

Texas Federal
Statistical
Research
Data Center
(TXRDC)

**Opportunities for Research
Using Restricted Data**

**Graduate Student Information
Session**

Mary Campbell, PhD

Director, TXRDC

Texas A&M University

Karin Johnson, PhD

Administrator,
TXRDC


US Census Bureau

Welcome everyone!





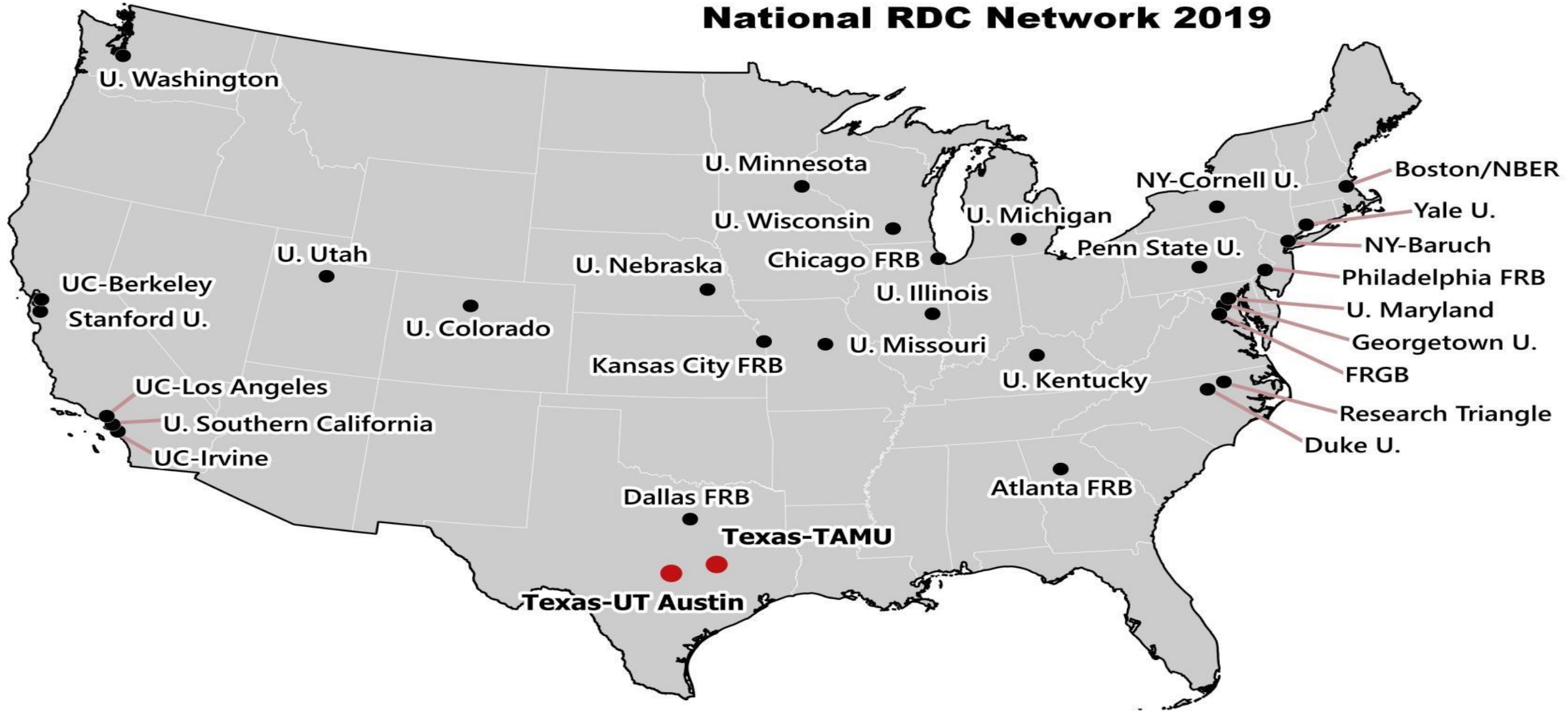
Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs)

- **FSRDCs (or RDCs) are research facilities**
 - Collaboration among the **Census Bureau**, **other federal statistical agencies**, and **universities** to provide researchers with approved projects access to restricted-use data
- 

What do RDCs offer?

- Secure computing lab
- Joint Statistical Partnerships (JSP)
- Managed by the Center for Enterprise Dissemination (CED) at Census Headquarters
- Locally run by an on-site Census Bureau employee, the RDC Administrator

National RDC Network 2019



What is the Texas Consortium?

- RDCs are similar to research libraries and labs
- These universities are members, providing researcher access to valuable resources
- **Talk to me (Mary) about how to access the TXRDC if you're from another institution!**

Administrative Home



Texas RDC Consortium Institutions




- Federal laws and regulations protect data confidentiality
- Federal employees and contractors access restricted data only under strict guidelines

→ **FSRDC network is important for research analyzing restricted statistical data to benefit society**

Why we
need
RDCs

Advantages of RDC Access to Researchers

- Restricted microdata
 - Key variables not in public versions of datasets, or detailed versions of variables
 - Full counts and/or larger samples
 - Original responses
 - Ability to link data
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- A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

RDC-Based Research is Common in Many Fields

- 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




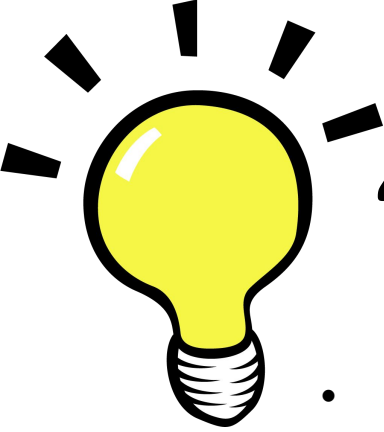
Research Communities RDCs Serve Best

RDCs Serve Well ...

- Discipline-based substantive research
- Research plans with long time horizons

RDCs Serve Less Well ...

- Research with short time horizons
 - Research producing special tabulations and maps
 - Projects producing data products for public distribution
- 



“What kind of project could I do in the RDC?”

- Race/ethnicity, segregation
 - Decennials, Current Population Survey (CPS), Amer. Comm. Surveys (ACSs)
- Social demography (e.g., migration patterns, education)
 - Master Address File (MAF), Survey of Doctoral Recipients
- Criminology
 - National Crime Victimization Survey
- Institutions, workplaces, production
 - Long. Business Database, Long. Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD), Census of Mining, Manufactures
- Public policy
 - SNAP, SIPP (Survey of Income & Program Participation), American Housing Survey (AHS)
- Health, mortality
 - National Longitudinal Mortality Study

More Detailed Geography

Decennial Census	Block
American Community Survey (ACS)	Block
Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)	Tract
Current Population Survey* (CPS) – March Supplement & Food Supplement	Tract
American Housing Survey (AHS)	Tract
National Longitudinal Survey (NLS) – Young/Mature Women	Lat/Lon Block Group
National Longitudinal Survey (NLS) – Young/Old Men	County

Example 1 of Data Availability – Census Bureau Data

- **Demographic Data**
 - household or individual level
 - more detailed geography
 - less top-coding/censoring
 - additional variables
 - occupation codes
 - possibly bigger samples
 - metadata
- **Combined Employer/Employee Data**
 - Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD)

Example 2 of Data Availability – Census Bureau Data

Economic Data: Establishment, firm, transaction level

Establishment Surveys

Data Set
Annual Survey of Manufacturers (ASM)
Current Industrial Reports (CIR)
Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS)
Medical Expenditure Panel Survey – Insurance Component (MEPS-IC)
National Employer Survey (NES)
Quarterly Survey of Plant Capacity Utilization (QPC)
Survey of Manufacturing Technology (SMT)
Survey of Plant Capacity Utilization (PCU)
Survey of Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures (PACE)

Economic Census

Data Set
Compustat-SSEL Bridge (CSB)
Form 5500 Bridge File
Integrated Longitudinal Business Database (ILBD)
Longitudinal Business Database (LBD)
Ownership Change Database (OCD)
Standard Statistical Establishment List / Business Register (SSEL)

Business Register Data

Data Set
Census of Auxiliaries (AUX)
Census of Construction Industries (CCN)
Census of Finance, Insurance, Real Estate (CFI)
Census of Manufacturers (CMF)
Census of Mining (CMI)
Census of Retail Trade (CRT)
Census of Services (CSR)
Census of Transportation, Communications, Utilities (CUT)
Census of Wholesale Trade (CWH)

Transactions Data

Data Set
Commodity Flow Survey (CFS)
Foreign Trade Data - Export (EXP)
Foreign Trade Data - Import (IMP)
Longitudinal Foreign Trade Transactions Data (LFTTD)

NCHS Data Sets

- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
- National Health Care Surveys
 - National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) and National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS)
 - National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS)
 - National Nursing Home Survey (NNHS) and National Nursing Assistant Survey (NNAS)
 - National Home and Hospice Care Survey (NHHCS) and National Home Health Aide Survey (NHHAS)
- National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
- National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)
- State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey (SLAITS)
- NCHS Data Linkage Activities
 - Linked Mortality Data Products
 - Linked Medicare Enrollment and Claims Files Data
 - Linked Social Security Benefit History Data
 - Linked Air Quality Data
- National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)

Example 3 of Data Availability – Health Data

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

- Restricted Variables
- Geographic Variables
- Linked Data Products
- Temporal Variables
 - e.g. dates of birth, death, exams*
- Detailed Race/Ethnicity Variables
- Sensitive Variables (*e.g. youth sexual behavior, mental health*)
- Long Term Health Care Survey
- Merging Variables

New Datasets Frequently Become Available

See Census FSRDC web links for compilations

- [FSRDC Available Data](#)
- [Participating Agencies Data Sets](#)
- [Census CES Restricted Data Notes](#)

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

- [NCHS Restricted Data Sets & Information](#)

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
(AHRQ)

- [AHRQ Restricted Data Sets & Information](#)

Consult with the RDC Administrator to inquire about available datasets

New Datasets are added regularly!



Texas Research Data Center
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

ABOUT TXRDC

FUNDING

PROPOSALS

EV

🏠 > Datasets

Datasets

A great many restricted federal datasets can currently be accessed in RDCs. These include datasets from the Census, the National Center for Health Statistics, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, as well as other important federal datasets relevant to employment, income, wealth, taxes, health, disability, retirement, and establishments, to name just a few. More datasets are becoming available on a regular basis.

To clarify the availability of specific datasets and variables contact our director, Mary Campbell (m-campbell@tamu.edu).

Available Datasets in RDCs

The links below provide summary listings of datasets that are available in RDCs and links to other sources of information on the topic. Please be aware this is not a comprehensive list of available data and there may be other data sources that are available.

- [NCHS Page Listing Available Datasets](#) ↗
- [CES Page Listing Available Datasets](#) ↗
- [AHRQ Page Listing Available Datasets](#) ↗
- [Business and Economic Data Sets in the Research Data Centers](#)

<https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/txrdc/datasets/>

What you need



Skill Sets

- Need to be comfortable, conscientious with using software to manage, organize, analyze data
- Must develop excellent habits of documenting workflow
- Must be comfortable diving into codebooks and being a detective about data issues

Important Practical Issues to Consider

Project Approval by Agency and Researcher Security Approval

- Agency review and approval
- Demonstrated “benefits” to federal agencies
- Special Sworn Status (3-year residency requirement for non-citizens)

The RDC Computing Environment – Software and Hardware

- Computing is conducted **in-person** in the secure lab
- Census Bureau workstation hardware/software limitations

Releasing Research Results Involves a Review Process

- Access, analysis, and disclosure of results follow strict protocols
- Sworn confidentiality for life



Other Important Practical Issues to Consider

Have a very clear vision of the project

Have support from your committee chair and members

- Extended timeline – Assume at least 1 extra year
- Inability to make major changes to the project once started
- Inability to preview “preliminary” results
- Need to obtain Special Sworn Status (SSS)

Absolutely no-nonsense!

- Cannot game this system
- “Full-on” professional commitment



Stage of Graduate Studies and Planning RDC Research

Pro - the potential for performing cutting edge research

Con – the time investments associated with first projects and the extended timeline to completed research projects

Benefits to you!

Job Market Considerations

- Papers at meetings will be more complicated
- Getting results for job talks will be more complicated
- Results can be spectacular

Future Career Considerations

- Potentially transportable to other locations
- Your future research program can be more ambitious
- Your path to tenure can be enhanced

Census Mentorship Opportunity!

- Center for Economic Studies seeks candidates for its **Dissertation Mentorship Program**.
- **WHO:** Doctoral candidates using Census Bureau microdata at a Research Data Center.
- **WHAT:** One or more researchers are assigned as mentors and advise the participant on the use of Census Bureau microdata.
- **WHEN:** Now!
- U.S. citizenship is required.
- Students from TAMU and Univ. of Houston have participated in the program. Contact us for more info!

Is RDC Research Right for You?

If you answer YES to these questions:

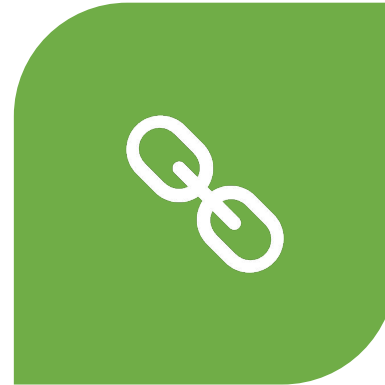
- Are you organized and have the right skill set?
- Is your project path clear?
- Is the benefit of RDC data substantial to your project?
- Can you work independently? Are you self-reliant?
- Are you patient and can you respect protocols (even when they are frustrating)?



Can it Work? “You Bet’cha!”



EXAMPLE OF GRADUATE
STUDENT WORK



WHY THE RDC?
VIDEO

**We are here
to help you!**

TXRDC Administrator – Karin Johnson

- Direct liaison to Census Bureau
- Assists with proposal development & project planning
- Oversees disclosure review
- Manages the secure computing lab

Director – Mary Campbell

- Oversees contracts with U.S. Census Bureau
- Promotes awareness, shares information, and encourages and assists with proposal development
- Nurtures/grows the TXRDC consortium
- Approves lab access for projects
- Coordinates with the RDC Admin to oversee the facility

I am Interested – What is Next?



**Attend TXRDC
Workshops**



Contact TXRDC



Do not delay



**Review available
information**



**Obtain Census
Bureau approval**



**Start as Soon As
Possible**



Texas Research Data Center

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On Campus Directions

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EVENTS



Contact Us

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Welcome to the Texas Research Data Center, which operates in close collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau to enable research that expands basic scientific knowledge and provides benefits to the federal statistical system. Learn more . . .

TXRDC Contact Information

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TXRDC website: <https://txrdc.tamu.edu>

THANK YOU!

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