



ICES is an independent, not-for-profit research institute made up of a community of research, data and clinical experts. We work with Ontario's health-related data and aim to inform health system policy and planning to improve the health of all Ontarians. Our organization receives core funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health.

## HEALTH ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Health care providers generate health administrative data, or health data, whenever they deliver a service to a client. These data are typically used for billing, registration, transactions or record-keeping by hospitals, doctors' office and other providers. The data can also be leveraged to study and evaluate health care delivery, use and costs.



Ontarians produce health data every time they interact with the health care system. For example, when an individual goes to the emergency department, their visit is captured on their health record. The report includes information such as their name and OHIP number, the date of the visit, the reason for the visit and a description of the service provided. These data can be used to learn about population-level health issues and access to health services.

### Why use these data for research?

Conducting research with data collected by the health care system is efficient and affordable. By using health data, researchers have access to a vast array of information that may be difficult or costly to obtain through surveys or other data collection methods. Health administrative data can also be linked across data sources, creating a clearer picture of the population's health care journey.

### Linking data from different sources

We link health data that is stored in different places to help us understand how Ontarians interact with the health care system. ICES can also link health data to non-health data such as census information or immigration data. For example, by linking health data with data collected by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, we can better evaluate the health status and health care experiences of individuals who immigrated to Ontario.



### Types of data

-  Health service use
-  Drugs and devices
-  Health service providers and facilities
-  People and geography
-  Surveys
-  Disease registries

A complete list of the data sets is available in the [ICES Data Repository](#). As a Prescribed Entity under PHIPA, ICES is authorized to use these data to conduct analyses related to management and effectiveness of health care. Learn more about [ICES privacy policies and processes](#).

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