

Overview of Administrative Health Databases

Purpose

This document provides data users with an overview of administrative health datasets available for planning and research. Requests for administrative health data can be made to health.resdata@gov.ab.ca. Disclosure of data is subject to the *Health Information Act* (HIA).

Datasets Available

- Inpatient – Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)
- Ambulatory Care
- Practitioner Payments
- Population Registry
- Pharmacy Data - Alberta Blue Cross (ABC)
- Wait Times Reporting
- Other Datasets

Dataset Descriptions

Inpatient – Discharge Abstract

Available from 93/94 – 01/02, 02/03 – present

- Morbidity data and Alberta version of the CIHI Discharge Abstract Database (DAD).
- Contains recipient, service, diagnosis and procedure interventions for people who have been discharged from an inpatient bed.
- Also includes information about providers and derived elements (e.g., groupers).
- ICD-9-CM (prior to 2002); ICD-10-CA/CCI (2002 to present).
- Updated annually.

Ambulatory Care

Available from 97/98 – 01/02, 02/03 – present

- Facility-based ambulatory care information (same-day surgery, day procedures, emergency room visits, and community rehabilitation program services occurring in publicly-funded facilities).
- Contains recipient, service, diagnosis, and procedure interventions.
- Also includes information about providers and derived elements (e.g., groupers).
- Updated annually.
- Data collected prior to 97/98 only includes day surgeries.

Practitioner Payments

Available from 94/95 – present

- Fee for Service (FFS) claims information for physicians and other providers for insured health services.
- Contains recipient, provider and service data.
- Privacy of providers is highly protected under the HIA and therefore must be absolutely de-identified prior to disclosure.
- Updated weekly, but accuracy and completeness of claims data improves as time from date of service increases.

Population Registry

Available from: 94/95 – present

- Includes basic demographic and geographic information of Albertans who are registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP).
- The registry is the base for Alberta population counts.
- Updated quarterly and annually.

Pharmacy Data – Alberta Blue Cross

Available from: 94/95 – present

- Includes information about prescription drugs, prescribing information, ambulance, prosthetics/orthotics and palliative care services for those Albertans that Alberta Health and Wellness pays Alberta Blue Cross (ABC) premiums (primarily senior citizens).
- Contains recipient, provider, and service data.
- Updated annually and updated monthly.

Wait Times Reporting

Available from 03/04 – present

- Includes wait time for selected insured, non-emergency health services.
- Updated regularly.

Other Datasets

- Public health data regarding the province-wide Newborn Metabolic Screening Program (NMSP), immunization and adverse reaction, and notifiable diseases (limited information).
- Financial information related to health costing. Groupers are used to cost ambulatory and inpatient care.
- Long term care information is available prior to 04/05. A new set of continuing care data is under development and will be available in the future.

There are other data sources held by the Ministry that are not currently disclosed because they are highly aggregated, not collected consistently over time, incomplete across previous health regions, and/or of poor quality.

Limitations

1. Virtually all data collected for the Ministry is for administrative purposes such as management of the AHCIP and determining funding.
2. Only a portion of the data collected is submitted by the health authorities (no source records) to Alberta Health and Wellness.

The Ministry has information collected about publicly-funded programs and services. There is no information for those activities outside the public system.

Contact

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