

To ensure research data can be shared with collaborators and other researchers, appropriate resources must be allocated to analyse requirements and address barriers at the start of a project. This will ensure a measured approach can be adopted that protects study participants and maximises research opportunities.

## Factors to consider when planning sharing:

- **Why are the resources being shared?** Is it to ensure a specific objective?
- **What resources will be made available?** An anonymised dataset, software code, processing scripts, questionnaires, interview guides, something else?
- **How will you achieve this?** Consider the activities you will need to perform to enable sharing, e.g. obtain participant consent, develop a licence agreements, investigate access controls.
- **When will the resources be made available?** At the same time as a journal paper, on project completion, 1 year after project completion, or some other period?
- **Where will it be hosted?** A digital repository, journal website, or some other location?

### Reasons to make data available

- **Enhanced research impact:** You gain credit for all research outputs, not just papers
- **Higher citation rate:** Studies suggest publication with accompanying data receive higher rates of citation than those that do not (Piwowar & Vision, 2013)
- **Reproducible research:** Freely available data is often easier to verify and reproduce, increasing confidence in its validity
- **Enables new research:** Data can be used for new and innovative research, which in turn increases your citation rate and reputation
- **Support equitable research:** Greater openness ensures research can be accessed and used by researchers working in Low, Middle and High income countries

### Reasons to withhold data

- **Data release may cause harm:** Research participants or others may suffer repercussions as a result of information being made public
- **Data cannot be anonymised:** Identifiable information cannot be removed without loss of context
- **Participant consent has not been obtained:** Consent form did not address sharing requirements, due to the age of the study
- **Third party IPR:** Sharing permission cannot be obtained from a data provider or other party
- **Commercial use:** Research will be used as a basis for a patent application or contains commercially confident information

## Book an appointment

To discuss your data sharing plans, contact the LSHTM Research Data Management Service at [researchdatamanagement@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:researchdatamanagement@lshtm.ac.uk).

## Further information:

- Chatham House: A Guide to sharing data and benefits of public health surveillance

<https://datasharing.chathamhouse.org/>

- LSHTM: Research Data sharing:

[https://lshtm.sharepoint.com/Research/Research-data-management/Pages/data\\_sharing.aspx](https://lshtm.sharepoint.com/Research/Research-data-management/Pages/data_sharing.aspx)

- Piwowar HA, Vision TJ. (2013) Data reuse and the open data citation advantage. PeerJ 1:e175

<https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.175>

<https://doi.org/10.17037/DATA.50>. Reviewed: July 17 2017