

Add Health Contextual Data

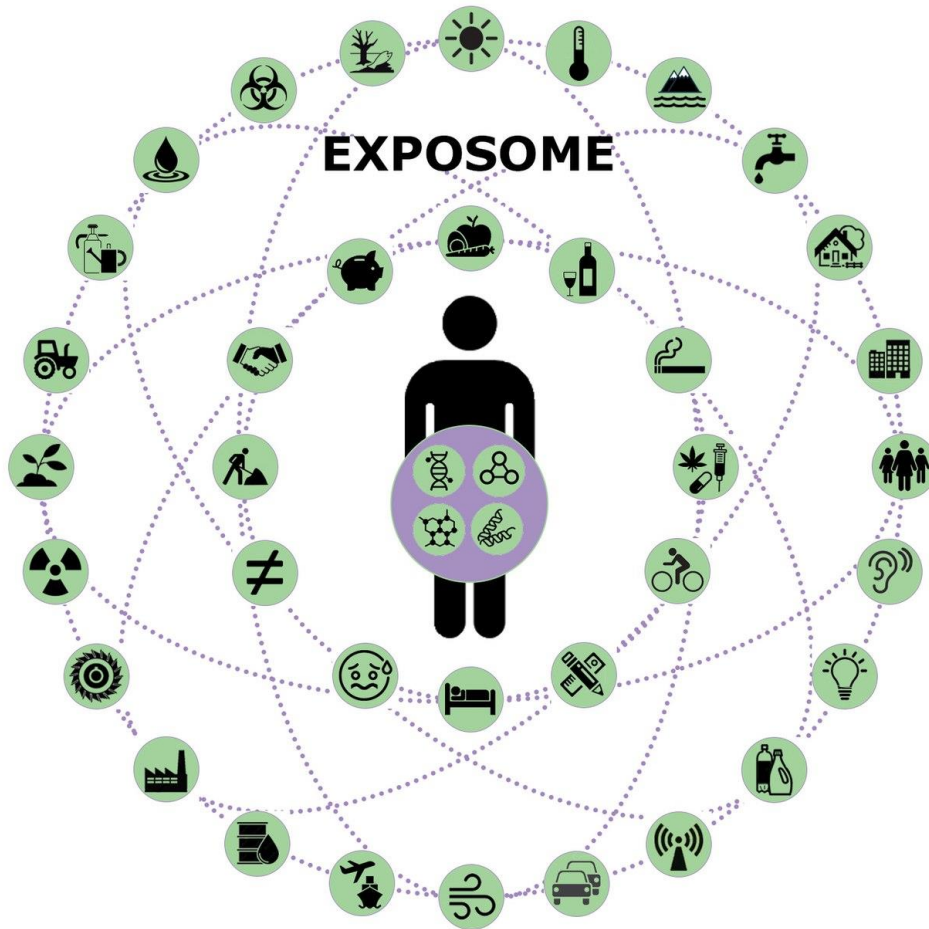
Taylor W. Hargrove, Ph.D.

University of Maryland, College Park

Cross-Network Meeting to Advance Aging, Health, and Place

September 8, 2025

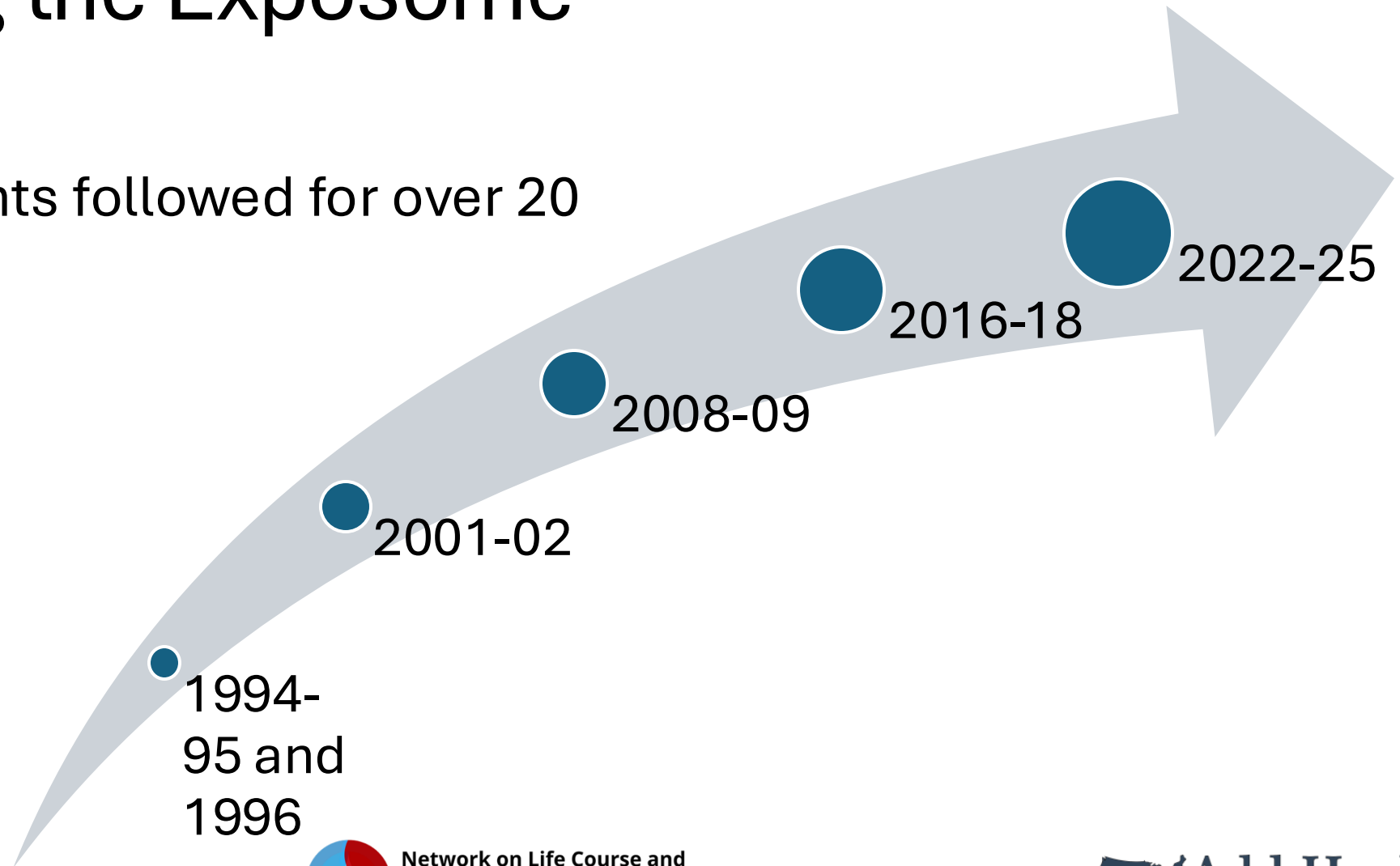
Measuring the Exposome



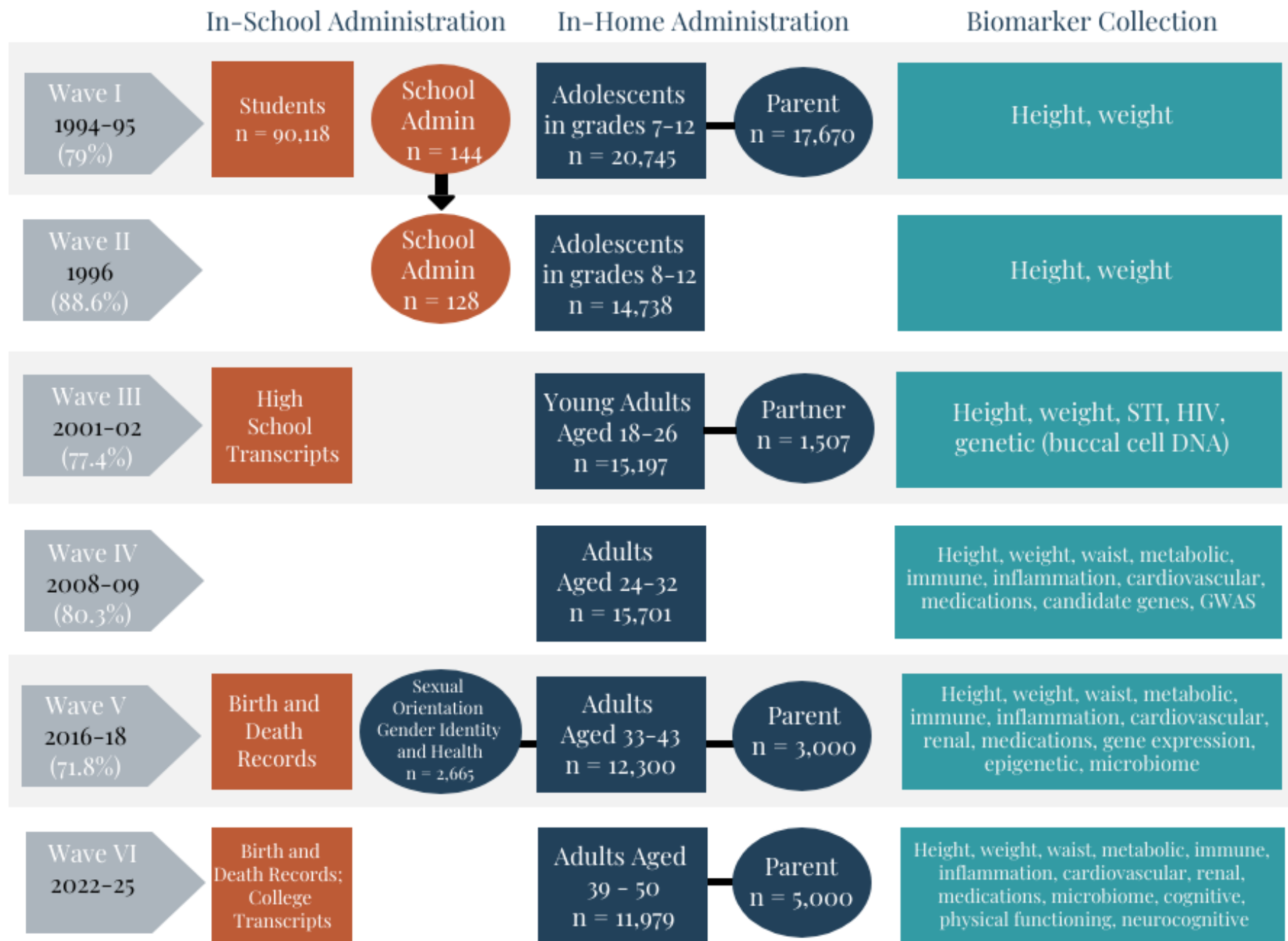
- Exposome: totality of exposures individuals experience over their lives—from molecular to societal influences—and how those exposures affect health
- Measured by multilevel internal and external factors
- Critical for understanding health and aging

Add Health as a Leading Data Source for Capturing the Exposome

- Why?
 - Participants followed for over 20 years

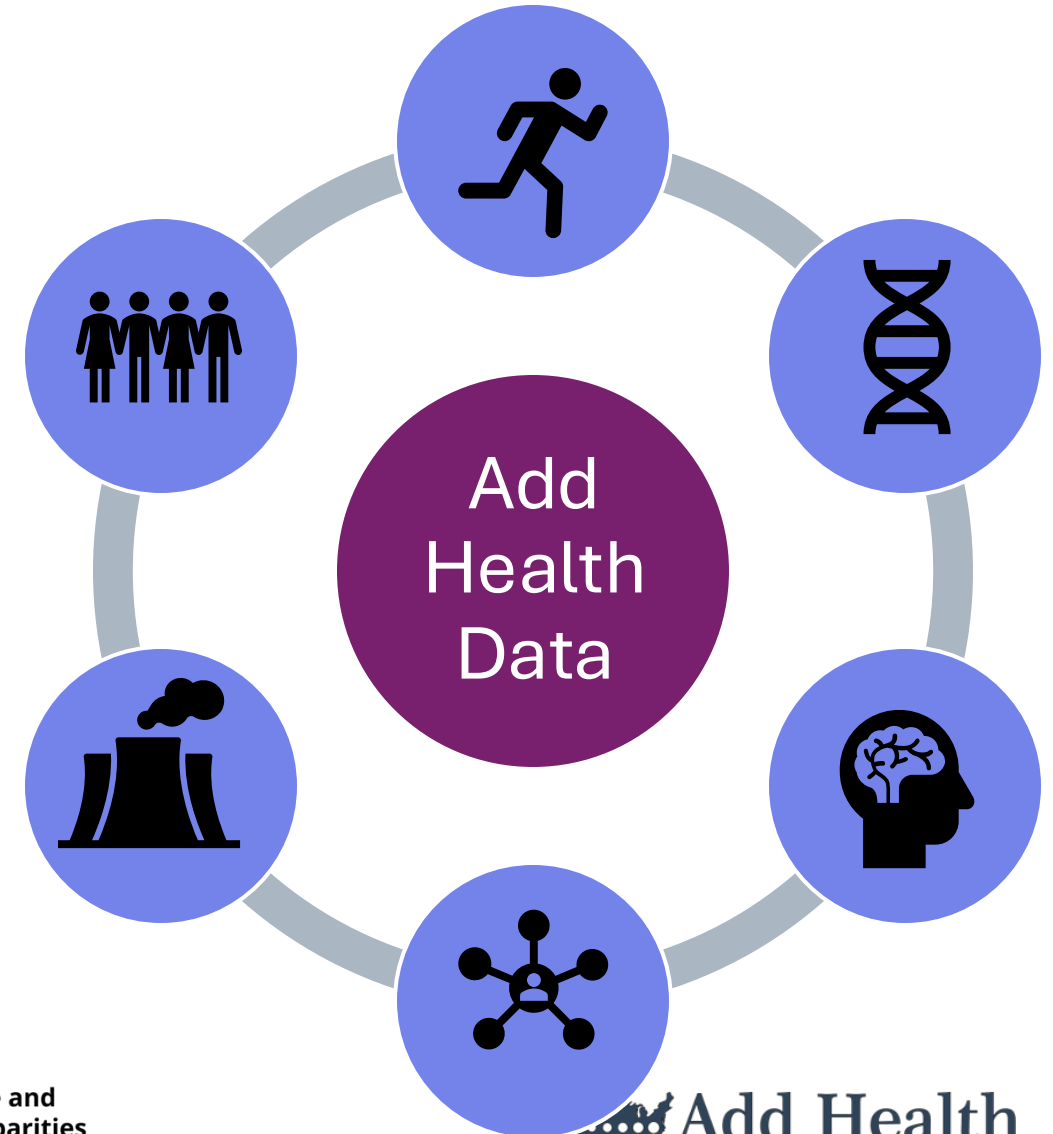


ADD HEALTH LONGITUDINAL DESIGN

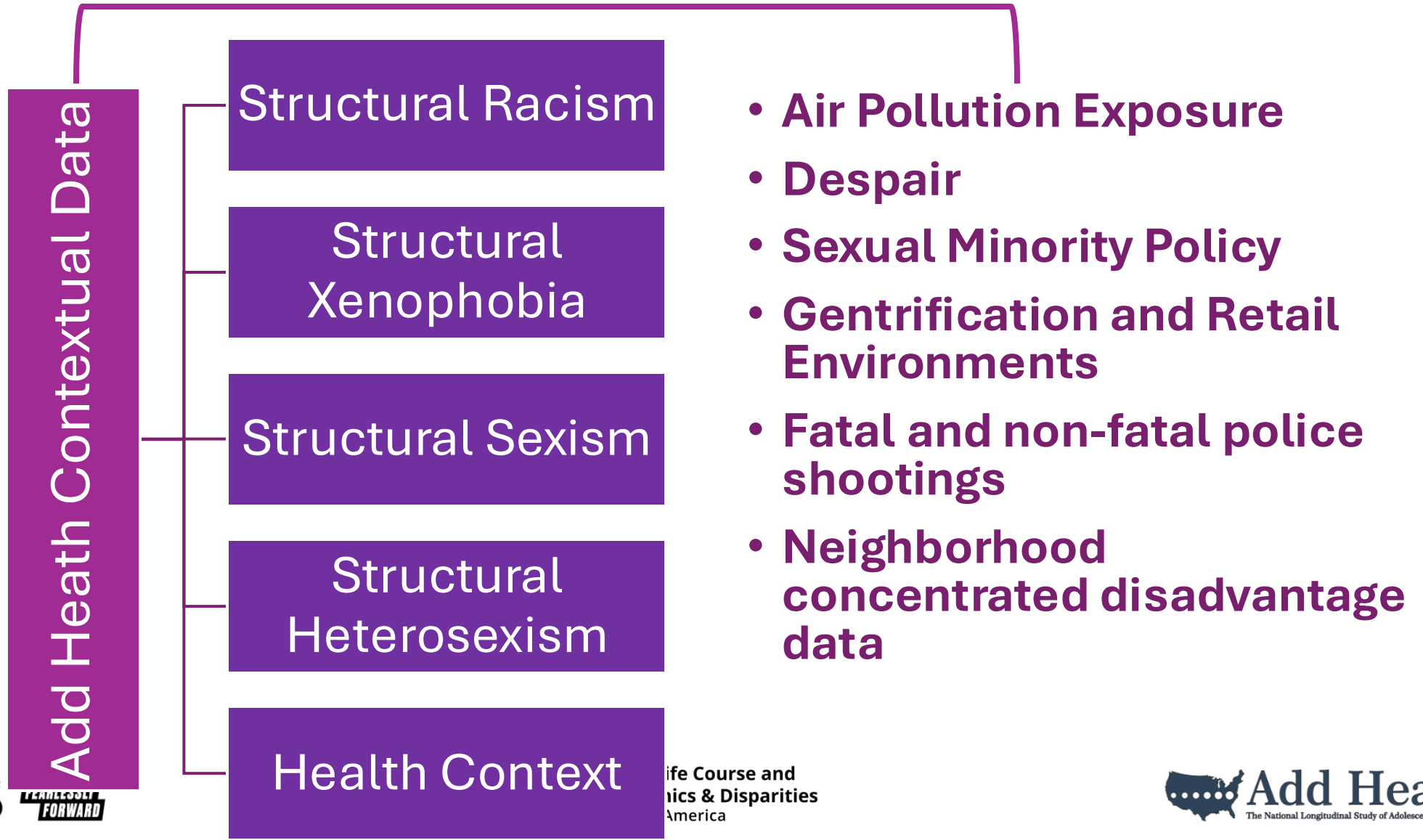


Add Health as a Leading Data Source for Capturing the Exposome

- Why?
 - Participants followed for over 20 years
 - Rich, multilevel data, including: demographic, social, environmental, network, behavioral, psychosocial, biological, cognitive, medication, and health survey data from participants and their parents



Contextual Data



Structural Racism

- Residential
 - Eviction rates
 - Bias in mortgage lending
 - ICE measures
 - Mortgage and rental burden
- Criminal-legal
 - Incarceration counts and rates
 - Youth custody rates
 - Police scorecard data
- Political
 - Proportion of legislators in each racial/ethnic group
- Historical
 - Historical redlining
 - Number of lynchings
 - State laws and policies related to school segregation
- Cultural Climate
 - Hate crimes
 - Hate groups

Structural Racism

- Residential
 - Eviction rates
 - Bias in mortgage lending
 - ICE measures
 - Mortgage and rental burden
- Criminal-legal
 - Incarceration counts and rates
 - Youth custody rates
 - Police scorecard data
- Political
 - Proportion of legislators in each racial/ethnic group
- Historical
 - Historical redlining
 - Number of lynchings
 - State laws and policies related to school segregation
- Cultural Climate
 - Hate crimes
 - Hate groups

Structural Xenophobia

- Population Demographics
 - State and county population rates
 - Refugee population
 - Undocumented population
 - Anti-immigrant hate groups
 - Asian and Latino state legislators
- Political
 - State-level policies related to social safety net, higher education, identification, official state language, and immigration enforcement
 - Immigration Policy Climate Index (Samari et al. 2021)
 - Restrictive, accommodating, and neutral immigrant laws passed (Reich 2017)
- Enforcement
 - Measures of enforcement, including ICE arrests, detainers, and removals

Structural Sexism

- Sexual and reproductive health policy and access
 - State-level measures of contraception, HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STI), pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes, care refusal, abortion legislation, and adolescent sexual health
 - Geospatial data on the density and distance to reproductive health clinics and abortion providers
- Family and care policy
 - Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Political representation
 - Proportion of state legislators that are female

Structural Heterosexism

- Policies
 - Laws and policies collected by Movement Advancement Project
 - Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index Scores
- Social climate
 - Proportion of households headed by male/female couples of the same sex
 - Support of LGB policies and rights
 - Implicit biases via Harvard IAT
 - Proportion voting for republican presidential candidate
 - Religious conservatism
- Income inequality
 - Household income by sex composition of couple

Health Context

- Health status (chronic conditions, disability, self-rated health, mental health, STIs)
- Cancer
- Birth outcomes
- Mortality
- Health coverage
- Access to care (provider use, barriers to providers, unmet need)
- Health behaviors
- Health disparities by race/ethnicity and sex
- Health care expenditures
- Health policy
 - Generosity of: Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Environmental (proximity to landfills)

Search the Data

- Add Health Contextual Data Inventory:
<https://addhealth.cpc.unc.edu/documentation/add-health-contextual-variable-inventory/>
- Add Health Codebooks:
<https://addhealth.cpc.unc.edu/documentation/codebooks/>
- Add Health File Inventory:
<https://addhealth.cpc.unc.edu/documentation/add-health-file-inventory/>

Search the Data

- **Add Health Contextual Data Inventory:**
<https://addhealth.cpc.unc.edu/documentation/add-health-contextual-variable-inventory/>
- Add Health Codebooks:
<https://addhealth.cpc.unc.edu/documentation/codebooks/>
- Add Health File Inventory:
<https://addhealth.cpc.unc.edu/documentation/add-health-file-inventory/>

Included in all Add Health contextual datasets.

Typing in the text boxes above the Variable Label and Variable Name column will filter as you type. Dropdown menus are available for most other columns. Lastly, we provide checkboxes that will display variables related to five topical domains of particular interest to Add Health.

Search:

Clear Search

Reset To Default Sorting

Show 10

Search Variable Label

Select Wave

Select Category

Search Variable Name

Select Contextual Dataset

Select Data Source

Select Data Source Year

Select Geographic Scale

Variable Label	Wave	Category	Variable Name	Contextual Dataset	Data Source	Data Source Year	Geographic Scale
POPULATION, TOTAL	1	Population characteristics	BST90001	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Block Group
POPULATION, TOTAL	1	Population characteristics	CST90001	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	County
POPULATION, TOTAL	1	Population characteristics	TST90001	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Tract
PROPORTION URBAN, INSIDE URBANIZED AREA	1	Population characteristics	BST90002	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Block Group
PROPORTION URBAN, INSIDE URBANIZED AREA	1	Population characteristics	CST90002	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	County
PROPORTION URBAN, INSIDE URBANIZED AREA	1	Population characteristics	TST90002	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Tract
PROPORTION RURAL	1	Population characteristics	BST90003	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Block Group
PROPORTION RURAL	1	Population characteristics	CST90003	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	County
PROPORTION RURAL	1	Population characteristics	TST90003	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Tract
PROPORTION RURAL, FARM	1	Population characteristics	BST90004	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Block Group

Showing 1 to 10 of 19,797 entries

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 ... 1,980

The Add Health Contextual Variable Inventory is designed to allow researchers to browse or search through the available variables included in all Add Health contextual datasets.

Typing in the text boxes above the Variable Label and Variable Name column will filter as you type. Dropdown menus are available for most other columns. Lastly, we provide checkboxes that will display variables related to five topical domains of particular interest to Add Health.

Search: [Clear Search](#) [Reset To Default Sorting](#)

✓ Select Category

Built environment

Economic

Environmental

Health and health behaviors

Migration and Spatial Composition

Other

Politics and policies

Population characteristics

Violence and Hate

Variable Label	Wave	Variable Name	Contextual Dataset	Data Source	Data Source Year	Geographic Scale	Raw/Constr
POPULATION, TOTAL	1	ST90001	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Block Group	Raw
POPULATION, TOTAL	1	ST90001	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	County	Raw
POPULATION, TOTAL	1	ST90001	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Tract	Raw
PROPORTION URBAN, INSIDE URBANIZED AREA	1	ST90002	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Block Group	Constr
PROPORTION URBAN, INSIDE URBANIZED AREA	1	ST90002	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	County	Constr
PROPORTION URBAN, INSIDE URBANIZED AREA	1	ST90002	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Tract	Constr
PROPORTION RURAL	1	Population characteristics BST90003	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Block Group	Constr
PROPORTION RURAL	1	Population characteristics CST90003	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	County	Constr
PROPORTION RURAL	1	Population characteristics TST90003	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Tract	Constr
PROPORTION RURAL, FARM	1	Population characteristics BST90004	CONTEXT1	1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing	1990	Block Group	Constr

Showing 1 to 10 of 19,797 entries

[Previous](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [...](#) [1,980](#) [Next](#)

The Add Health Contextual Variable Inventory is designed to allow researchers to browse or search through the available variables included in all Add Health contextual datasets.

Typing in the text boxes above the Variable Label and Variable Name column will filter as you type. Dropdown menus are available for most other columns. Lastly, we provide checkboxes that will display variables related to five topical domains of particular interest to Add Health.

Search:

Clear Search

Reset To Default Sorting

Select Wave ▾

Select Category ▾

✓ Select Contextual Dataset

CHETTY3

CHETTY4

CONTEXT1

CONTEXT2

CONTEXT3

CONTEXT4

CONTEXT5

CTYCRMW4

CTYCRMW5

HEALTH1

HEALTH4

HEALTH5

HOLC1345

HUDW1234

IPEDS4

MEDEXP5

MRFEI4

OPPORT1

OPPORT4

OPPORT5

SCHDSG12

SMP3

SMP4

Select Data Source ▾

Select Data Source Year ▾

Select Geographic Scale ▾

Select ▾

Variable Label	Wave	Category	Variable Name	Data Source	Data Source Year	Geographic Scale	Raw/C
POPULATION, TOTAL	1	Population characteristics	BST90001				
POPULATION, TOTAL	1	Population characteristics	CST90001				
POPULATION, TOTAL	1	Population characteristics	TST90001				
PROPORTION URBAN, INSIDE URBANIZED AREA	1	Population characteristics	BST90002				
PROPORTION URBAN, INSIDE URBANIZED AREA	1	Population characteristics	CST90002				
PROPORTION URBAN, INSIDE URBANIZED AREA	1	Population characteristics	TST90002				
PROPORTION RURAL	1	Population characteristics	BST90003				
PROPORTION RURAL	1	Population characteristics	CST90003				
PROPORTION RURAL	1	Population characteristics	TST90003				
PROPORTION RURAL, FARM	1	Population characteristics	BST90004				

Showing 1 to 10 of 19,797 entries

Previous

1

2

3

4

5

...

1,980

Next

The Add Health Contextual Variable Inventory is designed to allow researchers to browse or search through the available variables included in all Add Health contextual datasets.

Typing in the text boxes above the Variable Label and Variable Name column will filter as you type. Dropdown menus are available for most other columns. Lastly, we provide checkboxes that will display variables related to five topical domains of particular interest to Add Health.

Search:

Clear Search

Reset To Default Sorting

Select Wave

Select Category

Select Contextual Dataset

Variable Label	Wave	Category	Variable Name	Contextual Dataset
POPULATION, TOTAL	1	Population characteristics	BST90001	CONTEXT1
POPULATION, TOTAL	1	Population characteristics	CST90001	CONTEXT1
POPULATION, TOTAL	1	Population characteristics	TST90001	CONTEXT1
PROPORTION URBAN, INSIDE URBANIZED AREA	1	Population characteristics	BST90002	CONTEXT1
PROPORTION URBAN, INSIDE URBANIZED AREA	1	Population characteristics	CST90002	CONTEXT1
PROPORTION URBAN, INSIDE URBANIZED AREA	1	Population characteristics	TST90002	CONTEXT1
PROPORTION RURAL	1	Population characteristics	BST90003	CONTEXT1
PROPORTION RURAL	1	Population characteristics	CST90003	CONTEXT1
PROPORTION RURAL	1	Population characteristics	TST90003	CONTEXT1
PROPORTION RURAL, FARM	1	Population characteristics	BST90004	CONTEXT1

1981-2010 U.S. Climate Atlas

1990 U.S. Census Rural-Urban Commuting Area

1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing

1990 U.S. Decennial Census

1990 U.S. Decennial Census; 2000 U.S. Decennial Ce...

1992 National Land Cover Dataset (U.S. Geological ...

1993 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting

1995 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting

1995 Uniform Crime Reporting

2000 U.S. Census Rural-Urban Commuting Area

2000 U.S. Census of Population and Housing

2000 U.S. Decennial Census

2000 U.S. Decennial Census; 2005-2009 American Com...

2000 U.S. Decennial US Census

2001 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting

2001 National Land Cover Dataset (U.S. Geological ...

2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimat...

2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimat...

2007 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting

2008 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting; Crime Open Datab...

2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimat...

2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimat...

2019 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting

Source Year

Geographic Scale

Raw/C

Previous

1

2

3

4

5

...

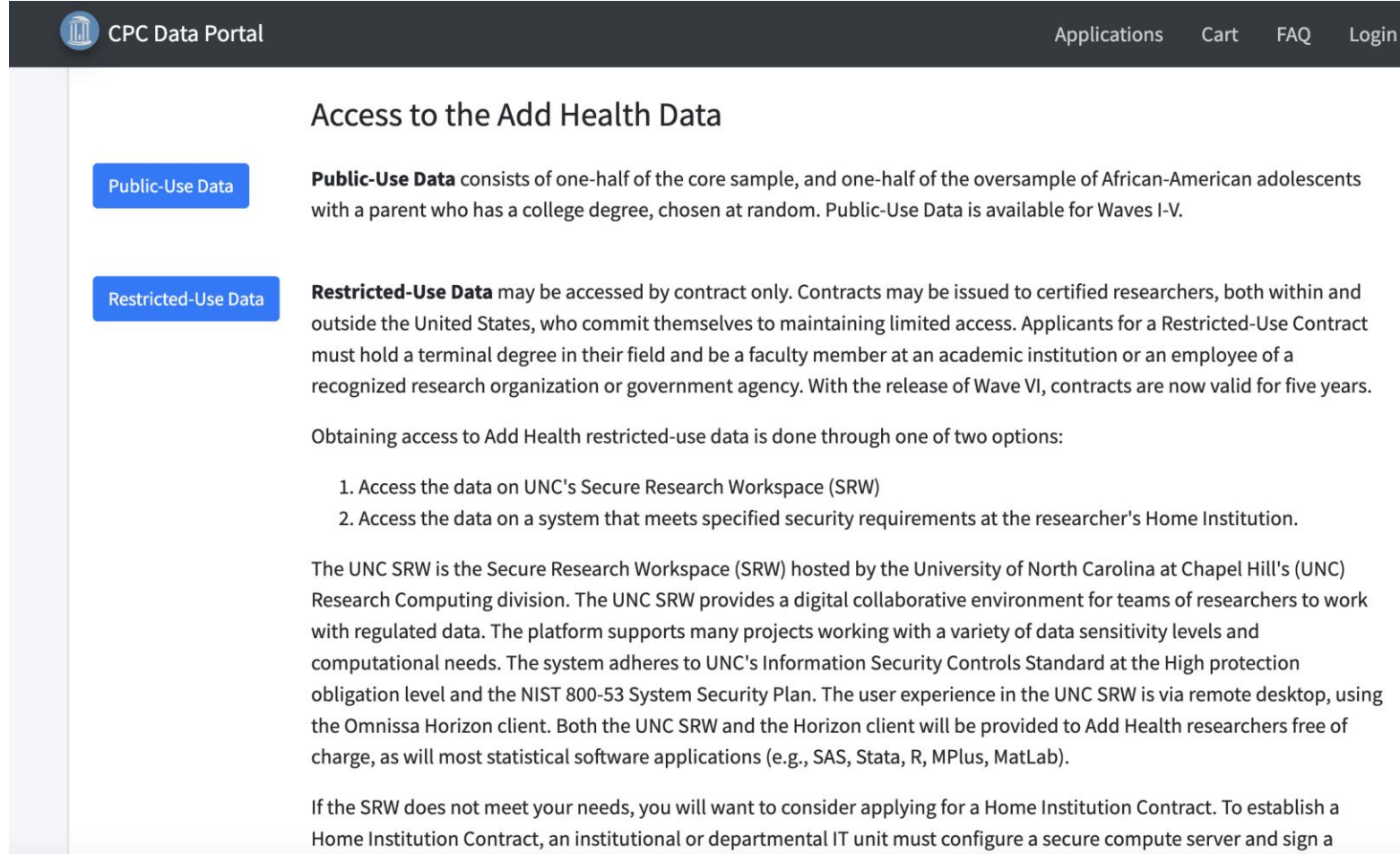
1,980

Next

Showing 1 to 10 of 19,797 entries

Access the Data

- <https://data.cpc.unc.edu/projects/2/view>



The screenshot shows the CPC Data Portal interface. At the top, there is a dark navigation bar with the text "CPC Data Portal" on the left and links for "Applications", "Cart", "FAQ", and "Login" on the right. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled "Access to the Add Health Data". On the left side of this area, there are two blue buttons: "Public-Use Data" and "Restricted-Use Data". The "Public-Use Data" section explains that it consists of one-half of the core sample and one-half of the oversample of African-American adolescents with a parent who has a college degree, chosen at random. It is available for Waves I-V. The "Restricted-Use Data" section states that it may be accessed by contract only, issued to certified researchers within and outside the United States who commit to maintaining limited access. Applicants must hold a terminal degree and be a faculty member or employee of a recognized research organization or government agency. With the release of Wave VI, contracts are now valid for five years. Below this, it states that obtaining access to Add Health restricted-use data is done through one of two options: 1. Access the data on UNC's Secure Research Workspace (SRW) and 2. Access the data on a system that meets specified security requirements at the researcher's Home Institution. A paragraph follows describing the UNC SRW, hosted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's (UNC) Research Computing division, providing a digital collaborative environment for teams of researchers to work with regulated data. The platform supports many projects working with a variety of data sensitivity levels and computational needs. The system adheres to UNC's Information Security Controls Standard at the High protection obligation level and the NIST 800-53 System Security Plan. The user experience in the UNC SRW is via remote desktop, using the Omnisia Horizon client. Both the UNC SRW and the Horizon client will be provided to Add Health researchers free of charge, as will most statistical software applications (e.g., SAS, Stata, R, MPlus, MatLab). Finally, it notes that if the SRW does not meet your needs, you will want to consider applying for a Home Institution Contract. To establish a Home Institution Contract, an institutional or departmental IT unit must configure a secure compute server and sign a

Access the Data

- <https://data.cpc.unc.edu/projects/2/view>

The screenshot displays the CPC Data Portal interface. At the top, a dark header contains the portal's name and navigation links. The main content area is divided into sections for new contract applications and renewals, followed by a tabbed interface for data access. The 'Restricted-Use Data' tab is active, showing information about data sets and access procedures.

CPC Data Portal Applications Cart FAQ Login

New Contract Applications

New Application Researchers who have not previously served as the Principal Investigator (PI) on an Add Health Restricted-Use Contract should initiate the application process by following the link provided. This includes those who may have participated in a Restricted-Use Contract or served as a PI on a research project utilizing Add Health data but have not held the role of PI on the contract itself.

Contract Renewals

Renew Contract Principal Investigators with an expired Restricted-Use Contract, or who have a current contract that houses and accesses the restricted-use data in a different way than the two options listed above can click the link to the left to renew their contract.

Researchers operating under legacy contracts that permit local storage of Add Health restricted-use data, including on physical media, must attest to the destruction of all such data before the renewal process can be completed. Local storage includes hard drives, stand-alone computers, file servers, and remote computing servers.

Public-Use Data **Restricted-Use Data**

A list of the all restricted-use data sets can be found in the sortable and searchable [Add Health File Inventory](#), including the directory path for ease in locating the files. The Release Date is also provided so users can easily identify recently released files.

Standard Access Data Sets

With two exceptions, all users will now have access to all restricted-use data sets. The exceptions are:

1. Special Request data sets, listed below.
2. [Omics data](#) sets, which are available from dbGap. The Omics data may be linked to the Add Health data via a linkage file, available upon request. Due to the nature of Omics data, they must be hosted on a Linux server at the PI's institution as part of a [Home Institution Contract](#).

Special Request Data Sets

The following data sets are available **only** on UNC's Secure Research Workspace (SRW). Each Special Request data set is governed by specific access requirements, which may include restrictions on data use. These conditions are detailed alongside each data set within the Data Portal

Acknowledgments

Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Institute On Aging of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number R24AG045061. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health

This research uses data from Add Health, funded by grant P01 HD31921 (Harris) from the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), with cooperative funding from 23 other federal agencies and foundations. Add Health is currently directed by Robert A. Hummer and funded by the National Institute on Aging cooperative agreements U01 AG071448 (Hummer) and U01AG071450 (Aiello and Hummer) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Add Health was designed by J. Richard Udry, Peter S. Bearman, and Kathleen Mullan Harris at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Everyone involved in creating the contextual database in Add Health!

Thank you!