

**Opportunities for Doing Social-Environmental Research
with Little to No Funding**

**September 22, 2025, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm ET
Webinar Resource List**

Thank you for your interest in the webinar and associated resources. This list is a collection of resources and examples mentioned by speakers as well as others we have compiled through consultations with researchers as we planned the webinar. It is meant to be a starting point for exploring research possibilities and learning. This list is not exhaustive, nor does it imply any endorsement of these resources over others.

Long-term monitoring sites examples

- <https://www.neonscience.org/> – National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Data
- <https://lternet.edu/using-lter-data/> – Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Data

Geospatial data examples

- <https://www.usgs.gov/landsat-missions/landsat-data-access> – Landsat Data
- <https://modis.gsfc.nasa.gov/data/dataproduct/> – Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) Data
- <https://dataspace.copernicus.eu/data-collections/copernicus-sentinel-data> – Copernicus Sentinel Data

Secondary panel and cross-sectional data from national statistical agencies or international organizations examples

National statistical agencies

- <https://www.ons.gov.uk/> – United Kingdom Office for National Statistics
- <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/start> – Statistics Canada
- <https://www.abs.gov.au/> – Australian Bureau of Statistics

International organizations

- <https://data.worldbank.org/> – World Bank
- <https://data.undp.org/access-all-data> – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- <https://data.humdata.org/> – Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)
- <https://www.fao.org/statistics/en> – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- <https://www.who.int/data> – World Health Organization (WHO)

State government and multi-state data examples

- <https://nces.ed.gov/Programs/SLDS/> – Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems
- <https://www.wiche.edu/key-initiatives/multistate-longitudinal-data-exchange/> – Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

U.S. Government Open Data examples

- <https://data.gov/> – Aggregated data assets using administrative data (not surveys). Be careful of the data quality and make sure to understand the universe and definitions.
- <https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/national-and-sub-national-us-climate-assessment-metadata-v1-through-october-2023> – Data on disciplinary affiliations of authorship and organizational information for recent climate assessments in the US (NCA5, state, and territorial) and metadata on jurisdictional assessments and action plans. Useful for examining the production of climate knowledge and connection of climate science and policy.
- <https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/the-social-dimensions-of-epas-environmental-cleanup-work-community-engagement-survey-datas> – Survey data on a survey of EPA staff about community engagement techniques in environmental cleanups (e.g. Superfund, brownfields).

Census Bureau data

- [Data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov) – Main site for aggregated data tables, maps, profiles. Covers households, people, and businesses.
- <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/data.html> – Census geography data and reference files and maps.
- Population and household microdata:
 - [American Community Survey](#) (ACS) [PUMS](#) – Broad demographic survey, small geography.

- [Current Population Survey \(CPS\) microdata](#) – Demographic module of labor force survey.

The U.S. Census Bureau has excellent technical assistance:

- www.census.gov – Surveys/Programs tab.
- Learn more at [Census Academy](#) – Lots of webinars.
- [Data Dissemination Specialists](#) – Request training to help build your skills.
- Call 1-844-ASK-DATA (1-844-275-3282) or email census.askdata@census.gov
- [Sign up](#) for email updates and newsletters

More free data sources

- <https://www.ipums.org/> – IPUMS provides census & survey data from around the world integrated across time and space. Includes aggregated geographic data (National Historical Geographic Information System, International Historical Geographic Information System).
- <https://www.data-archive.ac.uk/> – United Kingdom
- <https://www.gesis.org/en/home> – Germany
- <https://ada.edu.au/> – Australia
- <https://proyectos.inei.gob.pe/iinei/srienaho/index.htm> – Peru
- <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/> – Federal Reserve Economic Data. Economic data time series from national, international, public, & private sources.
- <https://www.datarescueproject.org/> – Clearinghouse for data rescue-related efforts and data access points for public US governmental data that are currently at risk.
- <https://datadryad.org/> – Dryad
- <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/> – Harvard Dataverse

ICPSR membership-based sources

<https://www.icpsr> International consortium of 800+ academic & research bodies.

Collaborating with funders, including federal US agencies, ICPSR develops [themed data collections and projects](#).

- [American Economic Association Data & Code Repository](#) (free)
- [American Educational Research Association Data Repository](#) (free)
- [Health and Medical Care Archive \(HMCA\)](#) (Robert Wood Johnson) (free)
- [National Archive of Data on Arts & Culture \(NADAC\)](#) (free)
- [National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging \(NACDA\)](#) (free)
- [National Archive of Criminal Justice Data \(NACJD\)](#) (free)
- [Resource Center for Minority Data \(RCMD\)](#) (free)
- [Social Media Archive at ICPSR](#)

Discovery tools

- [Data and Statistical Services](#) – Princeton catalog.
- <https://ghdx.healthdata.org/> – Catalog of surveys, censuses, vital statistics, and other health-related data.
- <https://microdata.worldbank.org/> – Facilitates access to microdata about people living in developing countries, their institutions, their environment, their communities & the operation of their economies.

Data ethics

- https://csrc.nist.gov/glossary/term/personally_identifiable_information Personally Identifiable Information.
- [Human Subjects Research & Institutional Review Board \(IRB\)](#)

Access to restricted data

- The [Standard Application Process](#) (SAP) (U.S.) – Apply to the nation’s statistical agencies and units for access to federal confidential data assets. This is starting point for accessing data from the federal statistical agencies.
- [SAP Portal](#) – Portal for discovering and requesting access to restricted microdata from federal statistical agencies.
- Federal Statistical Research Data Centers ([FSRDCs](#)) – Access to restricted data via FSRDCs (run by the Census Bureau). Includes individual and household survey data from the Census Bureau and some individual administrative data, as well as business data. Apply through the SAP.
- [National Center for Health Statistics \(NCHS\)](#) – Apply through the SAP.
- [Bureau of Justice Statistics \(BJS\)](#) – National Archive of Criminal Justice Data on ICPSR.
- [National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics \(NCSES\)](#) – STEM education and workforce. Apply through the SAP.
- [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#) – Human services programs, not a federal statistical agency and not covered under the SAP.

In addition to the above, consider seeking out resources such as university project data platforms (e.g., Environmental Justice Atlas <https://ejatlas.org/>), digital photograph or specimen collections (e.g., Smithsonian Open Access <https://www.si.edu/openaccess> or the Steere Herbarium <https://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/>), citizen science and community mapping initiatives, and commercial or business data.

For information on the Committee on National Statistics' (CNSTAT) three part series on a vision for a national data infrastructure for social and economic research, start with this interactive site, which provides an overview and compiles all of the resources:

<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/resource/26688/interactive/>.

For more information on the characteristics of a federal statistical agency that support the production of high-quality, publicly-available data and statistics, see the Committee on National Statistics' (CNSTAT) report *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency, Eighth Edition*: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/resource/27934/interactive/>.

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