

Information on Data.Gov: Data in the Open Government Environment

August 5, 2010

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The Memorandum

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 21, 2009

January 21, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Transparency and Open Government

My Administration is committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in Government. We will work together to ensure the public trust and establish a system of transparency, public participation, and collaboration. Openness will strengthen our democracy and promote efficiency and effectiveness in Government.

Government should be transparent. Transparency promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what their Government is doing. Information maintained by the Federal Government is a national asset. My Administration will take appropriate action, consistent with law and policy, to disclose information rapidly in forms that the public can readily find and use. Executive departments and agencies should harness new technologies to put information about their operations and decisions online and readily available to the public. Executive departments and agencies should also solicit public feedback to identify information of greatest use to the public.

Government should be participatory. Public engagement enhances the Government's effectiveness and improves the quality of its decisions. Knowledge is widely dispersed in society, and public officials benefit from having access to that dispersed knowledge. Executive departments and agencies should offer Americans increased opportunities to participate in policymaking and to provide their Government with the benefits of their collective expertise and information. Executive departments and agencies should also solicit public input on how we can increase and improve opportunities for public participation in Government.



Principles of
Open
Government



Transparency



Collaboration



Participation

The Directive

Publish Government Information Online

Improve the quality of the Information

Implement the Culture of Open Government

Create Open Government Policy Framework

Create Open Government Plan




THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

December 8, 2009

M-10-06

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Peter R. Orszag 
Director

SUBJECT: Open Government Directive

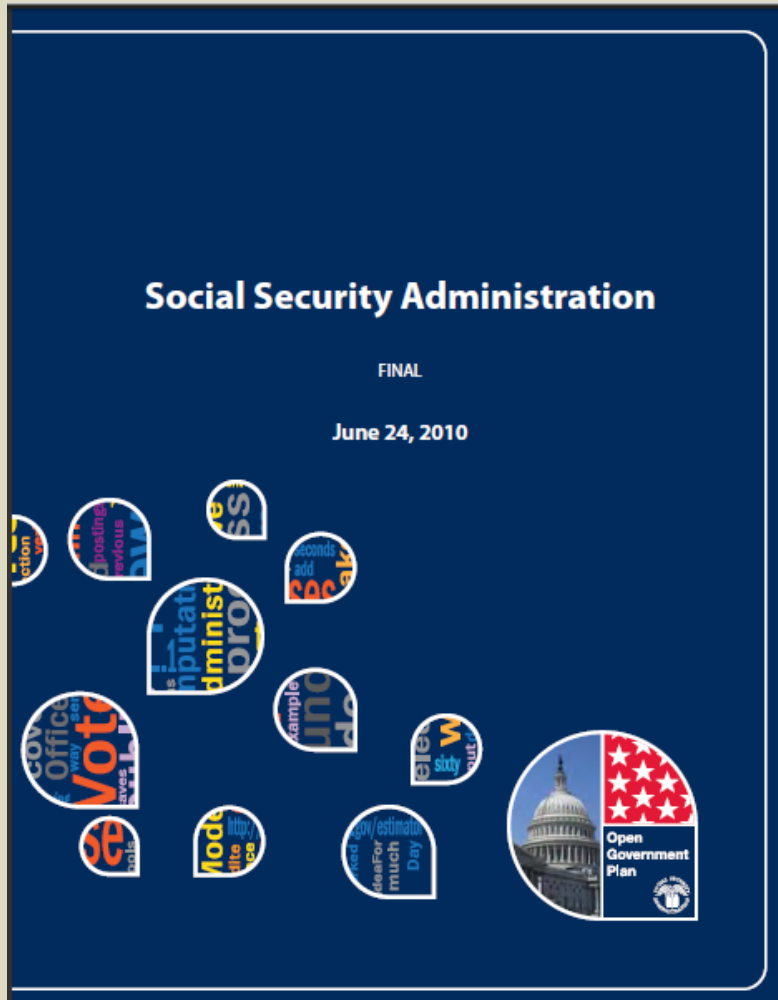
In the Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government, issued on January 21, 2009, the President instructed the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue an Open Government Directive. Responding to that instruction, this memorandum is intended to direct executive departments and agencies to take specific actions to implement the principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration set forth in the President's Memorandum. This Directive was informed by recommendations from the Federal Chief Technology Officer, who solicited public comment through the White House Open Government Initiative.

The three principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration form the cornerstone of an open government. Transparency promotes accountability by providing the public with information about what the Government is doing. Participation allows members of the public to contribute ideas and expertise so that their government can make policies with the benefit of information that is widely dispersed in society. Collaboration improves the effectiveness of Government by encouraging partnerships and cooperation within the Federal Government, across levels of government, and between the Government and private institutions.

This Open Government Directive establishes deadlines for action. But because of the presumption of openness that the President has endorsed, agencies are encouraged to advance their open government initiatives well ahead of those deadlines. In addition to the steps delineated in this memorandum, Attorney General Eric Holder earlier this year issued new guidelines¹ for agencies with regard to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). With those guidelines, the Attorney General reinforced the principle that openness is the Federal Government's default position for FOIA issues.

¹ <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/foia-memo-march2009.pdf>

The Plan



- ▶ Final Plan published June 25, 2010
- ▶ Comments received and considered from employees and public

Principles

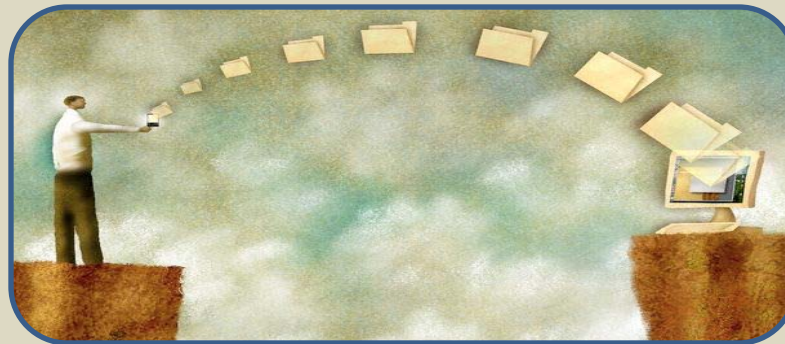
*Transparency

- ▶ Conduct inventory & evaluate our processes for release of data to the public
- ▶ Release data in an appropriate, useful format
- ▶ Submit datasets to Federal Government repository
- ▶ Continue to vigilantly protect personal information.



Goal 1: Increase Transparency

Objective 1: provide public with high value info to generate ideas for improving our programs & services



- ▶ evaluate processes to ensure info/data we release is clear, accurate, machine readable, appropriate
- ▶ expand Disclosure Review Boards
- ▶ establish action plan to update/release data
- ▶ review publicly available info
- ▶ explore use of social media to improve transparency

Goal 1: Increase Transparency

Objective 2: provide information to the public.



- ▶ inform key audiences
- ▶ collect feedback from stakeholders on our current high value releases to help identify future releases

Social Security on Data.Gov

The screenshot shows the Data.gov website interface. At the top, it says "An Official Web Site of the United States Government" and "Wednesday, July 21, 2010". The Data.gov logo is prominent, with the tagline "EMPOWERING PEOPLE". A search bar is located at the top right. Below the navigation menu, the "Data.gov Catalogs" section is visible, with tabs for "RAW" DATA CATALOG, TOOL CATALOG, and GEODATA CATALOG. The "RAW" DATA CATALOG is selected. The search results section shows a search for "raw" data by keywords, file type, category, and agency. The "Social Security Administration (SSA)" is selected under the agency filter. The results table shows one record: "Benefits Data from the Benefits and Earnings Public Use File, 2004". This record has a rating of 4 stars (16 votes), is from the SSA, and is available in CSV (5MB) and RDF (18MB) formats.

Page 1 of 1 (22 records) Results per page: 25 | 50 | 100

Name (click for metadata and to rate dataset)	Rating	Agency	XML	CSV/TXT	KML/KMZ	Shapefile	RDF	Other
Benefits Data from the Benefits and Earnings Public Use File, 2004 <small>This file contains Benefits data and is part of a set of two separate but associated subfiles, one with Social Security benefit information and the other with</small>	★★★★☆ (16 votes)	SSA		CSV 5MB			RDF 18 MB	

▶ 22 Datasets published so far to [Data.Gov](https://data.gov)

▶ [Public Data Explorer](#)

SOCIAL SECURITY'S 22 DATA SETS

- Benefits Data from the Benefits and Earnings Public Use File, 2004
- Earnings Data from the Benefits and Earnings Public-Use File, 2004
- 2009 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Annual Report
- ALJ Disposition Data
- Hearing Office Dispositions Per ALJ Per Day Rate Ranking Report
- Hearings Held In-Person or Via Video Conferencing
- Hearing Office Average Processing Time Ranking Report
- Hearing Office Workload Data
- National Beneficiary Survey (NBS) Round 3
- NETSTAT Report
- National Beneficiary Survey (NBS) Round 2
- Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) Public-Use Microdata File, 2001 Data
- National Beneficiary Survey (NBS) Round 1
- Supplemental Security Income Public-Use Microdata File, 2001 Data
- SSA State Agency Workload Data
- SSA Disability Claim Data
- 2008 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Annual Report
- Table 11 Average Monthly Payments for Federally Administered SSI Payments, by State or Other Area, Eligibility, Category, and Age, December 2008 (in dollars)
- Table 5 Federally Administered SSI Federally Administered SSI Payments, by State or Other Area, Eligibility Category, and Age, December 2008
- Table 10 Federally Administered SSI Payments by Type of Payment, Sex, Eligibility Category, and Age, December 2008
- Table 2 Average Monthly Social Security Benefits of Disabled Beneficiaries and Nondisabled Dependents by Basis of Entitlement, Age, and Sex, December 2008
- Table 27 Number of Disabled Workers Receiving Social Security Benefits by Sex, State or Other Area, and age, December 2008

OLD AGE, SURVIVORS, AND DISABILITY INSURANCE DATASET

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION



This is an *example* of data and information available on



ID	Sex	Year of birth	Year of current entitlement	Primary insurance amount
1	Female	1939	2007	940
2	Male	1926	1988	1235
3	Female	1947	1997	485
4	Male	1934	1999	1310
5	Male	1936	2001	530

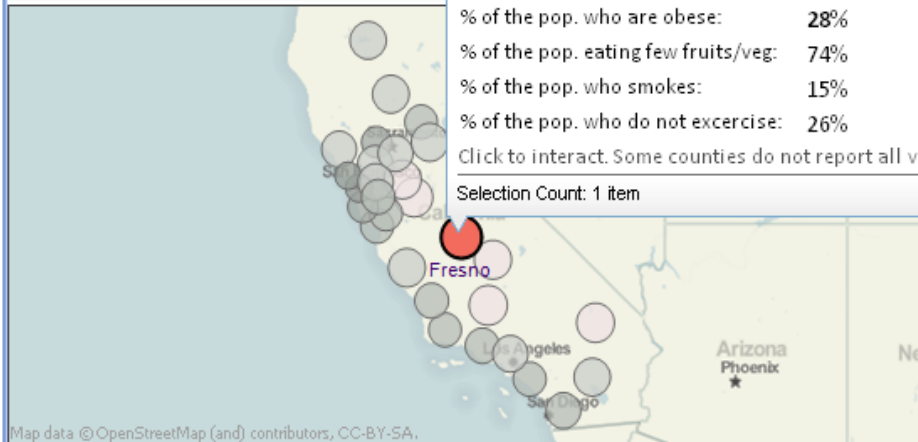
Data Dictionary and Field Descriptors

- YEAR OF BIRTH OF BENEFICIARY
- SEX OF BENEFICIARY
- YEAR OF CURRENT ENTITLEMENT
- TYPE OF BENEFIT
- PRIMARY INSURANCE AMOUNT
- TYPE OF PIA
- MONTHLY BENEFIT CREDITED
- BENEFIT REDUCTION BASED ON AGE OF BENEFICIARY
- BENEFIT REDUCTION FOR AGE OF DECEASED SPOUSE
- DELAYED RETIREMENT INDICATOR
- DUAL ENTITLEMENT INDICATOR
- DUAL ENTITLEMENT TO OTHER PROGRAM
- OTHER TYPE OF BENEFIT
- DUAL ENTITLEMENT BENEFICIARY INDICATOR
- LARGER EXCESS MONTHLY BENEFIT AMOUNT
- SMALLER ACTUARIALLY REDUCED MONTHLY BENEFIT AMOUNT

WHAT PEOPLE ARE DOING WITH DATA

National obesity comparison tool

Obesity by county



Fresno County California

% of the pop. who are obese: **28%**
% of the pop. eating few fruits/veg: **74%**
% of the pop. who smokes: **15%**
% of the pop. who do not exercise: **26%**

Click to interact. Some counties do not report all values.

Selection Count: 1 item

Select a state*:

California

Obesity (% of pop)

3%

10%

20%

30%

40%

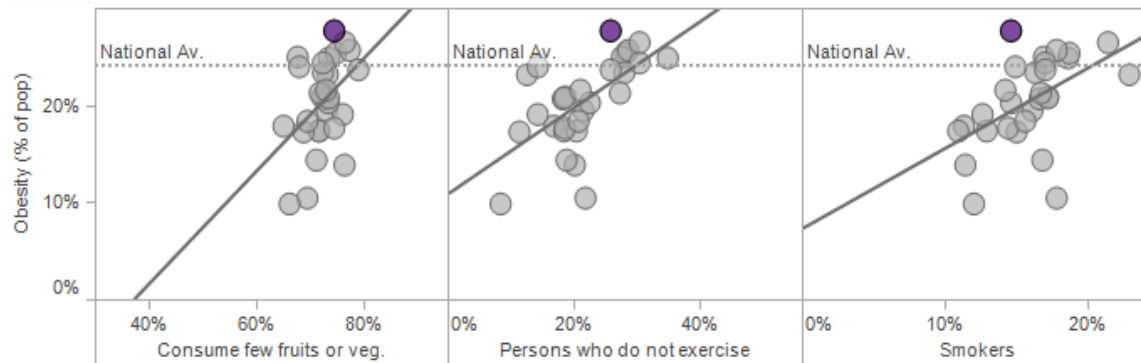
Obesity (% of pop)

9%

40%

*Alaska and DC have no values for obesity and are thus excluded. Certain counties are also excluded for the same reason.

Select point(s) to view details in chart below:



**Suggested datasets may be
made directly to Data.gov**

and

Contact Me Regarding:

-SSA Datasets

-Your Ideas for Use

-Further Information

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