions, many data sets are also free to the public. They cover topics that include, but are not limited to, arts and culture, criminal justice, demographics, health/mental health, teaching/learning, and race.

[**Data.gov**](https://www.data.gov/) **The U.S. Government’s Open Data Source**

This site provides access to over 182,000 federal, state, and city government data sets.

[**Statista**](http://www.statista.com/)  
Statista is one of the world’s largest statistics portals. Providing you with access to relevant data from over 18,000 sources, our focus is firmly based on professional, clear, quick and consistent results. Our customized search query form provides you with a list of statistics, studies and reports relating to your search request within a matter of seconds –  
kick-starting your research.

[**Data-Planet**](http://statisticaldatasets.data-planet.com/dataplanet/Datasets.html?id=ab8abca7-b029-41b1-858d-7966732e2aab#D%7CXQAACABcAAAAAAAAAAAAZ_8BCYAvo7dfDCMJJf5Zz$qc79uIEnoR$QmSxszlAwxgWwbMoEWbukCxTFuvLvg3nDTjlHbgGiTFaOiGSM8y94gMQbbK_1riQAA=%7CXQAACABXAQAAAAAAAAAA4U1q6l9Kq3tg5rEuO4A9dXR0jJ7oxxXH4FW2X12YY9fXZc7OGY5f6Vw9VAxNO3VszrO1z$XzP_5p79ieKrMgfGArb1Wtl9lptnND48jlI_eU)

Data-Planet Statistical Datasets provides access to the extensive Data-Planet repository of standardized and structured statistical data. Through a single platform, users can search and browse 25 billion data points in over 4.3 billion datasets sourced from over 75 authoritative government and private sources. The platform’s powerful functionality allows users to manipulate datasets, compare multiple indicators, chart trends over time and spatially represent data without requiring additional software programs. Multiple export options are provided.

[Data Planet Guide to Rural Sociology](http://data-planet.libguides.com/ruralsociology)