GIRL Center

FOR GIRL INNOVATION, RESEARCH, AND LEARNING

Adolescent Data Hub | Data Sharing Procedures

The [Girl Innovation, Research, and Learning (GIRL) Center](#) recognizes the power of using data and evidence to effect change. Open data ensures that research is transparent and accessible while also improving the quality and norms of the scientific community. We believe that open data can connect people across different disciplines and sectors to drive evidence generation to improve the health and development outcomes of adolescents, especially girls.

The GIRL Center is building an Adolescent Data Hub, a global portal where researchers, organizations, and stakeholders can share and access quantitative and qualitative data on adolescents and young people. The Adolescent Data Hub consists of: 1) a repository with curated and shared data; and 2) a list of publicly available datasets not housed in the data repository. Currently, the Adolescent Data Hub includes Population Council data on approximately 200,000 adolescents and young people. We plan to expand the Adolescent Data Hub to include data from other institutions. **We are calling researchers and organizations with datasets on adolescents to share them in the Adolescent Data Hub. This document describes the importance of making your data publicly available, and outlines the procedures for sharing data with the GIRL Center.**

Why share data with the GIRL Center's Adolescent Data Hub?

o **Increases the visibility of and maximizes the value of your data** by allowing the broader scientific community to utilize your data to answer important questions facing the field, rather than investing limited resources to collect similar data through another study.

o **Decreases time spent preparing your data for others to use**. The GIRL Center has staff who can prepare your data and the necessary documentation to make the data publicly available.

o **Ensures the long-term availability of your data**. Data will be made available through [Dataverse](#), an online platform for hosting and sharing data.

o **Meets funders' and peer-reviewed journals' requirements to make data publicly available**. Many funders and journals have open data policies, which can be satisfied by sharing your data through the Adolescent Data Hub.

o **Provides an opportunity to attract new collaborators and funders who are interested in your data.** The GIRL Center tracks access to your data and provides this information to you along with information on funding opportunities for secondary data analysis.

o **Foster cross-sector (e.g. health, education, economic) data synthesis,** which would create new and more impactful knowledge and insights.

The GIRL Center's Adolescent Data Hub seeks data that meet the following criteria:

o   Age range: 10-24 years. Data can include individuals outside of this age range.

o   Girls and/or boys.

o   All identifiable information is removed.

o   Data from any geographic location.

o   Has the appropriate ethical approvals.

Researchers and/or organizations have the following options when sharing their data.

o   **Option 1 - Open Access:** The data are completely available to the public. Any user can download data from Dataverse once the user submits basic information (e.g. name, affiliation) and a brief project description.

o   **Option 2 - Restricted Access:** User submits a request form containing a description of the research project and analysis plans to the GIRL Center. The study Principal Investigator (PI) specifies who grants access to the data and under what conditions (if applicable):

   Option A: The GIRL Center grants access to all requests.

   Option B: The study PI grants access to all requests.

Users who access data from the GIRL Center's Adolescent Data Hub will be required to:

o   Cite the dataset as the data source in any publications or output based on the data.

o   Acknowledge funding source(s) and the investigator(s) of the original study.

o   Provide the GIRL Center with a link to the final publication(s).

o   Provide study documentation (code and Readme files with instructions to replicate analyses) to the GIRL Center, which will be uploaded to Dataverse. We will also encourage users to provide study protocol(s) and codebook(s).

Procedures for depositing data in the GIRL Center's Adolescent Data Hub

1.   **Study PI submits data deposit form and relevant documentation to the GIRL Center's data archivist.**
   o   The data deposit form asks study PI for description of the data; specifies type of access (open or restricted); documentation of appropriate ethical approvals; and verification that the study team and relevant stakeholders approved the data deposit.
   o   The relevant documentation includes, but are not limited to, data file(s) and other documentation (e.g., code, codebooks, sampling/study design, data collection instruments, summary statistics, project summaries, research protocols, and bibliographies of publications pertaining to the data).

2. **The GIRL Center's data archivist reviews submission materials.**
   o Assesses data quality, documents inconsistencies and unknowns, and contacts study PI for additional information (when needed). Data must meet a minimum threshold for quality, including but not limited to, complete variable and value labels, no duplicates, accurate skip patterns, and logical responses.
   o Performs basic data cleaning (e.g. confirms that all variables and values are properly labeled, checks for outliers, standardizes variable names (where possible or necessary)).
   o Confirms that personal identifiers of study subjects are not included. If any exist, they must be recoded or deleted.

3. **Data archivist prepares study description.**
   o The study description contains relevant information on the study, including purpose of the study, major topics covered, sample, unit of analysis, mode of data collection, type of data collection, study time period, data collection dates, geographic coverage area(s), sampling strategy, response rate, measurement tools/scales, weights, etc.

4. **Study PI verifies and approves study description.**

5. **Data archivist drafts Readme file containing the following information:**
   o Study description
   o Files included in archive
   o Software needed and version (e.g. Stata 14)
   o User-written commands/packages needed to run code (if applicable).
   o Questionnaire(s)
   o Any inconsistencies or other notes about the data
   o Any publications using the data

6. **Data archivist uploads data and other materials to Dataverse.**

If you are interested in depositing data or listing your publicly available data in the GIRL Center's Adolescent Data Hub, please contact us at GIRLCenter@popcouncil.org.