
Cornell FSRDC Newsletter

A report of activities of the Cornell Federal Statistical Research Data Center

COVID-19 Updates

Many Census employees, including RDC administrators, are working from home. We have continued to review new proposals and process new applications for Special Sworn Status.

The Cornell RDC began its phased reopening on July 31, after being closed since March 16. Currently, the RDC is operating at 50% capacity. After completing Cornell's COVID-19 training and receiving approval to work on campus, researchers may use an online system to reserve one of three available workstations for the day. Mask-wearing is mandatory, and researchers use provided cleaning supplies to wipe down their workstations before and after use. Currently, only researchers who are affiliated with Cornell are approved to use the RDC, but the Cornell administration is continuing to consider an exception to its no-visitors policy to allow RDC researchers from other universities to come to campus.

The FSRDC program also expanded its virtual access pilot. Researchers are eligible for the pilot if they are working with confidential data owned by Census only or by select federal agencies who have chosen to participate. Several Cornell RDC researchers are now able to continue work on their projects from approved work areas in their homes.

Data Update: Medicare and Medicaid Data

Data from the Medicare Enrollment Database (EDB) is now available through the FSRDC. These data include eligibility dates and statuses, residence change dates, and basic demographic information. The Medicaid and Statistical Information System (MSIS) and its successor, the Transformed MSIS (T-MSIS), are available as well. The MSIS and T-MSIS contain state codes, MSIS ID numbers, MSIS case numbers, race, ethnicity, zip codes, date of birth and death, sex, dual eligibility, days of eligibility, income, health insurance, and CHIP and TANF codes. Both the Medicare and Medicaid data also contain Protected Identification Keys (PIKs), which are internal identifiers that allow the data to be linked at the individual level to confidential Census datasets.

To begin the process of accessing these data, visit the new application portal at ResearchDataGov.



New Active Projects

“Understanding the Migration of Older Americans”

Seth Sanders (Cornell) and Dan Black (University of Chicago)

Retirement allows older adults to make location choices free from labor market implications. Prior research explores how financial resources affect migration choices and suggests that one motivation in particular applies to wealthier Americans - estate taxes. Due to the elimination of a tax credit in 2005 that allowed a dollar for dollar reduction in an individual's federal tax liability in the amount of that individual's state-level estate tax, enormous effective variation now exists in estate tax rates across the states that levy estate taxes. This research will use microdata from the U.S. Census Bureau to compare long- versus short-term state-to-state migration flows for older Americans, including return or circular migration. In particular, the research will provide an increased understanding of how state-levied estate taxes affect these migration patterns.

Continuing Active Projects

Cornell University:

“Social Cohesion under Consolidation and Population Mobility”

Filiz Garip and Linda Zhao (Harvard)

“Franchising and Labor Market Outcomes”

Rosemary Batt, Can Ouyang, Tashlin Lakhani (Ohio State; former Ph.D. student), Andrew Green (OECD; former Ph.D. student), and Johannes Schmieder (Boston University)

“The Link Between Education Quality & Access and Mortality” (Internal)

Seth Sanders et al

“Does Access to Health Care Affect Teen Birth Rates and School Dropout Rates? Evidence from School-based Health Centers”

Michael Lovenheim, Randall Reback (Barnard), and Leigh Wedenoja (Rockefeller Institute of Government; former Ph.D. student)

“Government Welfare and Private Provision of Public Goods: Evidence from SNAP”

Nicolas Botton

“Experimental Estimates of the Long-run Impacts of Welfare Reform on Participants and their Children” (Internal)

Amanda Eng, Pauline Leung, Zhuan Pei, Katherine Wen, et al

“Multigenerational Exposure to Neighborhood Disadvantage and its Effects on Well Being”

Steven Alvarado and Alexandra Cooperstock

“The Heterogeneous Effects of Education on Health and Productivity” (Internal)

Seth Sanders et al



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- “Developing and Validating New Statistics on Intergenerational Inequality, Poverty, Mobility, and Opportunity” (Internal)
Laura Tach et al
- “Human Capital and Corporate Financing, Restructuring, and Governance”
Hyunseob Kim, Warren Bailey, Joao Vitor Costa, Antonio Falato (Fed), Edith Liu (Fed), Song Ma (Yale), David Matsa (Northwestern), Brian Melzer (Dartmouth), and Till von Wachter (UCLA)
- “The Role of Educators on Reporting Child Maltreatment”
Maria Fitzpatrick, Cassandra Benson (U.S. Air Force Academy; former Ph.D. student), Samuel Bondurant (Census), and Christopher Wildeman
- “Immigration Impacts, Immigrant Well-Being, and Geographic Context using the 1996-2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation”
Matthew Hall and Emily Greenman (Census)
- “How Housing and Labor Market Conditions Influence the Progression of Romantic Relationships”
Laura Tach, Sharon Sassler, Mariana Amorim (Washington State; former Ph.D. student), and Emily Parker
- “The Political Economy of Medicaid: Ideology, Eligibility, and the Consequences of Cost-saving Measures”
Jee-Hun Choi and Claire S.H. Lim
- “The Incidence of a Local Labor Demand Shock with One-Sided Migration: American Indian-Owned Casino Gaming” (Triangle)
Seth Sanders, Martha Stinson (Census), and Laurel Wheeler (Duke)
- “Effects of Education on Health and Other Outcomes Using Variation in Social Security Benefits for Children”
Barton Willage (Louisiana State University; former Ph.D. student)
- “Estimating the Determinants of Private School Enrollment: The Role of School Attendance Zone Racial and Ethnic Composition”
Arnab Basu, Chia-Hua Lin, Salvatore Saporito (William & Mary), and Anna Choi (Pepperdine; former Ph.D. student)
- “Effects of DI on Health and Well-being”
Sarah Prenovitz (Abt Associates; former Ph.D. student)

Syracuse University:

- “Research and Development Laboratories in the Production Process”
Kristy Buzard, Gerald Carlino (Philadelphia Fed), Robert Hunt (Philadelphia Fed), Tony Smith (University of Pennsylvania), and Anna Tranfaglia (Philadelphia Fed)



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- “SNAP and the Human Capital Investments of Young Adults”
Sarah Hamersma and Rhea Acuña
- “The New York State Homestead Tax Option: Tax Incidence and Equity”
David Schwegman and John Yinger (adviser)
- “The Relationship between SNAP and Mortality” (Kentucky)
Colleen Heflin, Samuel Ingram (Kentucky), Chaegyung Jun (Missouri), and James Ziliak (Kentucky)
- “A Binational Perspective on Selective Migration among Korean Immigrants” (Missouri)
Colleen Heflin, Claire Altman (Missouri), and Chaegyung Jun (Missouri)
- “Disparities in Healthcare Access and Utilization among Children with and without Special Healthcare Needs, and their Caregivers” (Missouri)
Colleen Heflin, Nancy Cheak-Zamora (Missouri), and Chinedum Ojinnaka (Arizona State)
- “Knowledge of Health Status and the Timing of Retirement and Disability Claims”
Perry Singleton
- “Education, Geography, and U.S. Adult Mortality Risk”
Jennifer Montez, Blakelee Kemp, and Julene Cooney
- “The Effects of Pregnancy-Related Medicaid Expansions on Maternal, Infant, and Child Health”
Sarah Hamersma and Melanie Guldi (University of Central Florida)
- “A Second Look at the Health Effects of Military Service Using the Vietnam-Era Draft Lottery as a Potentially Invalid Instrumental Variable”
Alfonso Flores-Lagunes and Xintong Wang (Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania)

SUNY Albany:

- “Economic Impact of Science and Engineering Workers” (Boston)
Holden Diethorn, Gerald Marschke, Erling Barth (Institute for Social Research), Richard Freeman (Harvard), Kristina Steffenson McElheran (MIT), Andrew Wang (Harvard), Sifan Zhou
- “Productivity and Wage Dispersion in the Great Recession and Beyond” (Boston)
Holden Diethorn, Erling Barth (Institute for Social Research), Wang Jin (MIT), Sari Kerr (Wellesley), Kristina Steffenson McElheran (MIT), Namrata Narain (Harvard), Andrew Wang (Harvard), Xiupeng Wang (MIT)

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Cornell University



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