

Data Liberation Initiative

The Mission

To improve the accessibility and timeliness of its quality, comparable data, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) has launched its overarching Data Access Strategy. In 2013, CIHI collaborated with Statistics Canada to make its data accessible to the academic research community via Statistics Canada's Data Liberation Initiative (DLI). This program allows researchers, faculty and students at many Canadian post-secondary institutions to access Statistics Canada's data and geographic information products.

CIHI is running a pilot project in which registered DLI users can access two research analytical files that contain de-identified samples from the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) for 2009–2010 and 2010–2011. Each file includes record-level data; one file focuses on clinical data, the other on geographic information. The DAD data files include information on key demographic, clinical and case mix variables.

CIHI will evaluate this pilot in spring 2014 to inform future rollouts of research analytical files using other CIHI databases.

Data Liberation: DAD Sample Files

The DAD sample files include acute inpatient cases in all provinces and territories except Quebec and British Columbia. CIHI selected two separate 10% samples of patients for the clinical and geographic files. These patients are followed for a two-year period—an approach that delivers greater analysis potential, as the sequence of care for an individual can be followed over time.

Through the DAD sample files, researchers can

- Become familiar with the structure and content of DAD data;
- Explore relationships among data elements;
- Perform preliminary analyses and data mining; and
- Test hypotheses.

The sample files also give researchers the chance to work with the data and clarify data requirements before making a formal data request to CIHI.



Information Sheet

Discharge Abstract Database

Originally developed in 1963, the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) captures administrative, clinical and demographic information on hospital discharges (including deaths, sign-outs and transfers). Some provinces and territories also use the DAD to capture day surgery.

Data extracted from the DAD is used to populate other CIHI databases, including the Hospital Morbidity Database and the Hospital Mental Health Database. More than 3 million records are submitted to the DAD each year.

Our Vision

Better data. Better decisions.
Healthier Canadians.

Our Mandate

To lead the development and maintenance of comprehensive and integrated health information that enables sound policy and effective health system management that improve health and health care.

Our Values

Respect, Integrity, Collaboration,
Excellence, Innovation

www.cihi.ca
At the heart of data



Canadian Institute
for Health Information

Institut canadien
d'information sur la santé

Common Data Elements in the DAD Sample Files

- Person identifier
- Facility province
- Discharge information
- Admission information
- Gender
- Age groups

Clinical File Information

- Diagnoses based on ICD-10-CA classification codes and types
- Intervention information, including CCI codes, types, status, locations and anesthetic techniques
- Type and number of special care unit visits, as well as hours in the unit
- Length of stay in days
- Newborn weights by size groupings
- Weeks of gestation at delivery (four categories)

Geographic File Information

- Health region
- Resource utilization by diagnosis and use of health care services
- Length of stay (0, 1 to 2, or 3+ days)

More on Accessing CIHI's Data

1. **CIHI's website:** Free, pre-formatted, aggregate-level data is available, including Quick Stats data tables and analytical reports.
2. **Customized data requests:** Aggregate requests may include groups or summaries of data and data tables. Record-level requests may include hospitalization/discharge records, which provide de-identified data on patients (who may have more than one record in the database) and greater flexibility in meeting data needs.
3. **Graduate Student Data Access Program:** CIHI provides data to qualifying graduate students at no cost. This helps build the capacity of such students in health services research and fosters awareness of CIHI's data holdings as well as data quality and privacy

For more information on the DLI contact Statistics Canada at dli-idd@statcan.gc.ca.