



PLS State Profiles

FISCAL YEAR 2016



Caveats for Data Use

State profile data include libraries that, in FY 2016, met the definition of a public library developed by the Federal and State Cooperative System (FSCS). Libraries that did not meet this definition are excluded.

Data comparisons between states should be made with caution because of differences in reporting periods and adherence to survey definitions. The definitions used by some states in collecting data from their public libraries may not be consistent with the PLS definitions.

The District of Columbia, although not a state, is included in these profiles. Special care should be used in comparing data for a city to those for a state. Caution also should be used in comparing Hawaii's data to those of other states because all public library data in Hawaii are reported under one entity, the Hawaii State Public Library System.

"Number of Public Library Systems" refers to the number of administrative entities in a state.

"Number of Public Library Branches and Bookmobiles" refers to the number of public library *outlets*. An outlet is a public library, such as a central library, branch library, bookmobile, or books-by-mail that is attached to an administrative entity.

"Population Served" is sum of the population of legal service areas for each public library in the state that meets the FSCS definition. The total population of legal service area for all public libraries in a state may exceed the state's total unduplicated population of legal service areas or the state total population estimate.

"Number of Full-Time Equivalent Librarians" is a subset of "Number of Full-Time Equivalent Staff." Numbers shown are rounded FTEs.

The locale code system, developed by NCES, classifies a territory into four major categories: city, suburb, town, and rural. Percentage of outlets by locale may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Other operating expenditures includes all expenditures other than those reported for total staff expenditures and total collection expenditures. This may include expenses such as binding, supplies, repair or replacement of existing furnishings and equipment, and costs of computer hardware and software used to support library operations or to link to external networks, including the Internet.

Estimates for total collection materials exclude libraries missing data for books, e-books, or downloadable audio or downloadable video materials.

All financial data are in constant FY 2016 dollars. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (www.bea.gov) does not provide margins of error associated with these estimates. Readers should take this into consideration when comparing data across years.

Per person, per 1,000 people, per 5,000 people, and per 25,000 people estimates are based on the unduplicated population of the legal service area. State-reported population data may derive from the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov/acs) do not provide margins of error associated with their estimates. Readers should take this into consideration when comparing data across years.