# Secondary Data: How to Find it, How to Use it, & Why It's Important

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#### Introduction

- secondary data:
  - data gathered by government agencies & other organizations
- variety of topics
- all educational levels
- much is accessible online
  - PDF, CSV, XLS, DOC, etc.

#### Benefits of Secondary Data Analysis

- save time, expense
- larger databases
- longitudinal data
- produces relevant, practical research
- useful for practitioners, policy-makers
- replication

# Things to Think About...

- methodology
- limitations
- purpose
- audience
- documentation
- data modification
- accessibility

# How to Use Secondary Data

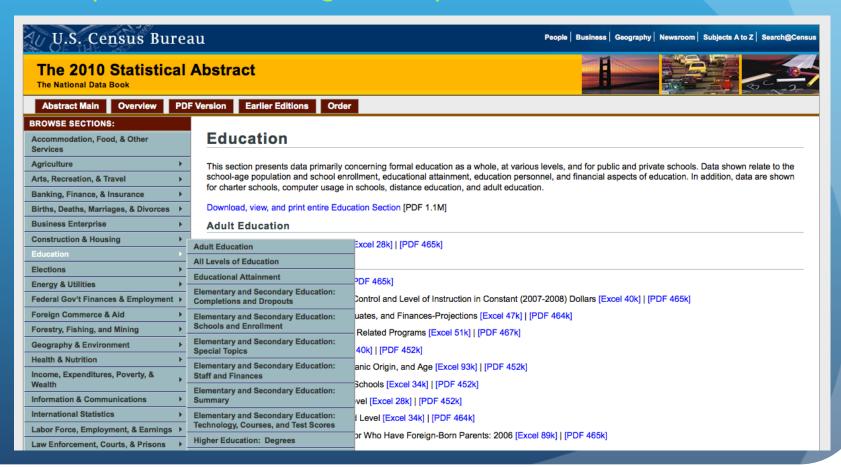
- class assignments
- practice statistical analyses
- replicate research studies (publication)
- longitudinal studies

# Sources for Secondary Data: Where to Start?

- use the "Agency Approach"
  - what government agencies or private organizations would use this data?
- good places to start looking...
  - U.S. Statistical Abstract
  - UNT Libraries guide to statistical sources
  - Lexis Nexis Statistical Insight Database
  - Data.gov

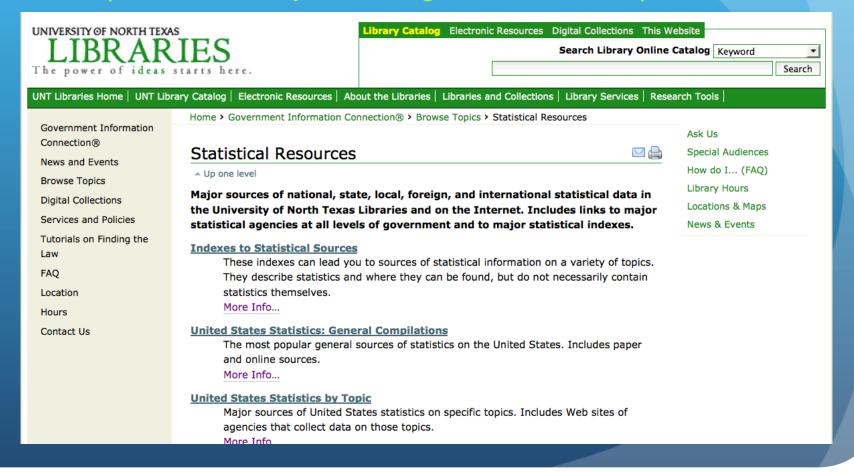
#### Statistical Abstract

http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/



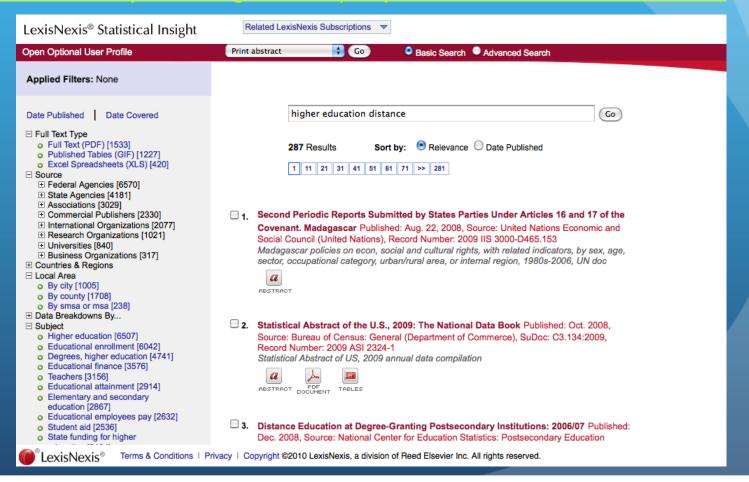
#### UNT Libraries' Statistical Resources Guide

http://www.library.unt.edu/govinfo/browse-topics/statistics



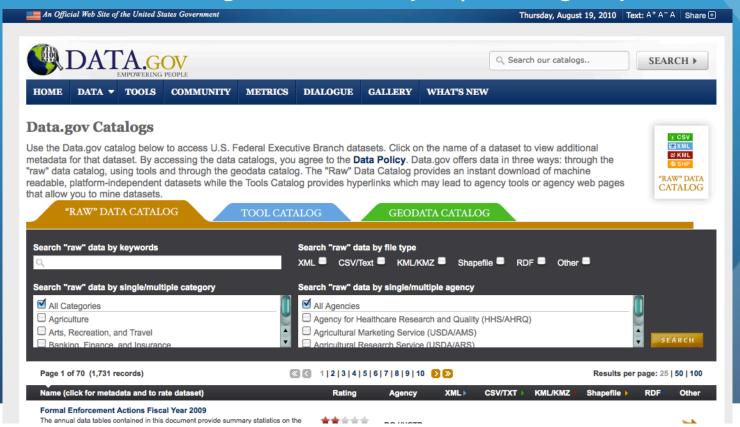
#### Lexis-Nexis Statistical Insight Database

http://www.library.unt.edu/govinfo/fag/may-i-use-lexisnexis-how-do-i-access-it



# Data.gov

- http://www.data.gov/catalog/raw
- raw data catalog searchable by topic or agency



# More Sources for Secondary Data

websites, government agencies, and organizations

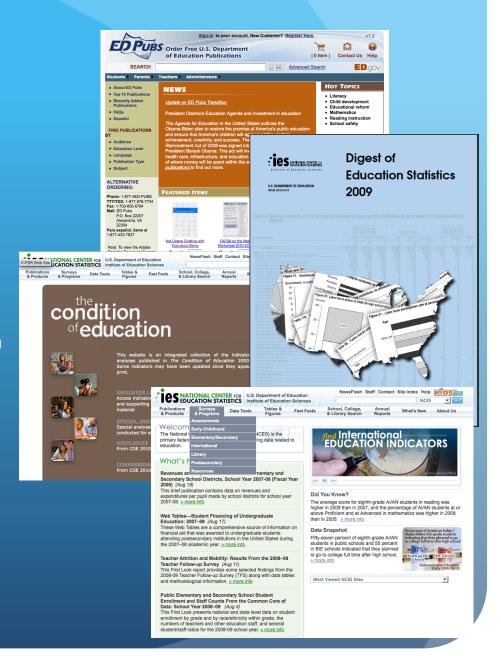
#### Census Bureau

- http://www.census.gov/
- American FactFinder
  - populations by educational attainment, etc.
- Economic Census
- Statistical Abstract
- Historical Census
  - education covered since 1840



#### **NCES** Resources

- http://nces.ed.gov/
- The Condition of Education
- Digest of Educational Statistics
- Education Statistics Quarterly
- School District Demographics System
- IPEDS
- also library statistics
- most of these are available:
  - online / free PDF download
  - free print publications by mail
    - http://www.edpubs.gov/



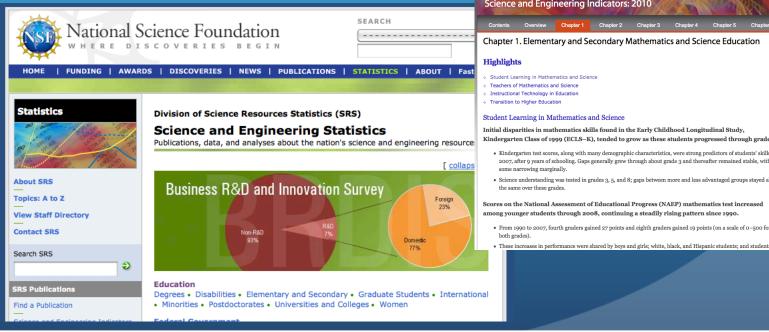
#### Kids Count Data Book & Data Center

- http://datacenter.kidscount.org/
- school enrollment
- Head Start
- test scores
- special education
- graduation rates
- dropout rates

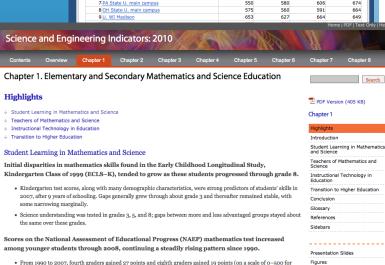


### NSF (National Science Foundation)

- http://www.nsf.gov/statistics
- Science & Engineering Indicators
- Academic Institutional Profiles



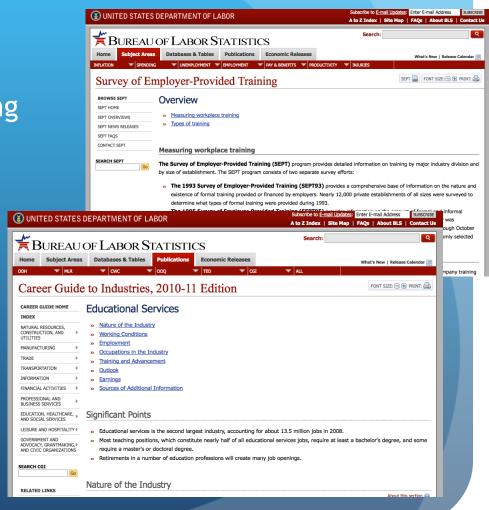




Appendix Tables

#### Bureau of Labor Statistics

- http://www.bls.gov/
- employer-provided training
- employment, salary, etc. for careers in education career
- education information for various careers



# **State-Level Data Sources**

#### StateMaster.com

combines data from variety of sources on all states

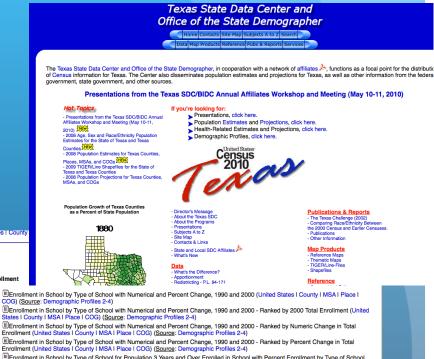
Education

- educational spending
- educational attainment
- student/teacher ratios
- student grade levels
- degrees awarded
- public library statistics



#### Texas State Data Center

- http://txsdc.utsa.edu/
- population & demographics
- school enrollment
- educational attainment



COG) (Source: Demographic Profiles 2-4)

States I County I MSA I Place I COG) (Source: Demographic Profiles 2-4)

Enrollment (United States I County I MSA I Place I COG) (Source: Demographic Profiles 2-4)

Enrollment (United States I County I MSA I Place I COG) (Source: Demographic Profiles 2-4)

Enrollment in School by Type of School for Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School with Percent Enrollment by Type of School, 2000 (United States I County I MSA I Place I COG) (Source: Summary File 3)

Enrollment in School by Type of School for White Alone Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School with Percent Enrollment by Type of School, 2000 (United States I County I MSA I Place I COG) (Source: Summary File 3)

Enrollment in School by Type of School for Black or African American Alone Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School with Percent Enrollment by Type of School, 2000 (United States I County I MSA I Place I COG) (Source: Summary File 3)

Enrollment in School by Type of School for American Indian and Alaska Native Alone Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School with Percent Enrollment by Type of School, 2000 (United States I County I MSAI Place I COG) (Source: Summary File 3)

ElEnrollment in School by Type of School for Asian Alone Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School with Percent Enrollment by Type of School, 2000 (United States I County I MSAI Place I COG) (Source: Summary File 3)

Enrollment in School by Type of School for Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Alone Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School with Percent Enrollment by Type of School, 2000 (United States I County I MSA I Place I COG) (Source: Summary File 3) Enrollment in School by Type of School for Some Other Race Alone Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School with Percent Enrollment by Type of School, 2000 (United States I County I MSA I Place I COG) (Source: Summary File 3)

Enrollment in School by Type of School for Two or More Races Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School with Percent Enrollment by Type of School, 2000 (United States | County | MSA | Place | COG) (Source: Summary File 3)

Enrollment in School by Type of School for Hispanic or Latino Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School with Percent Enrollment by Type of School, 2000 (United States I County I MSA I Place I COG) (Source: Summary File 3)

ElEnrollment in School by Type of School for White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School with Percent Enrollment by Type of School, 2000 (United States I County I MSAI Place I COG) (Source: Summary File 3)

**Educational Attainment** 

School Enrollment

## Window on State Government: Compendium of Texas Socioeconomic Data

- http://www.window.state.tx.us/ecodata/compendium/
  - community colleges
  - other institutions of higher education



# **International Data Sources**

#### International Statistics

- Statistical Yearbook (United Nations)
  - in print @ UNT LibrariesHA12.5 .U65
- Census Bureau: International Data Base (IDB)
  - http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/
- Foreign Statistical Agencies (by country)
  - http://www.library.unt.edu/govinfo/browse-topics/statistics/ foreign-statistical-agencies/
- International Statistical Agencies
  - http://www.library.unt.edu/govinfo/browse-topics/statistics/ international-statistical-agencies/
- Compendiums of International Statistics
  - http://www.library.unt.edu/govinfo/browse-topics/statistics/ foreign-and-international-statistics-general-compilations/

# Need More Help?

#### Ask Us!

Government Documents Department

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#### this presentation available at:

• <a href="http://geekyartistlibrarian.wordpress.com/">http://geekyartistlibrarian.wordpress.com/</a>