

**CDR** Contextual Data Resource  
for Aging Surveys

Documentation for

# Ozone FAQSD Files

Version 2.0, released October 2020

Jennifer Ailshire and Hyewon Kang



A project of the USC/UCLA Center on Biodemography and Population Health  
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## Requested Acknowledgment

If you used the Contextual Data Resource data in a written analysis, please include the following acknowledgement:

This analysis uses data or information from the Contextual Data Resource (CDR): United States Environmental Protection Agency Ozone FAQSD Files by Census Tract, 2002-2016, Version 2.0 as of September 2020, developed by Jennifer Ailshire and Hyewon Kang at the USC/UCLA Center on Biodemography and Population Health. The development of the CDR was funded by the National Institute on Aging (R21 AG045625, P30 AG017625).

## Suggested Citation

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## Data Sources

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). RSIG and FAQSD Files, <https://www.epa.gov/hesc/rsig-related-downloadable-data-files>

## Version Note

Version 2.0 updates the data with the most recent 2016 measures. Variables names are consistent with version 1.0.

## Linking CDR Data with Survey Respondent Data

The Contextual Data Resource is designed to be linked with geocoded survey data. All geographic identifiers are in string format and match the US Census Bureau Geographies for census tracts. The census tract level data has been harmonized to the 2010 census tract boundaries.

- To link census tract level data, merge using the 11-digit LINKCEN2010 geographic identifier, which is the 2-digit state + 3-digit county + 6-digit census tract FIPS code.

## Dataset Overview

Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) is a reactive gas which can cause irritation and adverse health effects when inhaled. The US Environmental Protection Agency Fused Air Quality Surface Using Downscaling (FAQSD) Files provide estimates for local average concentrations of O<sub>3</sub> (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) across the United States using monitoring station data and Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) output. Data are available at census tract level and include annual, quarterly, and monthly averages for 2002 through 2016.

## Data Summary

Dataset Name: Fused Air Quality Surface Using Downscaling (FAQSD) Files

Data Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Data Source URL: <https://www.epa.gov/hesc/rsig-related-downloadable-data-files>

Data Collection Method: Primary data collected by the EPA.

Years Collected: All data contains measures between 2002 and 2016.

Geographic Level: Census tract

## Technical Information about Fused Air Quality Surface Using Downscaling

The downscaling fusion model uses both air quality monitoring data from the National Air Monitoring Stations/State and Local Air Monitoring Stations (NAMS/SLAMS) and numerical output from the Models-3/Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ).

The FAQSD model is a Bayesian space-time downscaler model which integrates census-tract level 24-h average monitoring data from the National Air Monitoring Stations and State and Local Air Monitoring Stations (NAMS/SLAMS) with 12 km gridded output from the Models-3/Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) model. The CMAQ model uses emissions data from the EPA's National Emissions Inventory and includes model emissions, daily continuous emissions monitoring data for significant point sources, and meteorological data

There are areas with few or no air monitoring sites. In these areas, it may be difficult to adjust gridded CMAQ output to provide accurate predictions of air quality. For such areas, the bias-adjustments have been made based on the available monitoring data which may be located in areas with different emissions and geography.

For further information on the fused air quality surface using downscaling files, please see following published journal papers:

Berrocal, V. J., Gelfand, A. E., & Holland, D. M. (2010). A bivariate space-time downscaler under space and time misalignment. *The annals of applied statistics*, 4(4), 1942.

Berrocal, V. J., Gelfand, A. E., & Holland, D. M. (2010). A spatio-temporal downscaler for output from numerical models. *Journal of agricultural, biological, and environmental statistics*, 15(2), 176-197.

Berrocal, V. J., Gelfand, A. E., & Holland, D. M. (2012). Space-Time Data fusion Under Error in Computer Model Output: An Application to Modeling Air Quality. *Biometrics*, 68(3), 837-848.

Bodnaruk, E. W., Kroll, C. N., Yang, Y., Hirabayashi, S., Nowak, D. J., & Endreny, T. A. (2017). Where to plant urban trees? A spatially explicit methodology to explore ecosystem service tradeoffs. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 157, 457-467.

US EPA. (2012a). Technical Information about Fused Air Quality Surface Using Downscaling Tool: Metadata Description. Available online:  
[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-07/documents/data\\_fusion\\_meta\\_file\\_july\\_2016.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-07/documents/data_fusion_meta_file_july_2016.pdf)

## Variable List

Name	Definition	Geography	Years
<b><u>Geographic Identifiers</u></b>			
p301	Tract ID (Based on 2010 FIPS)	Tract	
<b><u>Ozone Annual Average Estimates</u></b>			
p305	Mean O <sub>3</sub> Annual	Tract	2002-2016
<b><u>Ozone Quarterly Average Estimates</u></b>			
p306	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Q1: Jan-Mar)	Tract	2002-2016
p307	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Q2: Apr-Jun)	Tract	2002-2016
p308	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Q3: Jul-Sep)	Tract	2002-2016
p309	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Q4: Oct-Dec)	Tract	2002-2016
<b><u>Ozone Monthly Average Estimates</u></b>			
p310	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Jan)	Tract	2002-2016
p311	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Feb)	Tract	2002-2016
p312	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Mar)	Tract	2002-2016
p313	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Apr)	Tract	2002-2016
p314	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (May)	Tract	2002-2016
p315	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Jun)	Tract	2002-2016
p316	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Jul)	Tract	2002-2016
p317	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Aug)	Tract	2002-2016
p318	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Sep)	Tract	2002-2016
p319	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Oct)	Tract	2002-2016
p320	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Nov)	Tract	2002-2016
p321	Mean O <sub>3</sub> (Dec)	Tract	2002-2016