

Source	Method	Target Population	Limitations	Reported Postdoc Number
SED ² (Survey of Earned Doctorates)	Annual census	Individuals receiving Ph.D. from U.S. academic institution	Omits foreign-trained doctorates and the ~50% of survey participants without definite postgraduation commitments at time of survey; only covers incoming population for given year	9,635 <i>(2013)</i> ³ ; 9,418 <i>(2014)</i> ⁴ 9,812 <i>(2015)</i> ⁵
SDR ⁶ (Survey of Doctorate Recipients)	Longitudinal biennial survey (sample, not census)	Individuals with Ph.D. in SEH fields from U.S. academic institution	Omits foreign-trained doctorates, those in non-SEH (Science, Engineering, Health) fields	27,100 <i>(2013)</i> ⁷
GSS ⁸ (Graduate Student Survey)	Annual census	U.S. institutions ⁹ , federal labs ¹⁰ SEH grad degree-conferring depts	Based on institutional data; omits non-SEH fields, academic departments that lack graduate programs, industry & government	61,942 <i>(2013)</i> ¹¹
HERD ¹² (Higher Ed Research & Development Survey)	Annual survey of institutions	U.S. institutions that spend at least \$150,000 per year on R & D	Based on institutional data ¹³ ; limited to R & D personnel; omits industry & government	66,363 <i>(2013)</i> ¹⁴
NPA Institutional Policy Report	Survey of postdoc officers	167 sustaining ¹⁵ member institutions of NPA	Based on institutional data (often estimates)	79,000 <i>(2013)</i>
ECD ¹⁶ (Early Career Doctorates Project)	Survey (sample, not census)	Doctorate recipients within past 10 years (both U.S. and foreign-trained)	Still in pilot stage	N/A