The University of Missouri Research Data Center (MU RDC) is part of the Federal Statistical Research Data Center program and provides MU faculty and students with an outstanding opportunity to access highly valuable, restricted federal data.

The University of Missouri RDC, located in Ellis Library, opened in November of 2015. The University of Missouri RDC is a satellite branch of the Kansas City RDC that is located at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. The MU RDC is one of fewer than 25 RDCs in the United States.

Data available

Federal Statistical Research Data Centers function as hubs to make data available from a variety of federal sources in the federal statistical system. The data available at RDCs are unique because they allow researchers to examine questions that are not answerable by public microdata or aggregate statistics. Data are available at the MU RDC from the US Census Bureau, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and the National Center for Health Statistics, among other agencies. For example, the MU RDC includes:

Demographic Data: Censuses and surveys of households and individuals. Most of these datasets are released as public use files, but the versions in the secure RDC are not the public use versions. The restricted RDC versions include a more complete geography (in some cases down to the block). Also, items such as income are often not top coded.

Economic Data: Economic data refers to the Economic Census of establishments and various surveys and data for establishments and firms. With very few exceptions, the public use versions for these files are limited to data presented in aggregate form. The Longitudinal Employer–Household Dynamics (LEHD) also links employer data with employee data to provide high quality local labor market information.

Health Data (Non-Census Data): The MU RDC now has access to restricted-use data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).
Proposals

Individuals wishing to conduct research at the University of Missouri RDC must submit a research proposal. Proposals are accepted for review at any time during the year. Reviews of each proposal are based on several criteria:

- scientific merit
- clear need for restricted data
- feasibility of the project with available data
- disclosure risk

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please contact Jacob Cronin (jacob.cronin@census.gov) at the MU RDC.

Secure Work Environment

RDCs are Census Bureau facilities staffed by a Census Bureau employee and meet all the physical and computer security requirements for restricted access.

Each researcher must undergo a background check to become a Special Sworn Status employee of the Census Bureau.

Researchers are not permitted to remove anything at all from the RDC unless it passes a disclosure avoidance review.

Population, Education and Health Center

The Population, Education and Health Center at MU provides a variety of programs and resources to support the use of the MU RDC. These include:

- **Small Grant Program** to seed research that uses confidential data accessed through the MU RDC
- **Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowships** to support MU’s teaching mission and to train the next generation of researchers in large survey data research.
- Periodic **information sessions** to review the datasets available in the MU RDC and answer questions about grant and fellowship programs.
- A **seminar series** on selected Thursdays featuring speakers from MU and other institutions.

The MU RDC is part of the Population, Education, and Health Center (PEHC) at the University of Missouri (MU). Colleen M. Heflin (Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs) and Peter Mueser (Economics) are Co-Directors of the PEHC.

The PEHC was established through funding from many departments and divisions at MU, including the School of Medicine; College of Human Environmental Sciences; College of Engineering; School of Journalism; Trulaske College of Business; College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; College of Education; College of Arts & Science; School of Health Professions; Truman School of Public Affairs, Provost’s Office, and Mizzou Advantage.

University of Missouri Research Data Center | jacob.cronin@census.gov | (573) 884-9122