The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy includes the departments of Public Health, Social Sciences, and Sociology, as well as Political Science, Economic, Urban and Regional Planning and Public Administration and Policy. Although the college’s current big data footprint is not large, there is great interest among the faculty and College leadership in expanding the resources and capabilities. Faculty in COSPP are actively engaged in health data analysis related to population health, health policy and evidence based policy.

The expertise of key faculty, the relevant centers and institutes and public health program located within the school, and the health policy population and geographic data and resources housed in the College place it in an ideal position to greatly expand its data analytic capacities and resources.

The College hosts a number of centers and institutes that continually contribute to research and academic training, including the Center for Demography and Population Health http://popcenter.fsu.edu/ which coordinates population research across FSU; and the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy which serves as coordinator and facilitator for the multidisciplinary work in aging studies at FSU. The departments of Economics and Political Science have formed the Experimental Social Science Research Group (XS/FS), one of the nation’s premier programs in experimental methods. XF/FS has been awarded a competitive hiring initiative grant from Pathways of Excellence, which identifies interdisciplinary clusters of faculty that will generate more federal contracts and grants, increase scholarly output, and produce more doctoral students.

The college’s current server infrastructure can be expanded to provide large data storage and serve as repository for big datasets. The college’s IT platform has been built over the years with an instructional and research mission and has not evolved into an enterprise resource for massive multi-variate analysis that would be associated with “Big Data” analytics. Current projects of note include management of proprietary databases for the university that are limited access for privacy reasons. The most prominent of these is the Ad Health data set accessed via the Carolina Population Center (http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth) and access to a number of geospatial data sets through purchase of FSU’s ESRI master site license that supports Geographic Information Systems education and research.

Our School’s future interests in the area of health science big data include big data governance and policy, serving as the data repository and analysis resource for Florida state government and local governments, text and data mining on clinical, behavioral, political, economic spatial and social health data, and education and training in data analytics in these areas.