

NORC Data Enclave

The Key to Unlocking Data Securely



Data Enclave

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Launched in 2006, the NORC Data Enclave provides a confidential, protected environment within which authorized researchers can access sensitive microdata remotely. While public-use data can be disseminated in a variety of ways, fewer options exist for sharing sensitive microdata that have not been fully de-identified for public use. Some data producers have sufficient economies of scale to develop advanced in-house solutions that serve the needs of external researchers, but most lack the resources to archive, curate, and disseminate the datasets they collect. The Data Enclave provides our partner organizations with a secure platform where they can both host and build a research community around their data.

The Data Enclave currently serves more than 300 researchers and hosts confidential data for several federal agencies and foundations.

Major Capabilities:

The Data Enclave team values NORC's core mission to support informed decision making through objective data and analysis. The Data Enclave offers the full cycle of data services, ranging from study design and concept to data archiving and access. In addition to its expertise in metadata documentation and data dissemination, the Data Enclave provides a comprehensive set of analytic services. Members of the team come from a wide range of backgrounds and are thoroughly trained in research methods and statistical analysis, and can leverage the full array of NORC's analytic capabilities.

In addition, the Data Enclave engages the research community in developing a knowledge infrastructure around each dataset through its virtual, collaborative workspace, which enables geographically dispersed researchers to share information, replicate results, and provide feedback to data producers.

Areas of Expertise:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Disclosure analysis | Secure remote access technologies |
| Statistical analysis | Metadata management |
| De-identification and micro-aggregation | Virtual collaboration |
| Visual and spatial analysis | Data dissemination strategy consulting |
| Data diagnostics and harmonization | Data linking |
| Data security | |



Innovative Secure Access Platform

The Data Enclave provides an ideal system for accessing confidential microdata. Employing security technologies used by the military and banking sectors, the Data Enclave is based around a Citrix infrastructure that renders users' computers as "remote terminals," providing them access to data, statistical software, and collaborative tools hosted on a central, secure NORC server.

Only authorized users are able to gain access to microdata through a customized virtual environment where information inflow and outflow are strictly controlled and monitored. The system is highly flexible as it allows the data custodian to restrict access to particular users and/or particular locations. It is secure because all data manipulations occur within NORC servers following strict security protocols.

Data Security & Certification

The Data Enclave's IT Security Plan is fully compliant with the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) provisions of the mandatory Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS). Additionally, it meets all of NIST's IT, data, system, and physical security requirements.

Per FISMA and provisions of the mandatory FIPS 199 and NIST Security Plan 800-60, NORC's Data Enclave system impact levels have been determined as follows:

NIST Sensitivity Element	Confidentiality
NIST Impact Rating	Moderate
Short Description of Basis for Rating	The Data Enclave contains information of a proprietary nature. If this proprietary information were disclosed, it could result in serious loss of customer trust for the Federal Statistical Agency.



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U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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Data warehousing, data security,
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