



Introduction to the NCES Distance Learning Dataset Training System

Module Objectives

- Describe the goals of the Distance Learning Dataset Training (DLDT) System of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
- Describe the features of the DLDT system
- Describe the content of the DLDT system
- Define the target audience for the DLDT system

Overview of [NCES](#)

- NCES is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education
- Since its inception, NCES has been committed to documenting its statistical methods and making data accessible to its customers
- NCES is committed to providing high quality data about education to policymakers, researchers, and the general public
- The DLDT continues this commitment by helping researchers obtain the information they need to conduct research using NCES data

DLDT Characteristics

A flexible training system that gives users access to information they most need to meet their personal research goals and objectives at their own pace

Instruction in properly using NCES public- and restricted-use datasets

General information about NCES and its research methods, as well as specific information about several of the NCES surveys

Information about using NCES datasets and analyzing the datasets appropriately

Using the DLDT

- The DLDT is designed to allow you to access the modules in any order
- Some of the information in later modules builds on information presented in previous modules
 - If you have experience analyzing complex sample survey data you may want to proceed directly into a set of survey-specific training modules
 - If you are not sure that a particular NCES survey can meet your needs, or if you need to determine which survey-specific modules will be most helpful, we recommend investigating the common modules, which introduce the NCES datasets
 - Researchers who are proficient with basic data analysis are likely to benefit most from the DLDT
- The DLDT is structured to help you identify a dataset to explore research questions and test hypotheses
- Note: The DLDT has not been designed to teach basic statistics or how to use statistical software packages to analyze data

Features of the DLDT System

- Modules will open in a new window
- Use the control buttons on the bottom of the screen
- Click on the “Help” button to learn how to navigate within the DLDT
- Links will take you to other DLDT modules or external web pages that open in a new browser tab or window
- Each module contains links to the transcript, slides, and DLDT glossary
- When you exit a module you will return to the landing page



Two Types of NCES DLDT Modules

Common Modules

- Provide an understanding of NCES data across the education spectrum
- Discuss the methods NCES uses to ensure that the data collected, and the published data products and reports, are consistent, reliable, complete, and accurate
- Explain how to access public- and restricted-use datasets

Survey-specific Modules

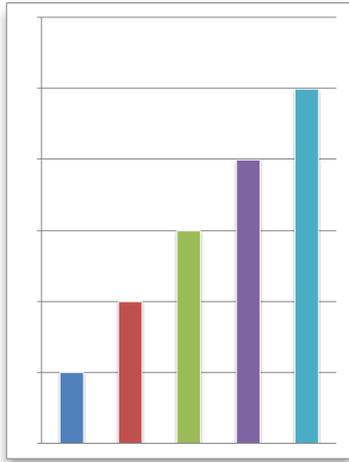
- Present more detailed information about the specific surveys and programs conducted by NCES, including
 - Assessments
 - Early Childhood
 - Elementary/Secondary
 - Postsecondary
 - International
 - Administrative Data

Content of the DLDT System

- The DLDT system is a multi-year effort that will make training available to a large audience
- The following NCES complex sample survey datasets are available within the DLDT



DLDT Analyzing an NCES Micro-level Dataset



- The NCES DLDT is structured to help you acquire a needed dataset in order to explore research questions and test hypotheses
- Researchers who are proficient with data analysis can benefit most from the DLDT; it will build on your knowledge to help you access and use NCES public- or restricted-use data files
- If you have experience working with data using an appropriate statistical package, and you have used NCES products and publications for specific NCES datasets, the DLDT is for you

Module Summary and Resources

Summary

- Described the goals of the Distance Learning Dataset Training (DLDT) System of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
- Described the features of the DLDT system
- Described the content of the DLDT system
- Defined the target audience for the DLDT system

Resources

- Download the Transcript and Module Slides by clicking Resources
- [NCES homepage](#)