



**Request for Proposals  
Research Data Centre Program  
Statistics Canada  
2006 Census-DAD Linked Data  
Winter 2017**

Statistics Canada, together with The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), is conducting a pilot project to provide access to the 2006 Census linked to the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) for 2006/07-2008/09. The pilot project will give researchers access to these linked data in a Statistics Canada Research Data Centre (RDC) and will aim to evaluate and improve confidentiality vetting rules and help to improve documentation for researchers.

**2006 Census-DAD Linked Data**

The 2006 Census (long-form) was linked to the DAD for 2006/07-2008/09 to support analysis of hospital use by sub-populations and socio-economic status of Canadians. The long-form Census represents approximately 20% of the Canadian population and provides comprehensive information on demography, family, household and dwelling characteristics, geography, Aboriginal identity, activity limitations, education, ethnic origin, citizenship and immigration, income, journey to work, labour market activity, language, mobility, unpaid work and visible minorities. The DAD includes all acute-care and some psychiatric, chronic, rehabilitation and day-surgery hospital discharges in Canada (excluding Quebec) provided to Statistics Canada by CIHI.

Approximately 4.652 million long-form respondents were eligible for linkage to the DAD. The linkage was conducted using a hierarchical deterministic linkage approach. Approximately 5.3% of Census respondents were linked to at least one DAD record between 2006/07 and 2008/09. More information regarding the linkage methodology is available (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/2015010/article/14228-eng.htm>).

The 2006 Census-DAD linked data have been used by Statistics Canada to better understand patterns of hospitalization use for key sub-populations including immigrants and Aboriginal peoples. See links for more information: (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/2015010/article/14227-eng.htm> and <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/2016008/article/14647-eng.htm>)

**Information to aid in proposal development**

## **2006 Census:**

The census is designed to provide information about people and housing units in Canada by their demographic, social and economic characteristics. Detailed information on the 2006 Census can be found at the [Census of Population website](#).

To aid in proposal writing, a [complete list of 2006 Census variables](#) is publically available. The [2006 Census Data Dictionary](#) is also available on the Statistics Canada website.

## **DAD metadata:**

In the DAD, jurisdiction-specific instructions for collection of data elements evolve over time. Collection of each data element may be mandatory, conditional mandatory, optional or not applicable. Collection requirements can vary by jurisdiction and by data year.

Researchers will find the listings of DAD data elements helpful as they develop their proposal. Details can be found under the heading “Data Elements” at the [DAD Metadata website](#). The documents on the website include information on mandatory versus optional collection status for each data element by jurisdiction, which is key to understanding coverage of data elements in DAD.

## **What to include in the proposal:**

Information on what to provide in an RDC research proposal can be found on the [RDC website](#). Please refer to Step 1: Draft a project proposal for details. Do not complete Step 2: as proposals are not submitted through the SSHRC website (see below for submission instructions).

If you have questions on the development of the proposal or data related questions please contact Mustafa Ornek ([rdc2@mcmaster.ca](mailto:rdc2@mcmaster.ca)).

## **Submission objectives**

As the 2006 Census-DAD Linked Data is the first DAD linkage being made available in the RDCs, there are a number of elements being monitored during the pilot. Specific objectives of the pilot are to assess:

- The confidentiality vetting rules, to ensure they are robust and refine them, if necessary
- The appropriateness and usefulness of the documentation
- What kind and level of support researchers require once they are accessing the data in the RDCs

Researchers with approved projects are expected to:

- Attend a data user group meeting at the beginning of the pilot (other meetings may be scheduled if necessary)
- Provide feedback on the data and documentation
- Be prepared that vetting rules are being tested and vetting is being done by committee and, therefore, release of results will take longer than non-pilot projects

Researchers should bear these factors in mind when considering the appropriateness of this pilot and any potential impact on the timely completion of their own work.

**Submission deadline**

Proposals are to be submitted by **January 31, 2017** and will be assessed on the feasibility of the proposed research. Proposals submitted after this date will be reviewed on a monthly basis as there will not be a limit placed on the number of projects approved for this pilot. The pilot is expected to run over a 2-year period.

All researchers will be notified whether or not their proposal was approved. Any important updates (such as availability of updated files or documentation) will also be posted on the CRDCN website (<http://www.rdc-cdr.ca/>).

**Submit proposals to:**

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