



Data and Statistics Handout

Data collection is essential throughout the entire grant cycle, from supporting and substantiating identified needs to initial project inspiration to the evaluation of outcomes. By no means exhaustive, here is a list of potential sources of unbiased and reliable data.

Government Agencies

U.S. Census Bureau (data.census.gov)

Provides demographic and economic data useful for community demographics and needs.

- **State and County QuickFacts (www.census.gov/quickfacts):** Statistics and national comparisons for states, counties, and cities with populations of 5,000 or more. Fact Sheets offer data on population, income, languages spoken at home, and poverty levels.
- **American Community Survey (www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs):** Detailed population and housing information to understand the changes taking place in communities.

Data.gov (data.gov)

Provides access to government open data published by federal agencies.

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Office of Research and Evaluation, Data Catalog (imls.gov/research-tools/data-collection)

Repository of data on all types of libraries with national, state, and county-level statistics on public policy issues, including education, child well-being, labor, employment, and small business development. IMLS reports and tools for data relevant to grant work include the following:

- Administrative Discretionary Grant Data: Records for IMLS discretionary grants
- IMLS Funding Reports by State: Funding reports for all states and DC
- Public Libraries Survey: A definitive source on the state of U.S. public libraries
- Library Search and Compare: Query, browse, view, and download data about individual libraries from the Public Libraries Survey
- State Library Administrative Agency Survey (SLAA): U.S. state library agencies data
- Public Needs for Library and Museum Services Survey (PNLMS): A household survey that monitors public expectations and satisfaction with library and museum services
- PLS Benchmarking Tables: Includes three years' worth of key indicators for public libraries, covering use, finances, staffing, and resources at national, state, and service area levels

Digital Nation Data Explorer (www.ntia.gov/other-publication/2022/digital-nation-data-explorer)

Managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, this interactive map provides longitudinal data on computer and internet use.

IMLS Grants to States: State Profiles (www.imls.gov/grants/grants-state/state-profiles)

State libraries often compile and provide access to various data sets and statistical resources.

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USA.gov State and Local Governments (www.usa.gov/state-local-governments)

Find out how to contact state agencies, elected officials, and local governments.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov)

Employment, pricing, pay, and other helpful data on a national, state, or local level.

Department of Health and Human Services (www.hhs.gov/programs/research/index.html)

Data on health care, poverty, and human services.

Administration for Children and Families (www.acf.hhs.gov/resource-library)

Search and filter Department of Health and Human Services documents and resources by topic/issues, audience, and type.

U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics (nces.ed.gov)

Find statistics on education data and academic performance and literacy levels, from infancy through adulthood. Also features the Library Statistics Program (nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries), which sponsors surveys on academic and public libraries, school media centers, and state library agencies.

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (oese.ed.gov/families/reportcards)

Annual state and local report cards highlight student and school performance metrics.

Nonprofit Organizations

American Library Association (www.ala.org/tools/topics/research, www.ala.org/tools/future/trends)

The Office for Research and Statistics maintains several statistical and informational resources, including reports on U.S. voter perceptions about libraries and insights into national trends. For more on the latter, see the resources available from the Center for the Future of Libraries.

Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center (datacenter.aecf.org)

Provides vital data for identifying community needs and assessing vulnerable children and families, sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau and state partners.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (www.rwjf.org)

Provides insights into health disparities, offering potential solutions for improved health, equity, and well-being. Essential for grants related to community health initiatives.

Pew Research Center (www.pewresearch.org)

Conducts surveys and research on a range of topics, including social and demographic trends.

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Other Sources

Data USA (datausa.io)

Graphical access to public U.S. government data about populations, governments, and industry with click and explore tools, dynamic visualizations, and prepared reports on various subjects.

City-Data.com (www.city-data.com)

Collects and analyzes data about cities and towns in the United States.

Rural Health Information Hub (www.ruralhealthinfo.org)

A national clearinghouse on rural health issues.