Data Product Grading Rubric
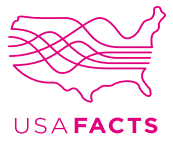
USA FACTS

Data accessibility

Offers data formats that are easy to download and interact with, and includes clear descriptions that orient the user to the data product and collection program.

Can you use filters or similar tools in a dashboard, viewer, or other interactive environment to look at pieces of, rather than the whole, dataset?

Is there a landing page with information about the data product that is clearly linked from the data product?

Is the writing on the data landing page "clear, simple, meaningful, and jargon-free?"

Is the data available for download in rows and columns (e.g., .csv, .xlsx)?

Is API access to the data available and clearly indicated on the data product or landing page?

Is an FTP site available to support bulk downloads and clearly indicated on the data product or landing page?

Helpfulness to the user

Provides features that meet common user needs.

Are variable definitions provided via codebook, data dictionary, glossary, or key terms list?

Are variable definitions clearly linked or displayed?

Does the data product address uncertainty through statistical methods or discussion?

Are popular or useful cross-sections, takeaways, or views of the data provided?

Are there accompanying reports that include relevant data tables?

Is a point of contact provided?

Is a suggested citation provided?

Interoperability

Includes metadata and variables that are both human-understandable and machine-readable to facilitate integration with other data sources.

Is the methodology provided?

Is the methodology clearly linked or displayed?

Is other metadata (i.e., anything that helps with interpretation and interoperability of the data, like an FAQ or crosswalk table) provided and clearly linked or displayed?

Are variable names both short and meaningful (to facilitate quick scanning and human readability)?

Are variable names free of special characters (anything besides underscores; e.g., $, ~, *) to facilitate machine readability?

Timeliness of data

Appropriately notes and discusses the temporal characteristics of the data and timelines of the data collection program.

Is the update or publication cadence posted?

Is the publication date or date of last update posted?

Is the amount of historical data available explained?

Is the appropriateness of comparing data over time discussed? Check the box if not applicable (e.g., if the data represent a snapshot in time, if the comparison is provided for the user, or if comparability is otherwise not a concern).