

**National Center for Health Statistics
Data Use Agreement (DUA) for Vital Statistics Data Files**

Requesting Organization:

James Tang, Vanderbilt University, Department of Economics

Requested Data File(s):

1990-2019 Detailed Mortality – All Counties

Proposed Use(s):

I will be using the dataset to help complete my senior honors thesis for Vanderbilt's honors economics program. For my thesis, I will be exploiting variations in county-level trade policy exposure to see how the recent trade war has impacted the opioid epidemic. The detailed mortality dataset will help measure opioid mortality at the county level.

Vital statistics data are provided to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) by vital statistics jurisdictions with the understanding that the data are protected under the provisions of the Public Health Services Act (42 U.S.C. 242m(d)), and that any file released under a data use agreement requires NCHS review and approval of proposed use.

The Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242m(d)) provides that the data collected by NCHS may be used only for the purpose for which they were obtained; any effort to determine the identity of any reported cases, or to use the information for any purpose other than for health statistical reporting and analysis, would violate this statutory restriction and the conditions of this data use agreement. NCHS does all it can to assure that the identity of data subjects cannot be disclosed; all direct identifiers, as well as characteristics that might lead to identification, are omitted from the data set. Nevertheless, it may be possible in rare instances, through complex analysis and with outside information, to ascertain from the data set the identity of particular persons or establishments. Considerable harm could ensue if this were done.

Therefore, the undersigned gives the following assurances with respect to all NCHS data sets:

- The recipient will not use nor permit others to use the data in these data sets in any way except for statistical reporting and analysis and for the purposes described in the data request.
- The recipient will not release nor permit others to release the data sets or any part of them to any person who is not a member of this organization, except with the approval of NCHS. Under section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act, the only persons to be allowed access to these data sets will be staff members of this organization or its contractor(s) who have been authorized to work with the data and have, prior to being

granted access to the data, read and signed this DUA Statement in the space provided below.

- The recipient will not attempt to link nor permit others to attempt to link the data set with individually identifiable records from any other NCHS or non-NCHS data set.
- The recipient will not access nor permit others to access (directly or remotely) the data files outside the United States.
- The recipient will not attempt to use the data sets nor permit others to use them to learn the identity of any person or establishment included in any data set.
- If the recipient should inadvertently discover the identity of any person or establishment, then: (a) the recipient will make no use of this knowledge; (b) the recipient will immediately advise the Director of the Division of Vital Statistics of the incident; (c) the recipient will safeguard or destroy the information that would identify an individual or establishment, as requested by NCHS; and (d) the recipient will inform no one else of the discovered identity.
- When releasing statistical information, the recipient will make every effort to release information in such a way as to avoid inadvertent disclosure.
 - **Counts, rates, and percentages for sub-national geographic areas will be suppressed and not displayed in any manner if based on fewer than 10 observations in the numerator, denominator, or total, regardless of the number of years combined. This data suppression rule applies to all text, tables, and figures (including maps) contained in main and supplemental files.**
 - No data on an identifiable case should be derivable through subtraction or other calculation from the combination of tables in a given publication.
 - No data should permit disclosure when used in combination with other known data.

The recipient will store and access the data on a secure server of the affiliated organization or institution and will never download the data to an unencrypted personal computer. The recipient understands that data can only be stored and accessed on an encrypted personal computer or laptop with prior written approval from NCHS. If NCHS approval is received, the recipient will ensure that the computer is fully encrypted, password protected, and protected by anti-malware and anti-virus software. The recipient will also ensure that at completion of the project the data are securely wiped from the computer.

The signature below indicates the recipient's agreement to comply with the above-stated statutorily-based requirements with the knowledge that deliberately making a false statement in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the Federal Government

violates 18 USC 1001 and is punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 or up to 5 years in prison.

Further conditions for data use:

NCHS has reviewed and approved the use of the data provided under this agreement for purposes described in the requestor's application **for one year from the date of receipt of the data.** The data files listed under "Requested Data Files" above are the property of NCHS, Division of Vital Statistics (DVS). Permission is granted to use these data files for one year from the date of receipt. At the expiration of the approved period, the data files and any copies of the data files must be destroyed. Users must notify DVS in writing that the file(s) have been destroyed using the Certificate of Destruction form. This policy will be strictly enforced; however, **extension of this usage period will be given consideration under appropriate circumstances on a yearly basis for up to two years, when requested in writing. After that, if continued access to data is needed, a new research proposal is required to be submitted to NCHS for review and approval.** Requests for extensions must be emailed (dvsdatarequests@cdc.gov) or sent to the Director, Division of Vital Statistics, Room 5340, 3311 Toledo Road, Hyattsville, MD, 20782.

Citation of NCHS: Users of these data are asked to acknowledge NCHS and the vital statistics jurisdictions as the data source in published reports and studies for which the files were used. NCHS and the vital statistics jurisdictions should also be cited in reports, articles, and news releases in electronic and print media describing the studies or results of the studies. The following is the recommended citation:

National Center for Health Statistics. [*Name of data file(s)*] (*[year(s)]*), as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program.

Email completed and signed form to:

dvsdatarequests@cdc.gov

Division of Vital Statistics

National Center for Health Statistics

3311 Toledo Road - Room 5291


Hyattsville, MD 20782

Print Name of Official authorized to execute agreements,* or Faculty Advisor (if applicable):

BRIAN BEACH

Title: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR [ECONOMICS]

Organization: VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Signature: 

Date: 10-12-21

*The type of "official authorized to execute agreements" will, of course, vary among organizations. Whenever possible, this official should be at a higher level of authority than the principal investigator or other person responsible for the study or project; for example, the dean of a college, a vice president of a company, or the director of a government division or bureau.

Under section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act, the only persons to be allowed access to these data sets will be staff members of the above organization or its contractor(s) who have been authorized to work with the data and have, prior to being granted access to the data, read and agreed to the data-use requirements specified above in this DUA. By their signatures below, the following individuals affirm that they have read the DUA and will abide by the specified DUA data-use requirements:

Print: James Tang Signature  Date 10/11/2021

Print: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Print: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Print: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Print: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Print: _____ Signature _____ Date _____