

The Standard Application Process (SAP)



What is the Standard Application Process (SAP)?

The Standard Application Process, or SAP, is the avenue to apply to the nation's statistical agencies and units for access to federal confidential data assets. The SAP includes a [catalog of protected data assets](#) and an application that researchers can use to apply for access to protected data from a single website: researchdatagov.org.

By making confidential data more accessible to researchers, the SAP adheres to the mandate set forth by the 2018 Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act which required the federal government to enhance public access to data to support evidence building.



What information can I find on the SAP portal?

Accessing the SAP portal will allow data users to:

- ▲ Browse the [metadata catalog](#) of protected data assets, or “restricted data”, across each of the federal statistical agencies.
- ▲ Determine whether any restricted data are appropriate for your specific statistical research.
- ▲ Apply for access to restricted data.



While the SAP's data catalog is expansive, you can be assured that the SAP is not an open door. Data security and protecting data integrity are at the core of the SAP. All requests for data will continue to be reviewed by the agency to ensure legal requirements are met. Data users may also be required to undergo a security clearance process, dependent on agency requirements.



How will the SAP improve evidence building?

The SAP's protected data assets can be used to inform policy changes and other decision-making activities, improving the government's evidence building capabilities while maintaining strong privacy protections. Researchers and policymakers can use the SAP's metadata catalog to make evidence-based decisions in a range of research areas such as education, business, the sciences, and public health. Additionally, transparency of the requirements necessary to obtain access to data is at the core of the SAP. This transparency will allow for a more seamless, streamlined process to request access to protected data.

To learn more about the SAP or to browse the SAP metadata catalog, visit researchdatagov.org



**Interagency Council on
Statistical Policy**
Leaders of the United States Federal Statistical System



**Standard
Application
Process**

The success of the SAP depends on your feedback.

Visit <https://nces.nsf.gov/about/standard-application-process> to learn more about the SAP and support our efforts for the future of evidence building.