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LIS 545

Word Count: 1,026

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Term Project:

Repository Profile

Dataset Selected

“DYCD after-school programs: Fatherhood”

Data.Gov - <https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/dycd-after-school-programs-fatherhood>

NYC Landing Page - <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/DYCD-after-school-programs-Fatherhood/esw6-z4id>

Repository Selected

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) - <https://nces.ed.gov/>

Repository Selection Justification

NCES’ description pairs well with my dataset and search terms like “after-school programs: fatherhood” and “fatherhood initiative programs” were successful. Re3data.org states that NCES is “responsible for collecting and analyzing data related to education, including assessing the performance of students from early childhood through secondary education as well as the literacy level of adults and post-secondary education surveys” (re3data.org, n.d.). This could include information regarding after-school programs centered on fatherhood.

NCES is also located within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Policies for NCES come from its parent organization, IES. The NCES “fulfills a Congressional mandate to collect, collate, analyze, and report complete statistics on the condition of American education; conduct and publish reports; and review and report on education activities internationally” (NCES, n.d.-a).

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Open Status for Submissions

The collection scope for NCES is statistics on the condition of American education and the data comes from the work of Federally funded grantees.

The policy for data submissions does not provide specific guidance on data submissions for NCES. The IES suggests sending data and documentation “to an existing data repository,” some of which provide options to levels of access. The IES data sharing policy “is focused on data collected with grants funds provided by the two IES research centers,” one of which is NCES (IES, n.d.-a). It appears only NCES grantees and contractors are eligible to contribute data.

There is no guidance provided for a potential data submitter regarding what should be included in a Submission Information Package (SIP).

Human Assistance

NCES does not show whether it provides any human assistance or consulting to the submitter. There is a contact form available for questions or comments, as well as an extensive staff contact list. It is possible that support is available internally to submitters on the grantee level.

Metadata Requirements

The 2012 NCES Statistical Standards (NCES, 2012-b) Guideline 7-1-2B suggests the use of metadata standards created by national and international standards organizations. It states that, “Data producers should determine what metadata standards are current at the time data files are prepared and produce associated metadata for their files that are in compliance with applicable standards” (NCES, 2012-a). Two examples of standards are provided:

- International Organization for Standards “Specification and Standardization of Data Elements” (ISO/IEC 11179)
- American National Standards Institute “Metadata for the Management of Shareable Data” (ANSI X3.285)

NCES Standard 7-1-3 states, “A file description and record layout must be provided for each file. The file information/metadata header must include the following:

- Title of the survey (survey name, part, and year as applicable);
- Name(s) of each file;
- Reference year for the data;
- Version number and date of release;
- Logical record length (in positional files) or number of variables on the file (delimited files);
- Number of records per case or observation; and
- Number of cases in the data file. For delimited files also include the delimiters (e.g. comma, space)."

NCES Standard 7-1-4, "For each variable on the file, the file description must include the following:

- Variable name;
- Data type (alpha or numeric);
- Record number (if multiple records per case);
- Position within the record (beginning—end, or variable number if delimited)..., field length, and variable label; and
- The survey question wording and response categories" (NCES, 2012-a).

DATA ACCESS MECHANISMS

Login Requirements

A login is required to download some datasets and not others. The process for creating a login requires only an email address. There may be different policies for different datasets, affecting whether a login is required. Some data are not publicly released because they contain individually identifiable information protected by law. These datasets require the user to obtain a Restricted-use License (NCES, n.d.-f).

Other datasets cue a pop-up window titled "NCES Data Usage Agreement" and the user must agree to terms. The agreement states that, "Under law, public use data collected and distributed by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) may be used only for statistical purposes" (NCES, n.d.-c). Users must do the following:

- "Use the data in any dataset for statistical purposes only.
- Make no use of the identity of any person or institution discovered inadvertently, and advise NCES of any such discovery.
- Not link any dataset with individually identifiable data from other NCES or non-NCES datasets." (NCES, n.d.-c)

Access Mechanisms Provided

Multiple access mechanisms are provided. For some datasets, there are multiple format options for direct file download. For example, the options for one dataset include statistical software formats and generic formats:

- Statistical Software Formats
 - SPSS
 - SAS
 - S-Plus
 - Stata
 - R
- Generic Formats
 - ASCII
 - CSV

Another dataset offers the following options (NCES, n.d.-e):

- Flat File (ZIP)
- Access (ZIP)
- SAS (TXT)
- SPSS (TXT)
- Documentation (PDF)

Alternatively, users may use the NCES Data Tools (NCES, n.d.-g), which include:

- College Navigator
- DataLab
- Online Codebook
- International Data Explorer
- Search for Public School Districts
- Search for Public Schools
- Search for Private Schools
- Bibliography Search

Additional options are provided for accessing Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data submitted to NCES through the NCES data tools or download options (NCES, n.d.-d). These data tools include:

- Data Explorer
- IPEDS Survey Components
- Data Trends
- Look Up an Institution
- Data Feedback Report
- Statistical Tables

- Summary Tables
- Compare Institutions (CSV format)
- Survey Data (CSV zip format)
- Shortcuts
- Publications and Products
- Resources

Standards for Displayed Metadata

NCES does not always display metadata, but it does provide codebooks for some datasets. According to the DataLab Learning Center, the codebooks include “information about variables in the selected study like the variable name, label, and a short description. A frequency distribution is available for categorical variables, and the minimum and maximum value, mean, and standard deviation are provided for continuous variables” (NCES, n.d.-b).

Dissemination Information Package (DIP)

There is no evidence of a DIP standard that covers all datasets. For some datasets, the NCES provides several data files in a DIP. These data files include:

- Entire dataset
- Codebook
- Layout

The Dissemination of Data document includes List 7-2-A “Checklist for documentation to be included in NCES reports” and Table 7-3-A, which shows required product formats (NCES, 2012-a).

Sources

DYCD after-school programs: Fatherhood. (2020). *Data.Gov Data Catalog*.

<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/dycd-after-school-programs-fatherhood>

IES. (n.d.-a). Resources for Researchers: Frequently Asked Questions About Providing Public Access To Data. *Institute of Education Sciences*.

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NCES. (n.d.-a). About Us. *National Center for Education Statistics*. <https://nces.ed.gov/about/>

NCES. (n.d.-b). DATALAB Learning Center. *National Center for Education Statistics*.

<https://nces.ed.gov/datalab/support/learning>

NCES. (n.d.-c). Elementary/Secondary Information System. *National Center for Education Statistics*.

<https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/>

NCES. (n.d.-d). IPEDS: Use the Data. *National Center for Education Statistics*.

<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>

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NCES. (n.d.-f). Obtaining a Restricted-use License. *National Center for Education Statistics*.

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NCES. (2012b). *Statistical Standards: 2012 Revision of NCES Statistical Standards: Final*.

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re3data.org. (n.d.). *National Center for Education Statistics*. *Re3data.Org*.

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