

Research FAQ

Q: What public data products are available for researchers?

A: [Public-Release Research Dataset \(RDS\)](#): annual, **de-identified** dataset (request via [NEMESIS Help Desk](#)).

A: **Public Reports** ([dashboards](#) & [EMS Data Cube](#)): interactive analyses; cube supports export and MDX copy for reproducibility.

Q: Is an MOU required to access the public RDS? Do I need IRB?

A: For the **Public-Release (de-identified) dataset**, access is typically granted via the **application and terms** in the [User Manual](#)/Help Desk—**no institutional MOU** is usually required, and **IRB is generally not required** for de-identified public data (confirm with your institution). Restricted/limited-use data may involve additional agreements.

Q: How is the dataset delivered?

A: **Download link only** (time-limited). The RDS User Manual provides terms, and the Help Desk portal is where you request access; ensure local systems have adequate RAM/Storage given dataset sizes.

Q: Can I get a sample extract first?

A: NEMESIS does not typically distribute sample data from the public dataset. Use the [Public EMS Data Cube](#) and the current [RDS User Manual](#) to review structure and variables. You can also access the [subset datasets](#).

Q: Can I request multiple years at once?

A: TAC policy and IRB requirements limit to **one year initially** (ensure you can ingest/use the data), with **additional years** available on request via your Help Desk ticket.

Q: Typical review timelines?

A: Requests for the public dataset are often **reviewed quickly**, typically within 24 to 48 hours of submission. Custom/tabular requests will take longer.

Q: What geographic variables are available?

A: The public dataset includes Census Region, Census Division, NASEMSO Region, and Urbanicity, and **de-identified geographic fields** (e.g., masked state/county/ZIP). Researchers can request **masked**



versions of the de-identified geographic variables to support stratification at the state/county/ZIP levels, while preserving de-identification.

Q: Can I request a subset of tables to simplify ingestion?

A: Yes, but **custom extractions** take additional time because they require extra development beyond the standard annual release dataset.

Q: Can external data be merged/joined to the annual research dataset?

A: Yes. However, due to the de-identification nature of the dataset, merging of external data is typically performed by the NEMESIS TAC. This is to ensure de-identification is maintained in accordance with the IRB and DUAs.

Q: Why do totals sometimes change between my cube query and the RDS?

A: The **RDS is a static annual snapshot**; the **cube/dashboards are refreshed weekly** and may include later-arriving historical records—so totals can differ.

Q: Why should I use rates instead of counts for trends?

A: Participation and volume vary by year and jurisdiction, so **rates** reduce bias due to changing coverage. (NEMESIS is not population-based; participation changes over time.)

Q: Can I reproduce a table later?

A: Yes. In the cube, copy the **MDX** query (Tool Bar) and re-run it; exports are **static**—download a new export after each refresh.

Q: v2 vs v3 research notes & translations?

A: v2 public releases cover earlier years; **v3 (2017-present)** is current. See the **v3.5.0/v3.5.1 dictionaries**, change logs, and mapping/translation resources on [NEMESIS.org](https://www.NEMESIS.org).