

Data Access Model for Health Research

What is the role of Alberta Health and Wellness?

Alberta Health and Wellness holds a large amount of administrative data relative to the provision of health services for Albertans. As custodian of this valuable asset, Alberta Health and Wellness provides access to this administrative data to support health research and planning by various users including health authorities, researchers and others.

What are the key principles behind the new model?

The proposed data access model aims to:

1. Build stronger, mutually beneficial, collaborative relationships with health services researchers;
2. Improve capacity in the health research community to use and understand Alberta Health and Wellness administrative health services data; and,

Ensure reasonable data access and facilitate good research in accordance with the regulations of the *Health Information Act*.

What is the data access process?

The single point of entry (health.resdata@gov.ab.ca) sends your request to the Information and Analysis Branch.

The complexity or extent of a data request will determine which analysts form the **Research Resource Team (RRT)** to fulfill your request. The RRT will make an appointment for an initial meeting with your research team (in person or teleconference). The RRT is a virtual team of Alberta Health and Wellness cross-department staff matched to needs of the request (i.e., research, content and data experts). Each RRT is unique to the research request. At the first meeting **data specifications are identified**.

Note: There is no application form. The project proposal and related documents are requested.

What is the Business Intelligence (BI) Program and how does this link to data access for research?

The BI Program provides integrated, quality health services data that can be used to create meaningful information and knowledge resources to improve the understanding and performance of Alberta's health system.

What is the expected outcome of the new model?

Alberta Health and Wellness expects greater satisfaction with data access through a participatory approach between research individuals and organizations and the Alberta Health and Wellness RRT. The interactive relationship supports continuous improvement of data sources in two ways:

1. External data user will identify data gaps; and,
2. Aggregated data produced by researchers in collaboration with Alberta Health and Wellness will add to the Alberta Health and Wellness data repository.

How do I work with Alberta Health and Wellness?

All requests can be made by email to health.resdata@gov.ab.ca

Provide a brief summary of the research question and attach available copies of proposals and ethics reviews.

Contact

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