

Data Sources

The data were derived from two NCSES survey sources: the [Survey of Earned Doctorates](#) (SED) and the [Survey of Doctorate Recipients](#) (SDR). The data presented for both the SED and the SDR were derived by NCSES analysts from [restricted use microdata files](#). SED data used in these *Directorate Profiles* reflect the characteristics of research doctorate recipients at the time of their graduation in academic years 2005, 2015, and 2025. SDR data used reflect the characteristics for the employed population of science, engineering, or health research doctorate recipients under age 76 as of the week of 1 February 2023.

SED

The SED is an annual census of all individuals who earned a research doctorate from an accredited U.S. institution in a given academic year. For more detailed information about the SED and its methodology, please see the survey's Technical Notes (available at <https://nces.nsf.gov/surveys/earned-doctorates/2025#methodology>).

SDR

The SDR is a biennial survey that collects longitudinal data on demographic and general employment characteristics of individuals who have received a research doctorate in a science, engineering, or health field from an accredited U.S. institution. The SED provides the sampling frame for the SDR through its annual update of the longstanding Doctorate Records File, a cumulative listing of all U.S.-earned doctorate recipients dating back to 1920. For more detailed information on the SDR and its methodology, please see the survey's Technical Notes (<https://nces.nsf.gov/surveys/doctorate-recipients/2023#methodology>).