

Guidance for Researchers Seeking Access to HRSA Data at Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs): New Video Monitoring Procedures

Effective: December 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau has identified new procedures for researchers who seek to access/analyze data stored at Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs or RDCs) by federal agencies (including HRSA). Federal data maintained at FSRDCs are typically managed by the U.S. Census Bureau. In addition to safety precautions, this document articulates HRSA guidance regarding new video monitoring procedures in place at FSRDCs.

Beginning in December 2020, researchers seeking to access HRSA data located at FSRDCs should proceed as follows:

- **Phased-in Opening of FSRDCs – Operations:** Researchers seeking to access HRSA data located at an FSRDC are asked to review the U.S. Census Bureau’s [FSRDC Opening Plan](#) available in Attachment 1 (**Phased-In Opening of FSRDCs – Operations**). This document outlines safety precautions and guidance prescribed by the U.S. Census Bureau for the areas of **Occupancy**, **Local Rules** and **Researchers** under each of three (3) phases of operation during the pandemic. As specified in this document, local FSRDCs will maintain safety precautions, including 24/7 video monitoring, scheduled visitation to centers, assigned seating, and mask mandates in order to ensure the safety of researchers seeking access to HRSA data housed in FSRDCs. Accordingly, any researcher with permission to work with HRSA data stored at a FSRDC is subject to all precautions and procedures set forth by the U.S. Census Bureau as specified in Attachment 1.
- **Location-Specific Guidance for FSRDCs:** In addition to specifications provided within Attachment 1, all researchers seeking access to HRSA data from a FSRDC should also work closely with local Research Data Center (RDC) Administrators to determine whether there are additional location-specific guidance or procedures that researchers must adhere to in order to access HRSA data. For questions about location-specific procedures/guidance, researchers are directed to reach out to local RDC Administrators. Contact information for local RDC Administrators and FSRDC hours of operations are both available at the [Research Data Centers Location webpage](#).
- **Video monitoring at FSRDC:** Historically, researchers using HRSA data at a Census Bureau RDC can only be in the RDC accessing HRSA data when a Census employee is onsite to monitor activities. Researchers seeking access to HRSA data at a Census Bureau RDC should be aware that new video monitoring procedures are now in place at

Census RDCs, which may include video monitoring of the researcher when accessing HRSA data at Census RDCs.

IMPORTANT: HRSA wants to ensure that researchers seeking access to HRSA data at Census RDCs are aware of these recently instituted video monitoring procedures prior to accessing HRSA data. For additional information regarding FSRDCs, please refer to the [U.S. Census Bureau's webpage](#).