



Accessing Data

November 12, 2025



Land Acknowledgement

Housekeeping



Please mute your microphone



Recording in progress



Closed Captioning



Type questions in chat
Include your name, *if you'd like to ask yourself*



Accessing Data at Health Data Nova Scotia (HDNS)

Presented by: Katelyn Frizzell



About HDNS



- An agent of the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness (DHW)
- Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, Dalhousie University
- Partnered with the Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit (MSSU)
- HDRN Canada member organization
- Facilitate research and innovation
 - linking data
 - performing analyses
 - secure environment
 - protecting privacy and confidentiality



Who are we?

HDNS Team



Dr. Samuel Stewart, PhD
Director, HDNS

Lindsay Stewart, MSc
Manager, HDNS

Sandra Pauls, DipBA
Regulatory Compliance and Finance
Administrator

Katelyn Frizzell, MSc
Data Navigation Manager

Yoko Ishigami-Doyle, PhD
Research Analyst/Documentation Specialist

Lihui Liu, PhD
Senior Research Data Analyst

Yan Wang, MCS
Senior Research Data Analyst

Yves Ibeme, BAS, MTEI
Senior Research Database Administrator

Xuyuan Zhang, MPH, DSc
Research Data Analyst/Data Navigator

Consultants

Jordan Farrell, MHI -
Systems administration

Akash Rupareliya,
MACS -Website
development

Sam Tung, MPH - Data
analysis



HDNS Provincial Healthcare Utilization Databases

Medical Services Insurance (MSI) Physician Billings	CIHI Discharge Abstract Database	CIHI National Ambulatory Care Reporting System	Family/Seniors' Pharmacare	Drug Information System
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contains administrative records for each health service rendered by a physician and paid for by the provincial governmentUtilizes ICD-9 diagnostic and procedure codingIncludes approximately 35 variablesNote: A separate database containing records on dental services covered by MSI is also available at HDNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contains information on each hospital admission recorded in a Nova Scotia hospitalIncludes inpatient servicesIncludes diagnoses and procedures performed, types of services, and service transfersUtilizes ICD-9 coding prior to March 31, 2001, and utilizes ICD-10 coding from April 1, 2001 onward for diagnoses and proceduresIncludes approximately 600 variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contains information on all types of ambulatory care including day surgery, outpatient and community-based clinics and emergency departmentsIncludes diagnoses and procedures performed, types of services, service transfers and specialty of service providerIncludes approximately 410 variablesNote: Level of reporting varies based on the facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contains information on prescriptions paid through provincial prescription drug programming (e.g., Seniors' Pharmacare)Utilizes the WHO, Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) classification system and the Drug Identification Number to categorize drugsQuantity of drug dispensed (dosage)Includes approximately 30 variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contains information on all prescriptions filled in a community pharmacy in Nova ScotiaContains prescription dates, drug codes, drug strength, drug type, quantity, length of prescription, etc.Utilizes the Drug Identification Number to identify specific drugsNote: Drug information is not available from hospital pharmacies or other institutions not serviced by community pharmacies

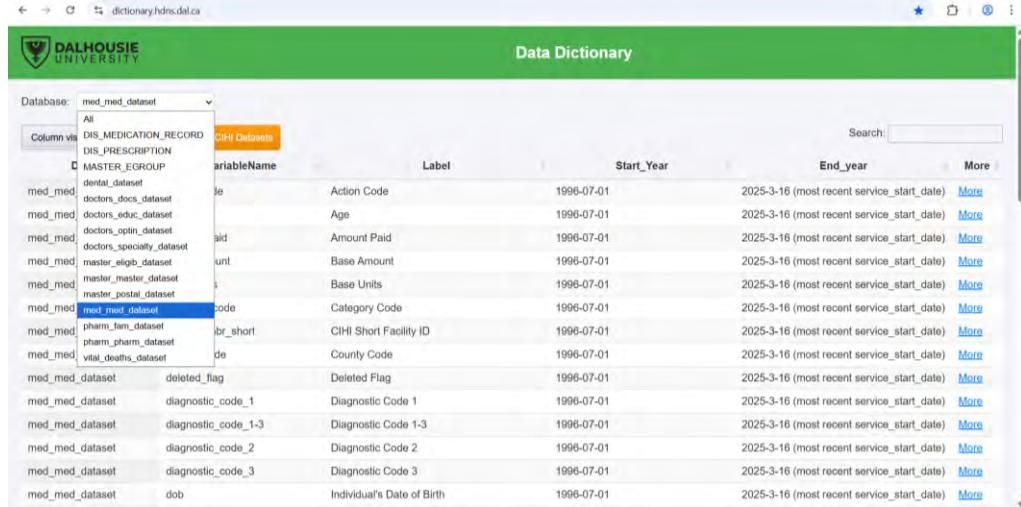


HDNS Provincial Population-Based Databases

Insured Patient Registry	Licensed Provider Registry	Vital Statistics	Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA)	Atlantic Partnership for Tomorrow's Health (PATH)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contains longitudinal information about every individual registered as a beneficiary of MSI in Nova ScotiaIncludes approximately 20 variablesNote: this database also contains a dataset on Long Term Care residency (EGROUP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contains demographic information on prescribers who are registered and licensed to practice in Nova ScotiaIncludes approximately 20 variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contains information on date and cause of death of Nova Scotia residentsUtilizes ICD-9 to identify causes of death up to Dec. 31, 1999, and utilizes ICD-10 coding from Jan. 1, 2000 onwardIncludes approximately 40 variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Large, national, long-term study, ~4,500 Nova Scotians involvedBaseline recruitment: 2010-2015. Follow-up every three years until 2033Questionnaire data on biological, medical, psychological, social, lifestyle and economic aspects of people's lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Large, national study, ~34,000 Atlantic Canadians involvedBaseline recruitment: 2009-2015, follow up: 2016-2018. Covid data: 2020-2023Questionnaire data, biological samples (blood, urine, saliva, toenails), physical measures, toenail clippings

Data Access - Where to start*

- Contact a Data Navigator
 - Consultation
 - Help with forms
- Review data availability
(<https://dictionary.hdns.dal.ca/>)



The screenshot shows a web-based Data Dictionary interface. The top navigation bar includes a Dalhousie University logo, a search bar with the URL 'dictionary.hdns.dal.ca', and various browser control buttons. The main content area is titled 'Data Dictionary'. A dropdown menu 'Database:' is set to 'med_med_dataset'. A 'Column vis' dropdown is open, showing 'All' and 'CIHI Datasets' (which is highlighted in orange). The table below lists variables with their labels, start and end years, and more details. The 'med_med_dataset' row is also highlighted in orange. The table has columns for 'variableName', 'Label', 'Start_Year', 'End_Year', and 'More'.

variableName	Label	Start_Year	End_Year	More
ac	Action Code	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More
age	Age	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More
amt	Amount Paid	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More
baseamt	Base Amount	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More
baseunits	Base Units	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More
catcode	Category Code	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More
cfid	CIHI Short Facility ID	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More
ccode	County Code	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More
df	Deleted Flag	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More
dc1	Diagnostic Code 1	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More
dc1_3	Diagnostic Code 1-3	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More
dc2	Diagnostic Code 2	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More
dc3	Diagnostic Code 3	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More
dob	Individual's Date of Birth	1996-07-01	2025-3-16 (most recent service_start_date)	More

*Process is different
for multi-regional
projects

What next?

Data Access Feasibility and Cost Estimate Request Form
(Please note there is a separate application form for the HNNS Data Access Committee approval process)

Date: _____

Full Project Title:		
Contact Information:		
Principal Investigator Name(s)	Position (please state if student)	Name of organization
Co-investigator(s)	Position (please state if student)	Name of organization
Mailing Address		

- Feasibility and Cost Estimate form
 - Submitted with a project proposal or summary
 - Senior Analyst reviews
- Apply for funding
 - or
- Move on to the next step

The Full Submission



- Data Access Committee (DAC) Submission
 - Data Access Request (DAR)
 - Full submission to DAC
 - DAR form and appendices
 - REB full submission
 - Proposal

List of Variables by Project Objective

Please complete this table as per the examples provided below. Depending on the nature of the study methods and the data being requested, it may facilitate the work of the Data Access Committee to create separate tables for specific study objectives or research questions. Alternatively, the table(s) may be completed in a separate file and attached as Appendix 4.

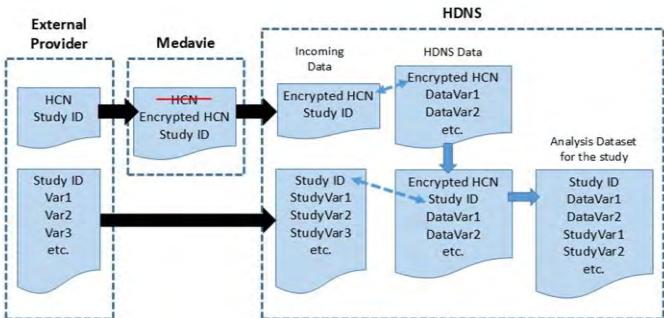
For information on HDNS datasets and variables, refer to the HDNS Data Dictionary

Objective X:

Source Dataset	Variable (identify whether HDNS or derived variable)	Level of Identification	Time Span (full date)	Why is this element required in the analysis?	Why is this level of identification required?
MASTER	e.g. Age (derived)	Age of each person >65	Apr. 1, 2003 – March 31, 2023	To calculate age-adjusted incidence rates	Categorized age variable cannot be used for calculating age adjusted incidence rates
CIHI DAD	e.g. Postal code	Urban/rural flag based on second digit of postal code	Apr. 1, 2003 – March 31, 2023	To adjust for rural residence	A flag is sufficient for adjusting for rural residency

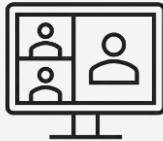
Tips for a Successful Submission

****No direct identifiers****



- Become familiar with datasets and variables
- Detailed objectives/methodology
- Common mistakes
 - Saying there are no risks involved
 - Justification for not obtaining consent
 - Variable lists
 - Describing how data will be accessed
 - Describing linkage

The HDNS Data Access Committee (DAC)



- Purpose: to review requests to conduct secondary data analysis for research or quality assessment purposes using the administrative databases held by HDNS for privacy, security, and confidentiality concerns
- Membership: reflects expertise in data management, secondary use of data, health services research methods, privacy and Patient/Public Partnership
- DAC Meeting
 - Monthly
 - Research team member attendance required
 - Project overview
 - Answer questions
 - Clarification request

What happens after the DAC meeting?



- Address DAC comments and re-submit for approval
- Sign approved DAR
- REB approval letter
- Sign
 - Confidentiality Agreements (CA)
 - Contractual Agreement for Data Access and Management (CADAM)
- HDNS Privacy Training
- CVs
- Project charter

Data Storage and Access



- Privacy training first!
- The secure data platform, Citadel, provides a data storage and analytical processing environment
- Windows front-end accessed through remote desktop connection
 - using Dalhousie NetID
 - Dalhousie VPN connection
- SAS, Stata, R Studio and Python



For more information:

Contact: kfrizzell@dal.ca

Visit: <http://medicine.dal.ca/hdns>



MSSU Presents:

Accessing Data

DataNB Presentation Outline

- Rebrand
- Data Access Request (DAR)
 - DAR Type
 - Getting Started
 - Feasibility Submissions
 - DAR Overview
 - DAR Approval Steps
- Data Transfer
 - Transfer Process
 - Agreement Types & Data Types
 - Data Holdings
- Questions & Comments
 - Socials
 - Contact Us

Rebrand: Becoming DataNB



Data Access Request (DAR) Types



DAR Types | Retrospective

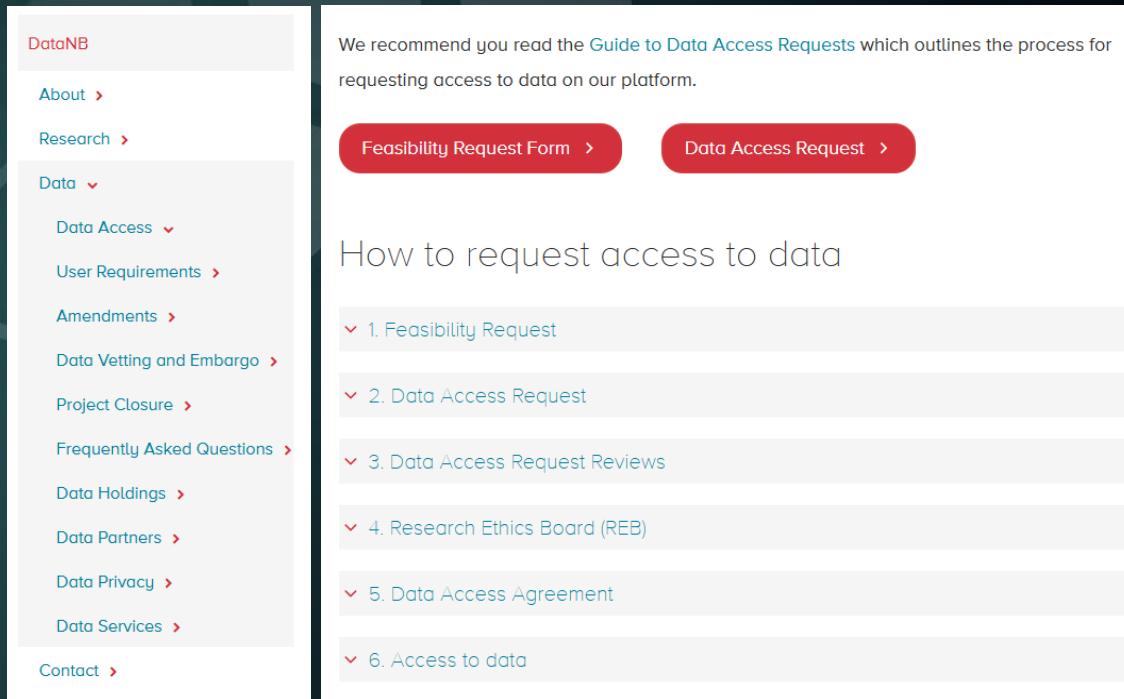
- Retrospective: leverages existing data sets to look into the past
 - E.g. Years of interest 1995-2025
- Prospective: extends into the future; amendments will be needed as new years of data are added to our platform.
 - E.g. Years of interest 2020-2035
- Successive: a series of connected projects changing one element
 - E.g. The project may ask the same research questions and use the same methodology to examine the same disease within a different county of the province

DAR Types | Multi-Phase

- Multi-Phase:
 - Phase 1 - Data Collection (qualitative)
 - Phase 2 - Data Linkage (quantitative)
- Reminder: Engage with DataNB as you are ready to begin each phase. The UNB REB office must receive a letter of recommendation from DataNB before they will approve the project.

Getting Started

<https://www.unb.ca/datanb/data/access/>



The screenshot shows the DataNB website. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with links to About, Research, Data (with sub-links for Data Access, User Requirements, Amendments, Data Vetting and Embargo, Project Closure, Frequently Asked Questions, Data Holdings, Data Partners, Data Privacy, Data Services, and Contact). The main content area has a heading 'How to request access to data' followed by a numbered list: 1. Feasibility Request, 2. Data Access Request, 3. Data Access Request Reviews, 4. Research Ethics Board (REB), 5. Data Access Agreement, and 6. Access to data. Below this list is a note: 'We recommend you read the [Guide to Data Access Requests](#) which outlines the process for requesting access to data on our platform.' Two buttons are visible: 'Feasibility Request Form' and 'Data Access Request'.

- Before a DAR is submitted, a Feasibility request must be approved.
- All project questions or correspondence should be directed to:
DAR.DataNB@unb.ca

Feasibility Submissions

Feasibility Requests

Navigation

Search document

Headings Pages Results

Instructions

Multi-Regional Study Request*

Project Title & Resource Management

- Funding*
 - Analytical Services*
 - Patient/Public Engagement*

Section 1: Safe Data*

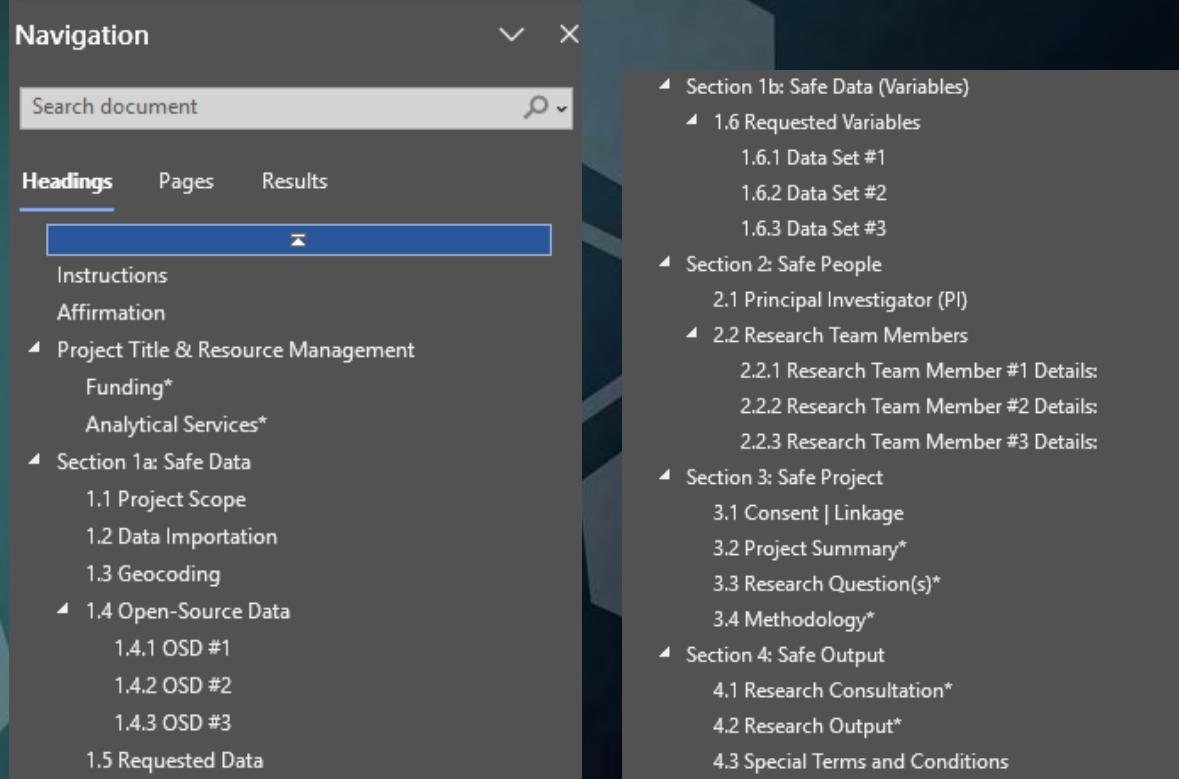
- Qualitative Data
- Platform Data
- Data Importation
- Indigenous Data*

- Section 2: Safe People
 - Principal Investigator (PI) Information*
- Section 3: Safe Project
 - Project Type*
 - Project Topic*
 - Preliminary Project Summary*
 - Preliminary Cohort Description*
- Section 4: Safe Output
 - Timelines*
 - Other

- The Five Safe Frameworks:
 - Safe Data
 - Safe People
 - Safe Projects
 - Safe Output
 - Safe Settings

DAR Overview

Data Access Requests (DAR)



The image shows a screenshot of a document titled "Data Access Requests (DAR)". The document is displayed in a dark-themed interface with a navigation sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right.

Navigation Sidebar:

- Search document
- Headings (selected)
- Pages
- Results

Main Content Area:

The main content area is a dark overlay containing the structure of the DAR document:

- Section 1b: Safe Data (Variables)
 - 1.6 Requested Variables
 - 1.6.1 Data Set #1
 - 1.6.2 Data Set #2
 - 1.6.3 Data Set #3
- Section 2: Safe People
 - 2.1 Principal Investigator (PI)
 - 2.2 Research Team Members
 - 2.2.1 Research Team Member #1 Details:
 - 2.2.2 Research Team Member #2 Details:
 - 2.2.3 Research Team Member #3 Details:
- Section 3: Safe Project
 - 3.1 Consent | Linkage
 - 3.2 Project Summary*
 - 3.3 Research Question(s)*
 - 3.4 Methodology*
- Section 4: Safe Output
 - 4.1 Research Consultation*
 - 4.2 Research Output*
 - 4.3 Special Terms and Conditions

- The Five Safe Frameworks:
 - Safe Data
 - Safe People
 - Safe Projects
 - Safe Output
 - Safe Settings

DAR Approval Steps

DAR Approval | Step 1: IR

Institute Review

Upon receipt of the DAR, an Institute Review will be scheduled by the Data Access Coordinator. Following the Institute Review, the PI is given the opportunity to edit to the DAR and/or request a meeting to discuss the results.

DAR Approval | Step 2: DRC

Data and Research Committee (DRC) Review

Scheduled by Data Access Coordinator, the PI and research team will be invited to participate in a DRC review with the Data Business Owners (DBOs). Following the DRC review, minutes are provided, and the PI is given the opportunity to make edits to the DAR.

DAR Approval | Step 3: PERC

Preliminary Ethics Review Committee (PERC)

Initiated by the Data Access Coordinator, a PERC is scheduled to ensure everything is in place for the REB review. This includes a final privacy review. The PI submits their finalized DAR and REB Application to:

DataNBdar@unb.ca

When the review concludes, the results are provided to the PI and a REB recommendation letter is prepared.

DAR Approval | Step 4: REB

UNB Research & Ethics Board (REB) Review

Upon the conclusion of the PERC, the Data Access Coordinator will send the whole REB package to the Research & Ethics Board for review on behalf of the PI.

The Chair of the REB will review and e-mail the PI with the approval decision and, if approved, will set the REB expiry date and assign a REB#.

DAR Approval | Step 5: DAA

Data Access Agreement (DAA) Review & Signing

Upon receipt of the REB approval from the REB Chair, the Data Access Coordinator confirms all Administrative Safeguards have been completed and a signed Budget letter is on file.

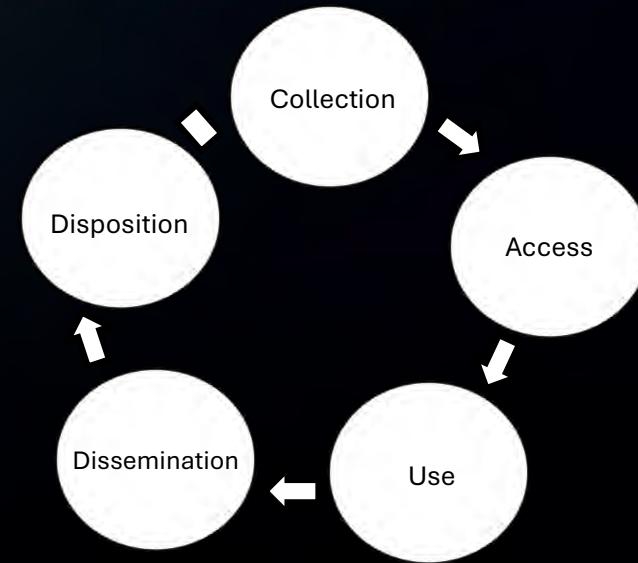
The draft Data Access Agreement is then prepared and sent to the Vice President (Research) for signature; followed by signature from the PI.

Once signed the project is active. The Data Access Coordinator will send a Welcome letter to the PI and will also make an internal request to prepare the project folder and approved user accounts.

Data Transfer



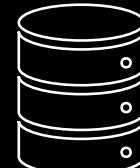
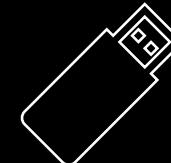
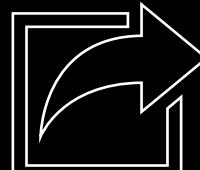
Transfer Process



**We offer support throughout
the data lifecycle.**

Transfer Process | Data Importation

- Secure transfer and storage of all data, including project specific data
- Facilitate creation of Crosswalk file
- Over 130 data sets available to link



Transfer Agreement Types & Data

Agreement Types:

- Master Data Sharing Agreement
 - + Individual Disclosure Schedule
- Data Sharing Agreement
- Information Manager Agreement

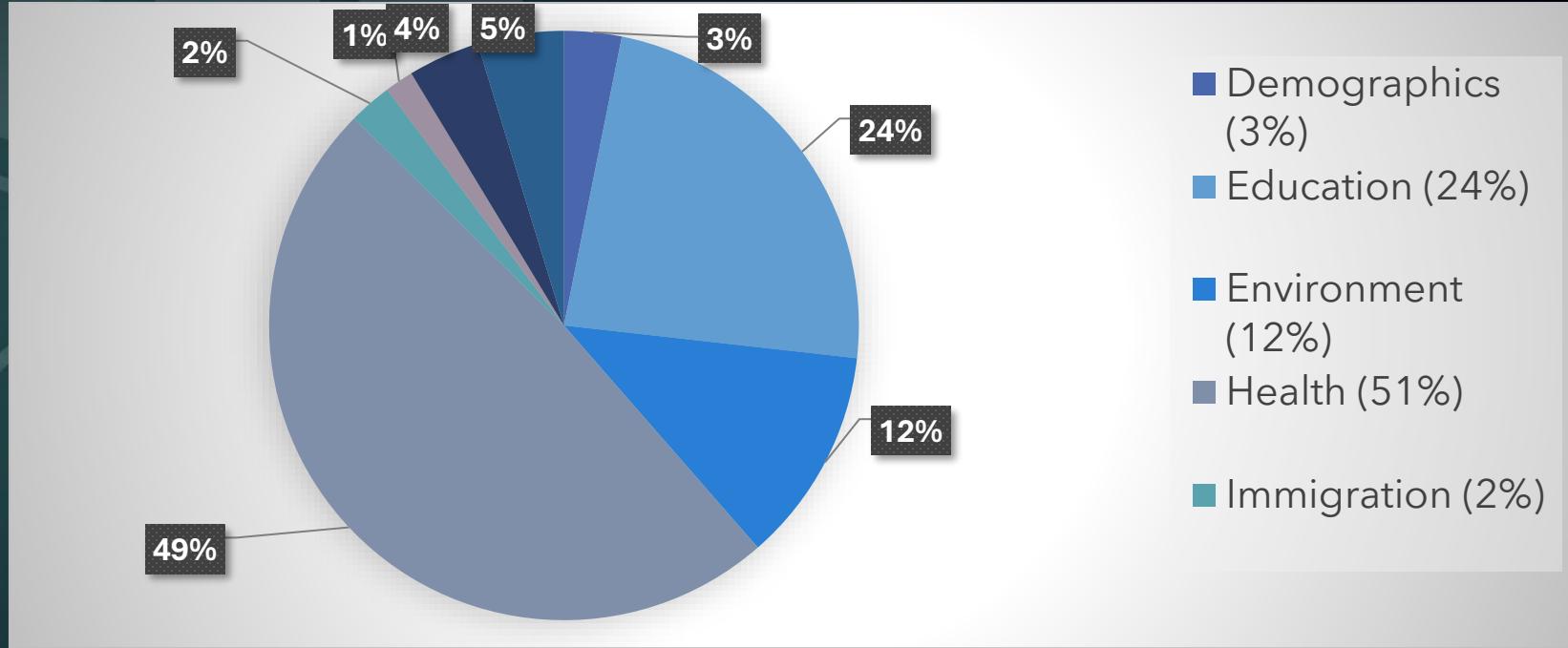
Data Types:

- Platform Data
- Project Specific Data
- Information Management Data

Data Holdings

<https://www.unb.ca/datanb/data/holdings/>

Data Holdings | Platform Data



Questions & Comments



Socials

Follow / Subscribe / Like / Share!

- DataNB Blog:
<https://blogs.unb.ca/newsroom/category/datanb.php>
- DataNB Newsletter (click to sign up)
<https://gqr.sh/sYW3>

- Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/DATANB.UNB/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/@datanb>

- Bluesky
<http://datanb.bsky.social/>
- Instagram
https://www.instagram.com/datanb.unb/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- LinkedIn
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/datanb/%20ca.linkedin.com>

Contact Us

<https://www.unb.ca/datanb/>

Services.DataNB@unb.ca

- Request a consultation
- For general questions (including those about Data Transfer)

DAR.DataNB@unb.ca

- Submit Feasibility, DAR & Amendments
- Submit Dissemination Requests
- For questions about your project

Privacy.DataNB@unb.ca

- Request Privacy Training
- Submit Administrative Safeguards
- For questions related to Safeguards, Privacy or Ethics

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK



MAKING A
DIFFERENCE
THROUGH
data





Secure Island Data Repository

linkable • de-identified • health-related data

Description, data availability & data access

Session Overview

- Nov 12, 2025
- Presented by:
Robyn Kydd &
Alex Ouédraogo

Accessing Data at the Secure Island Data Repository (SIDR) – PEI

- Description
- Data availability
- Data access
 - Who can access SIDR data?
 - How does a researcher access SIDR data?

Multi-regional data projects

- Description
- Data availability at Maritime data centers
- Data access
 - Health Data Research Network (HDRN) Canada
 - ✓ Data Access Support Hub (DASH)

Secure Island Data Repository (SIDR)

- Our Team
- Contact:
sidr@upei.ca



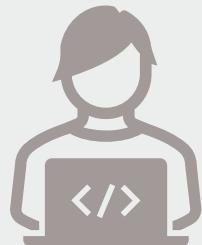
Director
Mary-Ann Standing



Manager
Robyn Kydd



IDEA & Engagement Lead
Kate Kelly



Database Administrator
Vacant



**Systems Administrator (UPEI
ITSS; In-kind support)**
Derek Liu



Administrative Assistant
Kaleigh Duffy



Data Scientist
Alexandra Ouédraogo



Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada



Canadian Institutes of
Health Research
Instituts de recherche
en santé du Canada



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND



Atlantic Canada
Opportunities
Agency

Agence de
promotion économique
du Canada atlantique

Background

Secure Island Data Repository (SIDR)

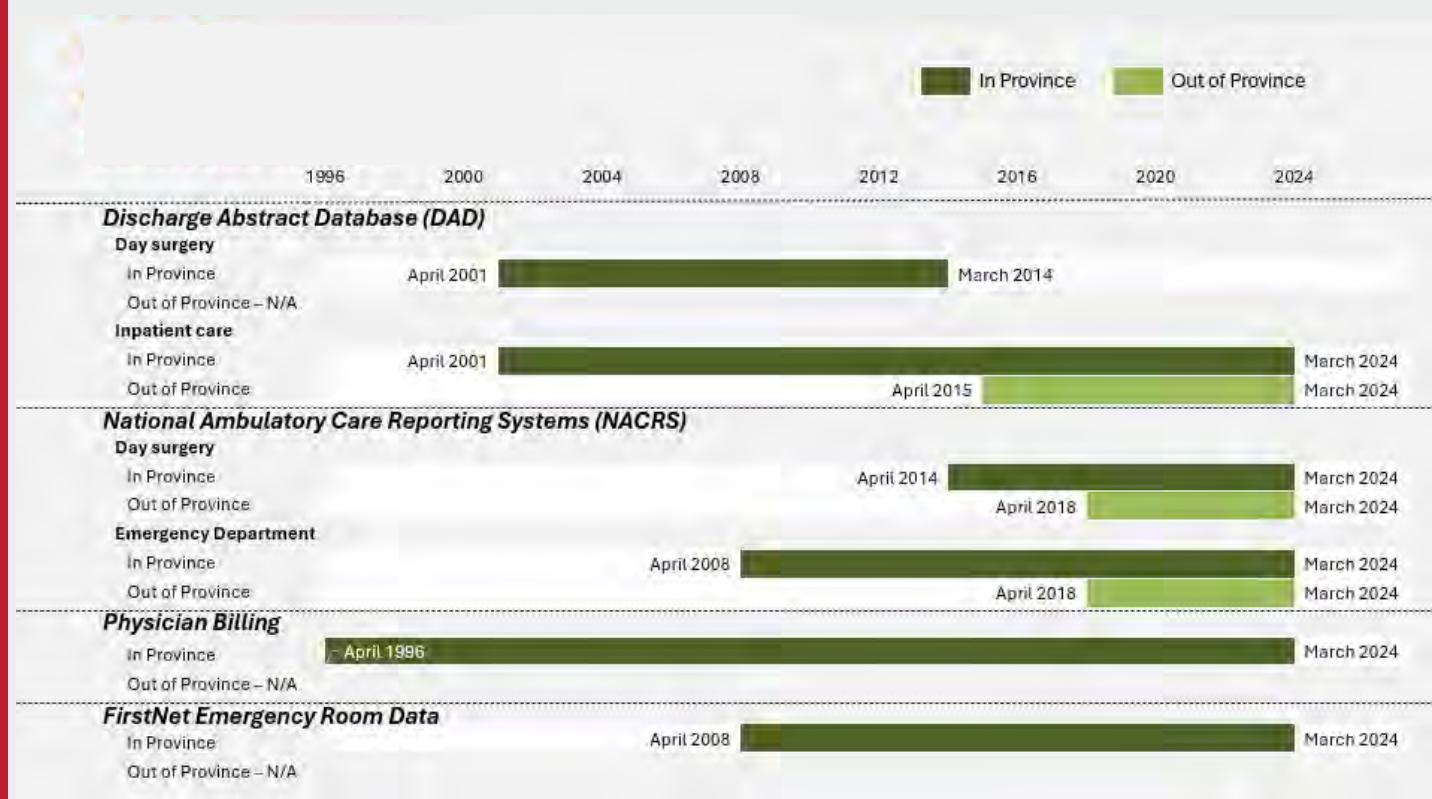
- **Center for Health and Community Research**, UPEI Office of the Associate Vice President of Research & Dean of Graduate Studies
- **Data Custodian / Research Data Repository**, as defined in PEI's *Health Information Act*
- **First platform** of its kind in PEI
- Enables **secure access to data** and **analytical services** to support research and decision making that can **improve health and wellbeing**

Data availability

- Health PEI data holdings
- Annual data transfers in November

Current data holdings

<https://sdrpei.ca/dataholdings/>



Note: Publicly-available area-based socio-economic measures are also available

What data will SIDR hold in the future?

Coming soon

Patient (Medicare) Registry

- Health PEI
- Nov 1983 to FY 2022-23

In progress

Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA)

- Agreements underway

Atlantic Partnership for Tomorrow's Health (Atlantic PATH)

- Agreements underway

Drug Information System (DIS)

- Department of Health & Wellness

Future plans

Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

- Assessing capacity

Local Researcher Data

- For linkage, storage and/or future access

Other PEI Administrative Data

- Justice, Education, Housing, Social development...
- Assessing legislation

Who can access SIDR data?

Project data access

- **On-site data access only**
 - MSSU Privacy Training
 - SIDR Security Training/Orientation
- **Research Project team members**
 - Prespecified as requiring access to SIDR's secure Research Centre
- **SIDR staff** (analytical services available)

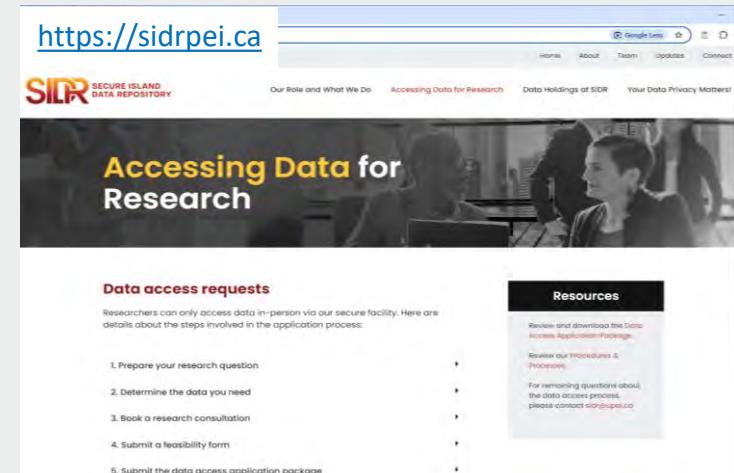
Data uses

- Currently → Research projects
- Future → Non-research organizations

How does a researcher access SIDR data?

Data Access Application Workflow

- A. Initial SIDR Research Consultation
- B. Research Application Review & Approval
- C. Project Initiation, Privacy Training & Orientation
- D. Data extraction, Preparation & Account Creation
- E. Data Analysis & Disclosure Requests



The screenshot shows the SIDR website with a navigation bar at the top. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'Accessing Data for Research'. Below the banner, there are two columns: 'Data access requests' on the left and 'Resources' on the right. The 'Data access requests' column contains a list of five steps: 1. Prepare your research question, 2. Determine the data you need, 3. Book a research consultation, 4. Submit a feasibility form, and 5. Submit the data access application package. The 'Resources' column contains links to 'Data Access Application Package', 'Procedures & Processes', and an email address for further questions.

How does a researcher access SIDR data?

- Initial SIDR Research Consultation



Initial SIDR Research Consultation

- Research questions, methods, analyses
- SIDR data access & linkage processes
 - feasibility form, data access application package etc.
 - researcher responsibilities, agreements etc.
- SIDR data availability & limitations
- SIDR fees for data access/analytical services

Data access requests

Researchers can only access data in-person via our secure facility. Here are details about the steps involved in the application process:

1. Prepare your research question
2. Determine the data you need
3. Book a research consultation

Once you are ready to begin the data application process, email us at sldr@upel.ca to book a free initial consultation meeting.

During this meeting, we will help:

- Refine your research question
- Determine data and staff support needed
- Provide guidance about the data access process
- Assess funding needs

Stay in
Touch!

➤ Contact us by email: SIDR@upei.ca



<https://sidrpei.ca>

**Follow us on
social media**



Secure Island
Data Repository



Centre for Health and
Community Research



Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada

Applying to Access Data from Multiple Regions

Description, data availability & data access

Data Access Processes at Maritime Data Centres



Health Data Nova Scotia

Health Data Nova Scotia

Department of Community Health and Epidemiology

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Our Services](#) [Data Holdings](#) [Data Access](#) [Forms](#) [Contact Us](#)

Dal.ca Home > Faculty of Medicine > Departments > Department of Community Health and Epidemiology > Research

Data Access

- + STEP 1: CONTACT US
- + STEP 2: SUBMIT YOUR HDNS DATA ACCESS FEASIBILITY AND COST ESTIMATE REQUEST
- + STEP 3: SUBMIT YOUR DATA ACCESS REQUEST and APPLY TO THE RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD
- + STEP 4: SIGN THE CONTRACTUAL & CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS
- + STEP 5: SIGN PROJECT CHARTER



<https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/department-sites/community-health/research/hdns/data-access-guidelines.html>



DataNB

DataNB We recommend you read the [Guide to Data Access Requests](#) which o
requesting access to data on our platform.

[About](#) [Research](#) [Data](#) [Data Access](#) [Feasibility Request Form](#) [Data Access Request](#)

How to request access to data

- ▼ 1. Feasibility Request
- ▼ 2. Data Access Request
- ▼ 3. Data Access Request Reviews
- ▼ 4. Research Ethics Board (REB)
- ▼ 5. Data Access Agreement



<https://www.unb.ca/datanb/data/access/>



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND



SECURE ISLAND
DATA REPOSITORY

[Our Role and What We Do](#) [Accessing Data for Research](#) [Data Holdings of 1](#)

Accessing Data for Research

Data access requests

Researchers can only access data in-person via our secure facility. Here are details about the steps involved in the application process.

1. Prepare your research question
2. Determine the data you need
3. Book a research consultation
4. Submit a feasibility form
5. Submit the data access application package
6. Obtain project approvals
7. Review final quote and sign a data access agreement
8. Project team members complete mandatory administrative safeguards

Resources

[Download the Data Access Application Package](#)
[Review our Procedures & Processes](#)
[For remaining questions about the data access process, please contact us via email](#)



<https://sidrpei.ca/accessing-data-for-health-research/>

Selected Data Holdings at Maritime Data Centres

Datasets	NS	NB	PEI
Patient Registry	✓	✓	⌚
Inpatient Hospitalizations	✓	✓	✓
Physician Billing Claims	✓	✓	✓
ED Visits	✓	✓	✓
Day Surgeries	✓	✓	✓
Socioeconomic Status (area-based)	🔗	✓	✓
Prescription Drugs	✓	✓	💡
Provider Registry	✓	✓	
Vital Statistics	✓	✓	
Cancer Registry	🔗	✓	
Long Term Care	✓	✓	
Home Care	🔗	⌚	✓
Laboratory Tests	🔗	✓	⌚
Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging	✓	✓	⌚
Atlantic Partnership for Tomorrow's Health	✓	✓	⌚
Immigration (IRCC)	⌚	✓	💡
Education		✓	
Social Services		✓	

Legend = dataset status	
✓	Available
🔗	Linkable dataset (held externally)
⌚	In progress
💡	Upcoming
	Not available



Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada



Mission

Bring together people & organizations across Canada for transformative & world-leading health data use.

Vision

Data across Canada drive improvements in health & health equity.

Values

Collaboration, trust, creativity, excellence & respect.



Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada

HDRN Canada Member Organizations



Manitoba Centre for Health Policy



HDRN Canada

At a Glance

Data Access Support Hub:

A one-stop data access service portal for researchers interested in pursuing multi-regional health & health-related administrative data in Canada



HDRN Canada Initiatives:



Common Data Models

A project to rapidly harmonize data & better enable multi-regional research across Canada



Indigenous Data Sovereignty

Supporting Indigenous-led uses of Indigenous data to advance reconciliation



Pragmatic Trials Training Program

Equips researchers with skills to conduct efficient & high quality pragmatic trials using real world data



Public Engagement

Collaborations, publications & events to support public & patient engagement in health data



Data Privacy Tools

Resources available for conducting privacy-sensitive research on administrative data



Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility

Guide purposeful action toward barriers within the data systems & research structures

How the Data Access Support Hub (DASH) supports multi-regional data access

DASH simplifies the data access process by providing:

**Navigational
Support &
Coordination**

**Centralized
resources and
tools**

**Information
governance to
harmonize data**

**Technological
solutions**

<https://www.hdrn.ca/en/dash>



Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada

Data Access Support Hub (DASH)

Coordination service for researchers requesting multi-regional health and health related data.



How can DASH make multi-regional research easier?

The Benefits of Using DASH	
Leverage a trusted network of experts  Connect with a network of provincial & pan-Canadian data centre experts & receive support for ongoing project meetings & discussions - saving you time & effort.	Quick, easy & free evaluation of your project's feasibility  Receive quick, no-cost assessments of your project's feasibility & an estimated budget for the services requested.
Support for your grant application  Receive a no-cost, unified Letter of Support tailored to your project from HDRN Canada (upon feasibility).	Your information organized in one place  Experience a streamlined data access process through a centralized online data access request form and other harmonized services.
Solutions & resources at your fingertips  Use tools such as the Data Assets and Algorithms Inventories plus resources on privacy, informed consent & federated analysis to support your project.	End-to-end project support  Benefit from free project coordination and administrative assistance throughout your research journey.
Visibility  Showcase your research on a national stage through promotional initiatives & collaborations led by HDRN Canada.	

Innovative Resources

DASH Resources



Privacy

Resources for researchers on privacy compliance and privacy legislation



Indigenous Data

Resources for researchers on Indigenous data sovereignty



Informed Consent

Resources for researchers on informed consent



Benefits of DASH

Top 7 benefits of using DASH for multi-regional research



Distributed Analysis

Analyze datasets from multiple regions without physically pooling data



IDEA

Resources for researchers on inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility in data

DASH Inventories



Data Assets Inventory



Algorithms Inventory



COVID-19 Inventory

Request data through DASH

Questions? Get in touch with DASH

Regional Data Information

High-level information about requirements and procedures for accessing data at each HDRN Canada Member Organization.

[Learn More](#)



<https://www.hdrn.ca/en/dash/>



Regional Data Information

Requirements & Services

The table below outlines key requirements as well as additional details to consider in each region, including ethics approval, remote data access, secure access environments and software capabilities.

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	NT	CIHI	StatCan
Research Ethics Board Approval Required □	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
In-Province Ethics Approval Required §	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Local or Affiliated Principal Investigator Required	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Centre Offers Analytical Services †	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Centre Offers Remote Data Access ◊	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Centre has a Trusted Research Environment (TRE) Δ	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓



DASH Data Assets Inventory

Search

[Clear All](#)

Filters Selected - 0

Region	Data Categories	Site
Alberta (AB)	Continuing Care	Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit
British Columbia (BC)	Day Surgery Visits	Canadian Institute for Health Information
Manitoba (MB)	Demographics	DataNB
New Brunswick (NB)	Diagnosis	Health Data Nova Scotia
Newfoundland (NL)	Drugs (Dispensed)	Health Research Data Platform - Saskatchewan
Northwest Territories (NT)	Drugs (Prescribed)	Institut de la Statistique du Québec
Nova Scotia (NS)	Education	Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences
Nunavut (NU)	Emergency Visits	Manitoba Centre for Health Policy
Ontario (ON)	Employment	Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services
Prince Edward Island (PE)	Ethnicity/Race	Population Data BC
Quebec (QC)	Gender	Statistics Canada - Research Data Centres
Saskatchewan (SK)	Geographic Location	University of Prince Edward Island



DASH Data Assets Inventory

Filters Selected - 3

Region	Data Categories	Site
Prince Edward Island (PE) 1	Diagnosis 2 Emergency Visits 1 Geographic Location 2 Healthcare Encounter 2 Healthcare Facility 2 Inpatient Hospitalizations 1	University of Prince Edward Island 1

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 datasets (filtered from 596 datasets)

Name	Region	Description
National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS)	PE	Administrative health data that consists of demographic, clinical, administrative, and service-specific data elements. For PEI, this includes hospital and ambulatory care information from day surgery and emergency department (ED) visits. The data includes information on wait time, triage level, asse ...

Previous

1

Next



DASH Data Assets Inventory

National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS)

Dataset Information	
Name ⓘ	National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS)
UUID ⓘ	95f638bc-fa20-4baa-ab87-e2a42eb7b2ec
Site ⓘ	University of Prince Edward Island
Region ⓘ	Prince Edward Island
Description ⓘ	Administrative health data that consists of demographic, clinical, administrative, and service-specific data elements. For PEI, this includes hospital and ambulatory time, triage level, assessment, and Level 3 (includes Level 1 and Level 2). NACRS currently contains Level 3 data. Participation in NACRS data elements evolve over time. Data type is numerical and categorical.
Data Level ⓘ	Individual
	Day Surgery (NACRS) (a) In-province: QE& PCH from 2014-04-01 to 2024-03-31. (b) Out-of-province: 2018-04-01 to 2024-03-31. Emergency Department (NACRS) (a) In-province: QE& PCH Level 3 data from 2021-04-01 to 2024-03-31; PCH Level 1 data from 2008-04-01 to 2014-03-31 & Level 3 data from 2014-04-01 to 2024-03-31. (b) Out-of-province: 2018-04-01 to 2024-03-31.
*Note: collection period date ranges are based on patient registration dates.	



Distributed Analysis Resources

Distributed Analysis

Distributed Analysis
for Multi-regional Research

Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada



Distributed Analysis Resources

Distributed analysis facilitates multi-regional research, providing a solution to address the siloing of health data and other barriers to data transport outside of institutions. Distributed analysis avoids the constraints on data pooling. It allows data to remain in their home Trusted Research Environment while being analyzed as part of a single but partitioned dataset. Distributed analysis can facilitate use of sensitive health data and supports data sovereignty. Our approach to distributed analysis will protect privacy and enable innovative methods for producing robust, generalizable results to inform policy decisions and improve health systems and health outcomes. To learn more, download our [Distributed Analysis FAQ](#) and [Glossary of Terms](#) or visit our [Distributed Analysis Resources page](#).

Conducting multi-regional research? HDRN Canada can help!

Distributed Analysis is a class of methods for conducting multi-regional data analysis without pooling data in a single location. How does it work? Data are first harmonized, creating a single dataset that is partitioned across Trusted Research Environments (TRE). Analyses are run in each TRE, and summary results are shared with a coordinating centre. The coordinating node integrates information from all data centres to generate the final analysis. The final results can then be accessed by the researcher. Interested? Contact our [Data Access Support Hub/DASH](#) team: dash@hcdn.ca. Download our [Distributed Analysis Factsheet](#).

Distributed Analysis



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a distributed analysis?



How does a distributed analysis differ from a pooled analysis?



Why is distributed analysis important?



What type of statistical parameters are shared?



How are the statistical parameters shared between a data node and a coordinating node?



What affects the quality of a distributed analysis?



How does a distributed analysis differ from a federated analysis?



What is required for a distributed analysis?



What methods are available for undertaking a distributed analysis?



What is the process for completing a distributed analysis at HDRN Canada?



What is the cost of completing a distributed analysis?



Who can I reach out to if I have more questions?



<https://hcdn.ca/en/distributed-analysis/>

Distributed Analysis Resources

FACT SHEET: Distributed Analysis

Conducting multi-regional research? HDRN Canada can help!

Distributed Analysis can produce results that are the same as data pooling

Distributed Analysis is a method for conducting a multi-regional analysis without pooling data in a single location. *How does it work?* Summary results from regional Data Centres ("Data Nodes") are shared with a Coordinating Node, which integrates information from all Data Nodes to generate the final analysis. If you're interested in conducting distributed analysis, [email us: dash@hdrv.ca](mailto:dash@hdrv.ca).

Benefits of Distributed Analysis



Data stay in place
Taking "analysis to data" avoids constraints on data sharing & is consistent with data sovereignty.



Helps with scaling
Capability for distributed analysis makes it easier to add regions or countries to research projects.



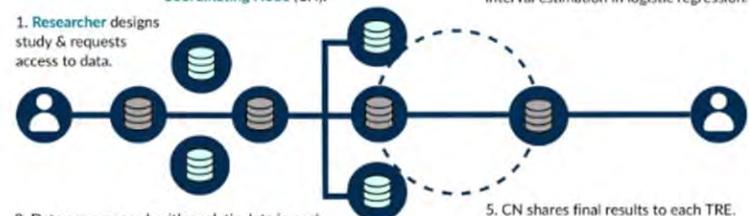
Supports collaboration
Enables multi-regional research while complying with local legislation.

Currently supported analytic models: Linear regression, logistic regression, survival analysis (Cox regression) with or without weights.

Data Flow

3. Analytic code run on each node/TRE, with analytic outputs sent to the Coordinating Node (CN).

1. Researcher designs study & requests access to data.



2. Data are prepared, with analytic data in each region organized with the same structure & semantics, producing a single dataset partitioned across Trusted Research Environments (TRE).

4. Repeat Step 3 as needed, e.g., with multiple iterations for confidence interval estimation in logistic regression.

5. CN shares final results to each TRE. Researcher accesses results according to local requirements.

*Data node: a data custodian holding a data partition for a given data source.

Code & documentation:
github.com/OpenLHS/Distrib_analysis



Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada



Data Access Processes at Maritime Data Centres



Health Data Nova Scotia

Health Data Nova Scotia

Department of Community Health and Epidemiology

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Our Services](#) [Data Holdings](#) [Data Access](#) [Forms](#) [Contact Us](#)

Dal.ca Home > Faculty of Medicine > Departments > Department of Community Health and Epidemiology > Research

Data Access

- + STEP 1: CONTACT US
- + STEP 2: SUBMIT YOUR HDNS DATA ACCESS FEASIBILITY AND COST ESTIMATE REQUEST
- + STEP 3: SUBMIT YOUR DATA ACCESS REQUEST and APPLY TO THE RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD
- + STEP 4: SIGN THE CONTRACTUAL & CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS
- + STEP 5: SIGN PROJECT CHARTER



<https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/department-sites/community-health/research/hdns/data-access-guidelines.html>



DataNB

DataNB We recommend you read the [Guide to Data Access Requests](#) which o
requesting access to data on our platform.

[About](#) [Research](#) [Data](#) [Data Access](#) [Feasibility Request Form](#) [Data Access Request](#)

How to request access to data

- ▼ 1. Feasibility Request
- ▼ 2. Data Access Request
- ▼ 3. Data Access Request Reviews
- ▼ 4. Research Ethics Board (REB)
- ▼ 5. Data Access Agreement



<https://www.unb.ca/datanb/data/access/>



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND



SECURE ISLAND
DATA REPOSITORY

[Our Role and What We Do](#) [Accessing Data for Research](#) [Data Holdings of 1](#)

Accessing Data for Research

Data access requests

Researchers can only access data in-person via our secure facility. Here are details about the steps involved in the application process.

1. Prepare your research question
2. Determine the data you need
3. Book a research consultation
4. Submit a feasibility form
5. Submit the data access application package
6. Obtain project approvals
7. Review final quote and sign a data access agreement
8. Project team members complete mandatory administrative safeguards

Resources

[Download the Data Access Application Package](#)
[Review our Procedures & Processes](#)
[For remaining questions about the data access process, please contact us via email](#)



<https://sidrpei.ca/accessing-data-for-health-research/>

Thank you! Any Questions?

HDNS

Contact: kfrizzell@dal.ca

Website: <https://medicine.dal.ca/hdns/>

DataNB

Contact: Services.DataNB@unb.ca - Request a consultation

For general questions (including those about Data Transfer)

Website: <https://www.unb.ca/datanb/>

PEI-SIDR

Contact: SIDR@upei.ca

Website: <https://sidrpei.ca>

