

Information Seeking

Dataset 1: US Environmental Protection Agency(EPA) - Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program – 2014 TRI Basic Data File

Data URL:

[https://ofmpub.epa.gov/enviro/efservice/MV TRI BASIC DOWNLOAD/year=/2014/fname/TRI 2014 US.csv/CSV](https://ofmpub.epa.gov/enviro/efservice/MV_TRI_BASIC_DOWNLOAD/year=/2014/fname/TRI_2014_US.csv/CSV)

APA Citation:

TRI Basic Data Files: Calendar Years 1987 - 2014. Retrieved September 14, 2016, from <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/tri-basic-data-files-calendar-years-1987-2014>, https://ofmpub.epa.gov/enviro/efservice/MV_TRI_BASIC_DOWNLOAD/year=/2014/fname/TRI_2014_US.csv/CSV

License:

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Summary:

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is a database containing information on toxic chemical releases and other waste management activities in the United States. The data is available from the US Environmental Protection Agency, and is provided by a wide range of industries of all types, provided they produce more than 25,000 pounds or handle more than 10,000 pounds of listed toxic chemical or recycle, dispose 500 pounds of the chemical into the environment. TRI data support informed decision-making by communities, government agencies, companies, and others.

Potential Data-users and Decision-makers:

- 1) EPA can combine this data with other datasets as obtained from greenhouse gas emission and discharge elimination reports and establish connections between them.
- 2) Industries can learn about waste disposal sites within their area, and how much efficiency they operate at.
- 3) Over the years, comparison between the waste disposal of companies can be calculated and regulations can be formed to reduce the wastage or provide more recycling opportunities.

Three questions this data might help to answer:

- 1) Which companies are present in our vicinity and how they contribute to pollution in any form?
- 2) Judging the quantity of waste releases, is it decreasing or increasing over time?
- 3) From the total amount of waste being generated, how waste can be recovered in the form of energy, how much can be recycled, how much can be treated?

Dataset 2: Centre of Disease Control and Prevention(CDC) – Food borne outbreaks

Data URL:

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/foodborneoutbreaks/Default.aspx>

APA Citation:

FOOD tool. (2016, August 25). Retrieved September 14, 2016, from <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/>, <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/foodborneoutbreaks/Default.aspx>

License:

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Summary:

Data of foodborne disease outbreaks reported to Centre of Disease Control and Prevention from 1998 to the most recent year. Search fields include date, state, where the food vehicle was made, and etiology. The data has more columns—total illnesses, hospitalizations, deaths, reported food vehicle, pathogen species, serotype, and etiologic status (confirmed or suspected).

Potential Data-users and Decision-makers:

- 1) Consumer advocacy groups
- 2) Public health workers
- 3) Medical community and food industry

Three questions this data might help to answer:

- 1) How many outbreaks occurred in a certain period or in a certain area?
- 2) What kind of foods were associated with the outbreaks? Is there a pattern, like a certain type of food item or ingredient, that commonly results in breakouts?
- 3) How many people got sick, hospitalized or died?

Dataset 3: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau(CFPB) – Consumer Complaints data**Data URL:**

<https://data.consumerfinance.gov/api/views/s6ew-h6mp/rows.csv?accessType=DOWNLOAD>

APA Citation:

Consumer Complaint Database > Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Retrieved September 14, 2016, from <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/data-research/consumer-complaints/#download-the-data>, <https://data.consumerfinance.gov/api/views/s6ew-h6mp/rows.csv?accessType=DOWNLOAD>

License:

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Summary:

Each week the CFPB receives numerous complaints about financial product and services. These complaints get added to the database after the company has resolved them or if they have been in the company's database for 15 days. This data is refreshed overnight. Such complaints are extremely useful as they help to voice the consumer issues, stop inappropriate practices and get immediate resolution for similar complaints.

Potential Data-users and Decision-makers:

- 1) The companies against whom the financial complaints were raised
- 2) Federal and State agencies which enforce consumer financial laws, rules and regulations
- 3) General public can get help from similar complaints

Three questions this data might help to answer:

- 1) Which particular department/product/service has maximum number of complaints? Apart from frequency of complaints, the type of complaints.
- 2) The efficiency with which the complaints are being resolved? Is turnaround time high or low? Are companies able to improve efficiency based on past complaints? How many complaints are disputed?
- 3) Which platform is most efficient in solving the complaints and for raising the complaints?