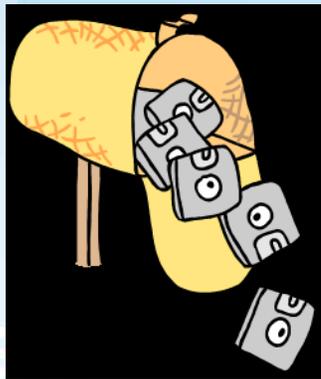


Finding Data for your Class Paper, Thesis, or Dissertation

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You want to study what!?!

- Research Question
 - Ask A Professor
 - Go bounce ideas off of them.
 - I am interested in and you are interested in.....
 - Know what different professors study.
 - [Research Projects](#)
 - [Research Affiliates](#)

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Other ways to get topics

- Class Syllabus or Class Discussion
- Books Chapters
 - What is missing in the literature?
 - justification cite

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Next Step...

- Is it possible with secondary data



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You are a slave to your data...Kinda

- One of the biggest mistakes people make is they pick a research question that they cannot answer with a quality dataset.
 - Hate groups are interesting but....
- Go talk to your teacher/advisor before you get too far into the project.

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You have a topic and it is approved...Now What?

- Go talk to someone that researches that topic.
- Look at papers that have been published on that topic.
 - What datasets are they using?
 - If there are only obscure datasets being used on the topic it might be a warning sign.



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What is a good dataset anyway?

- Has it been used before?
- Is it nationally representative? If not is there a nationally representative dataset you could use? If there is you will need to justify why you are using that dataset.
- Does it have a good reputation?

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Once you pick a dataset

- Go talk to someone who has used that dataset to find out what is wrong with it.
- What are some of the datasets you have used? What are the pros/cons?



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In House Datasets

- TARS
- OLS
- Marriage Matters
- **YOU NEED PERMISSION TO USE THESE DATASETS!**

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ICPSR

- Need to setup an account
- Description
- Downloads Available
- Related Literature-who has published using this data (can be old but a good start)
- [ICPSR](#)

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Commonly Used Data

- Add Health
- Fragile Families
- NSFG
- NLSY79/97

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The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health)

- Three Waves of Data
- Wave I: 1995- nationally rep of 7th -12th grade. Parents were interviewed too (about 20,745)
- Wave II:1996-almost 15,000 interviewed
- Wave III: 2001 they are 18-26 years old
N=15,197 plus 1,507 romantic partners

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Add Health

- Physical and Mental Health Measures
- Personal traits
- Families
- Friendships
- Romantic relationships
- Peer groups and schools
- Neighborhoods, and communities.

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Public vs. Restricted

- In-School Questionnaire
 - Wave I In-Home Interview
 - AHPVT
 - Wave I Parent Questionnaire
 - Wave II In-Home Interview
 - Contextual data
 - In-school network data
- Wave I Adolescent In-Home Interview with AHPVT, Parent In-Home Questionnaire, and Adolescent In-School Questionnaire data attached
 - Adolescent In-School Questionnaire
 - Wave I, II School Administrator Questionnaire
 - Wave II In-Home Interview
 - School Information Data
 - Wave III In-Home Interview, with field interviewer characteristics and STD

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CFDR can help you get access

- Email the CFDR to get access to the restricted data.
- Sign consent form.
- **Only use computers with secure server.**
 - You cannot take these data with you.
- [Add Health](#)

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Fragile Families

- 1. What are the conditions and capabilities of unmarried parents, especially fathers?
- 2. What is the nature of the relationships between unmarried parents?
- 3. How do children born into these families fare?
- 4. How do policies and environmental conditions affect families and children?

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Fragile Families

- Cohort of 5,000 children born between 1998 and 2000 with over-sample of non-marital births in 20 large US cities.
- Interviews with mother and fathers at birth, 1, 3, and 5.
- Parent interviews: attitudes, relationships, parenting behavior, demographics, health, economic and employment status, neighborhood qualities, and program participation.

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Fragile Families

- 4,898 families
- About 3,700 are unmarried when the child was born

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Fragile Families

- Public data is available by completing a brief application and a 25-word abstract about your research project.
- [Fragile Families Home Page](#)
- http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/documentation/FF_NCMR_ICPSR.pdf

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NSFG 6

- 2002 is nationally representative of 12,571 respondents ages 15-44.
- Includes both men and women.
- Provide reliable national estimates on marriage, divorce, contraception, parenthood, infertility, and the health of men, women and infants in the United States.
- Very health behavior oriented.

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NSGF 6

- [NSFG Cycle 6 Webdocs](#)

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NLSY79

- 12,686 young men and young women who were 14 to 22 years of age in 1979.
- The NLSY79 public-use file includes data from rounds 1-20 (1979-2002).
- Questions about schooling, moved out of their parental homes, labor market, served in the military, and married and having children.
- It details the life course representative of all American men and women born in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

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NLSY 79

- Codebooks are available on CD-rom obtainable from the CFDR office. The NLSY79 errata is also available at http://www.nlsinfo.org/nlsy79/nlsy79_errata.php3 .
- Similarly there is a NLSY 1997
 - 12 to 16 years old as of December 31, 1996

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Still Lost?



- CFDR can help
- [CFDR Data Holdings](#)

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Even More Lost?

- Come See Us. We love talking about Data!

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Thank You

- Please visit
<http://www.bgsu.edu/organizations/cfdr/>
- Questions?
- Next Workshop:
 - ARRAYS and MACROSMonday Nov 2, 2009

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