

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research: Utilization Report

Prepared by Mike Oie, Data Manager, Iowa Social Science Research Center
July 7, 2023

I. Introduction

The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) is one of the world’s largest archives of behavioral and social science research data. As an ICPSR member, the University of Iowa receives full access to more than 70,000 curated datasets and over 18,000 studies. This report presents summaries of ICPSR usage at the University, including data downloads from 2017 to 2022 and participation in the ICPSR Summer Program from 2017 to 2022. The final section of the report outlines the fee and benefits of the University’s membership in ICPSR.

II. Data Downloads

The 3 figures below show the number of unique downloads for studies, datasets, and files.¹ Downloads of studies increased in 2022 from 2021, while downloads of datasets and files decreased. 2020 was the highest recent year for studies, datasets, and files.

Of the six years, downloads of datasets peaked in 2020, at 1257, and downloads of files peaked in 2019 at 5394. Downloads of studies peaked in 2020, at 554 downloads.

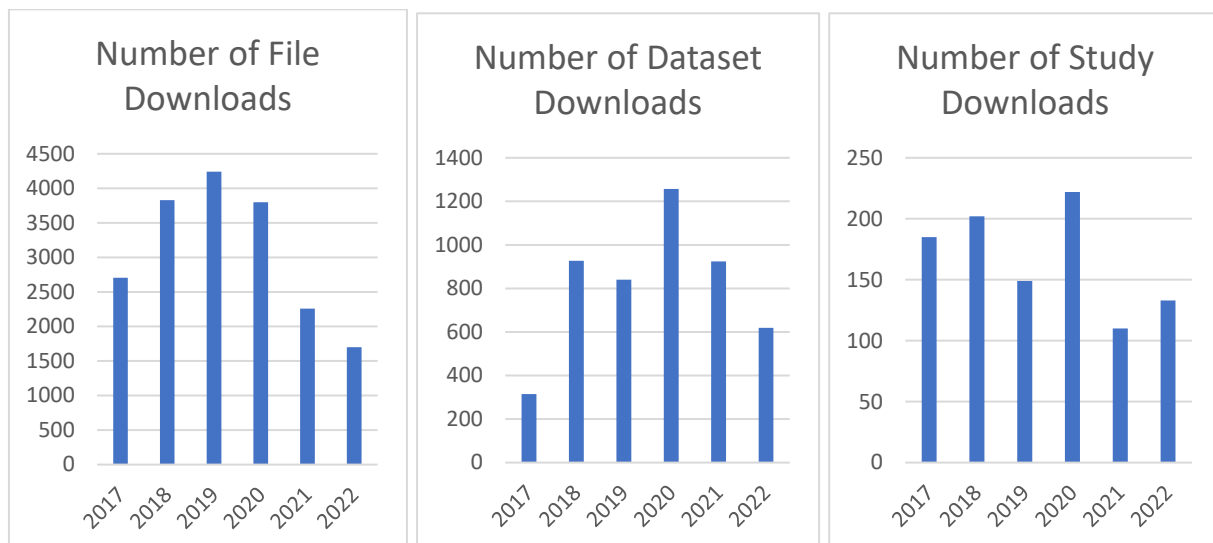


Figure 1: Numbers Downloads 2017-2022

¹ Data source: “User Statistics” utilization report from ICPSR. Each user may download a study or dataset more than once, but only one download of each study or dataset is counted per user.

III. User Statistics by Role

Figure 2 shows the number of University members who downloaded data from ICPSR. The highest total users was 58 in 2017, and the lowest was 45 in 2020. The average over these six years is 52 users.

Graduate students are the most active group in accessing data through ICPSR. The highest user percentage for graduate students was 66% in 2017. In 2022, graduate students accounted for 43% of users.

Undergraduate usage has been relatively steady over the past 5 years, although it did drop to 0% in 2020. Excluding 2020, undergraduate usage has been between 9% to 12% each year.

Usage by staff continued to account for a lower percentage of overall usage by University members in 2022 at 9%. Faculty member usage has risen in the past 2 years, up from a high of 27% in 2020 to 37% in 2021 and 35% in 2022.

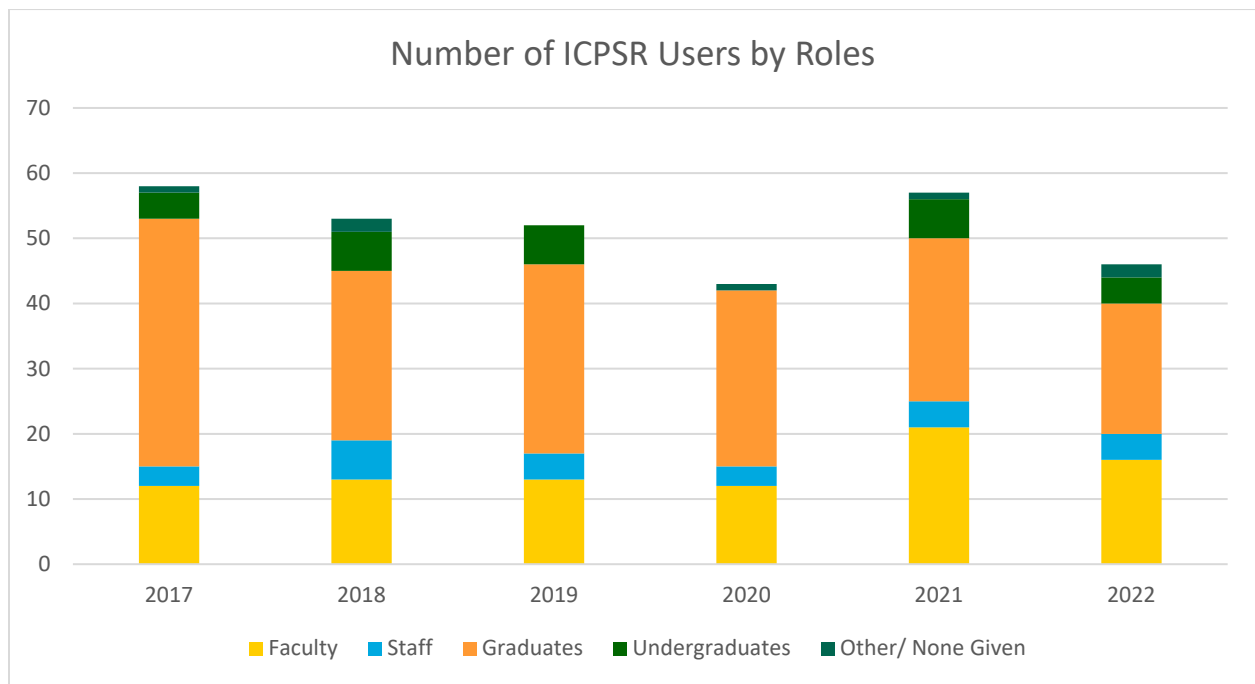


Figure 2: Number of ICPSR Users by Roles, 2017 - 2022

IV. User statistics by Department

Table 1 presents a breakdown of the number of ICPSR users by department. Across six years, the Departments of Political Science, Sociology, and Education consistently had high numbers of ICPSR users. In 2022, Political Science had the highest number of ICPSR users with 10. Public Health has seen a steady amount of users over the last 6 years and had the second highest user total in 2022.

Department	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Business Administration	0	1	0	5	2	2	10
Communication/Journalism	2	1	1	0	0	0	4
Computer Science	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Criminal Justice	0	2	3	1	2	1	9
Demography	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Economics	4	2	0	2	3	2	13
Education	8	11	5	3	11	4	42
Engineering	1	1	0	1	0	0	3
Environment	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Geography	0	1	1	0	1	2	5
History	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Humanities	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Law/Legal Services	0	1	1	0	0	2	4
Library/Information Science	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Medicine/Dentistry	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
None given	1	0	0	3	1	1	6
Nursing	0	0	0	1	1	2	4
Other	0	0	1	1	0	2	4
Political Science	11	8	6	7	11	10	53
Psychology	2	4	3	2	3	1	15
Public Administration	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
Public Health	7	6	7	5	5	6	36
Public Policy	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Research	1	2	1	0	1	2	7
Social Science	4	3	5	1	2	2	17
Social work	1	0	1	0	2	0	4
Sociology	11	7	11	8	7	3	47
Statistics	0	2	1	0	3	1	7
Urban Planning	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	58	53	52	45	57	46	311

Table 1: ICPSR Users by Department, 2017 – 2022

V. Participation in ICPSR Summer Program

Figure 3 shows the number of University members who participated in the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research.²

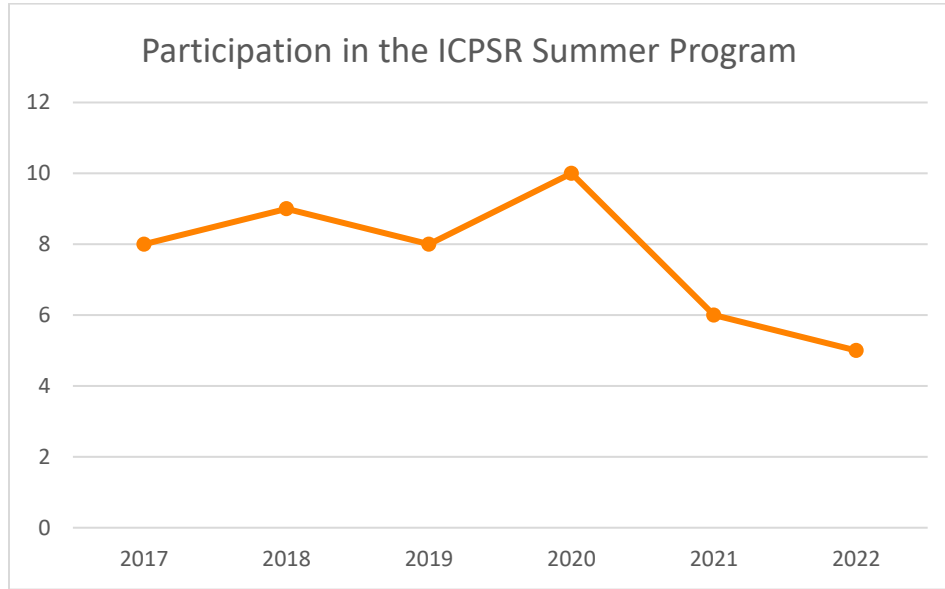


Figure 3: Number of ICPSR Summer Program Participants, 2017 - 202

Table 2 presents a breakdown of the number of participants by department. Across six years, the Department of Political Science consistently had the highest number of participants, with 5 in both 2017 and 2018. The participant spread by department has improved since 2019, with 5 or more different departments participating each year. The summer program was remote in 2020 and 2021, and hybrid in 2022. In 2022, 4 participants completed workshops in the virtual mode and 1 attended in-person. The 2023 program will be hybrid as well.

Department	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Community and Behavioral Health	0	0	0	1	2	1	4
Educational Policy and Leadership Studies	1	2	2	0	1	1	7
Engineering	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Geographical & Sustainability Sciences	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Journalism and Mass Communications	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Nursing	0	0	0	2	1	0	1
Political Science	5	5	2	2	1	1	16
Public Policy Center	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Rehabilitation and Counselor Education	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Social Work	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
Sociology	1	1	1	0	1	1	5
Total	8	9	8	9	6	5	44

Table 2: Participants of the ICPSR Summer Program by Department, 2017 - 2022

² Data source: “Summer Program Participation” utilization report from ICPSR.

VI. Membership Fee and Benefits

The University's membership in ICPSR costs \$20,475 and covers the period of July 1st, 2023 through June 30th, 2024. This membership fee has been shared by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Public Policy Center, and the University Libraries.

A major benefit of a membership in ICPSR is full access to datasets that are curated by ICPSR professionals. These datasets are well-documented, cleaned, and researched for past publications, in order to assist researchers in their analyses and interpretations of results. The cost to non-members is \$550 per dataset. In 2019, University of Iowa researchers downloaded over 1000 datasets. Of those, 693 were members-only datasets, saving approximately \$346,500.

Additionally, individuals from member institutions receive tuition discounts to attend the ICPSR Summer Program. The discounts range from \$1,300 to \$1,500 for the three- to five-day statistical workshops, and \$2,300 to \$4,000 for the four-week sessions. Academic departments that sent four or more participants within the same year were also eligible to receive group discounts, ranging from 10% to 20% of the total registration fees. From 2017 to 2022 the University had 44 Summer Program participants, saving at least \$57,000 for participants³.

Other benefits of an ICPSR membership include teaching resources, free data deposits to ICPSR's public data access collection, and support in data management plan and budget estimate for grant proposals.

³ The savings calculation was done by using the lowest discount for all participants, \$1,300. This is the discount for a 20 hour short workshop. The discount is larger for the longer programs - \$1500 for a 40 hour short workshop, between \$2300 and \$2500 for one three-week session, and between \$3500 and \$4000 for both three-week sessions.