

National Institutes of Health
Science Of Behavior Change Research Network
Research Material Sharing Policy

Introduction

The Science Of Behavior Change (SOBC) Research Network Steering Committee recognizes that sharing of research materials including data and analysis code is central to NIH research goals and facilitates an efficient translation of research into information that can improve public health through knowledge dissemination and the development of new products and policies.

Material sharing reinforces open scientific inquiry, facilitates new and diverse research from varying viewpoints, encourages new or alternative analyses and methods of analysis, facilitates the development of new data sets by combining multiple sources, and supports education and training.

The SOBC Research Network Steering Committee is committed to making data, code, and other research materials as widely and freely available as possible while protecting the privacy of participants, and therefore adopts the following policy regarding materials sharing:

Policy

1. SOBC Research Network investigators will each share, at a minimum, a final research data set upon which the accepted primary publication in the UH2 phase (which demonstrates the validity of the assay) and UH3 phase is based, along with all analysis code or scripts used to perform the final analyses. The data should be in the rawest form possible within the constraints of human subjects protection. If there is any confusion on what constitutes a final data set, the PI team and project scientist will determine the appropriate data set.
 - a. Final data sets should be shared within 1 year of primary paper publication. If the author is working with a project that has its own IRB protocol or restrictions, please adhere to the necessary mandates ahead of network guidelines.
 - b. The network recognizes that some projects deal with multiple pre-existing data sets. In the event of this project structure, investigators are not required to share and/or publish the data sets in use. Instead investigators should share other related materials (i.e. analysis plan, code, etc.).
 - c. The network recognizes that some final data sets relating to invalid measures may remain unpublished. These data sets should still be shared via each project's Open Science page, or as an attachment/citation within the SOBC Measures Repository.
2. The Steering Committee recognizes that sharing data derived from clinical care in studies performed in partnership with health care systems may, under some situations, require precautions in addition to those regarding patient confidentiality, to protect specific interests of collaborating health care systems, facilities or providers. Precautions such as allowing data sharing in more supervised or restricted settings, such as access to researchers who agree to a limited data sharing agreement, may be appropriate to address these needs in implementing this data sharing policy. Any such agreements should be discussed with the Steering Committee to ensure maximal potential for reuse of the materials.

3. Consistent with NIH policy and guidance, SOBC Research Network investigators will choose the least restrictive method for sharing of research materials that provides appropriate protection for participant privacy, health system privacy, and scientific integrity.
4. SOBC Research Network investigators will work with NIH and RCC to implement this data sharing policy and will ensure the appropriate administrative processes and technical infrastructure are in place to support timely data sharing for the SOBC Research Network.
 - a. The RCC will assist with administrative needs relating to posting data/materials on the Open Science Framework (OSF) and will provide links to individual OSF pages on the SOBC website.