VAHI Data Request Hub

Frequently Asked Questions

What types of data can be accessed from VAHI's data request hub ('the Hub')?

The Hub facilitates access to data across Victoria's health system, including hospitals and health services, mental health, alcohol and other drugs and perinatal data. The Hub can also be used to ask a question about the data or measures in an existing VAHI report.

What types of requests cannot be answered through the Hub?

We cannot respond to requests that involve significant analytics of variation, trends, predictive modelling, linking of data or the interpretation of data. We can also only provide data that is available and accessible within the Victorian health collections.

What else do I need to consider when requesting data from the Hub?

While we will do our best to action your request, please note the following:

- *Ethics Approval:*
  If the data you are requesting will be used for a research project then, the project must be approved by a recognised Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC).

  We can advise on where to seek ethics approval, but we do not directly manage this process. If your data request requires ethics approval, you will need to work with the relevant ethics committee to seek approval for the data request before we can assist you.

  When Ethics approval is provided, the Hub is still required to review the data items being requested to ensure that it is fit for purpose and meets all legislative obligations. Further information regarding the Department of Health and Human Services' ethics committee is available here:
  https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/clinical-trials-and-research/human-research-ethics-committee

- Data Linkage:
  If you are seeking linked data, please contact the Centre for Victorian Data Linkage (CVDL) who will be able to better support your request. More information regarding CVDL is available here:
  https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/reporting-planning-data/the-centre-for-victorian-data-linkage

Victorian Agency for **Health Information**

- Legislative Requirements (including privacy):
  All data requests will be reviewed to ensure that legislative requirements are met before we provide you with the data. For example, VAHI's policy on releasing data aims to protect the privacy of individuals, small community groups and private hospitals which entails that patient level data must be de-identified and comply with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic), the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic) and other relevant legislation. In cases where special legislative requirements exist, we will seek consent from the relevant data custodian before releasing the requested data.

How do I know what data is specifically available through the Hub?

The Hub can provide access to the datasets listed below. If you click on the link for each dataset, you will be able to view the relevant data dictionary and related material:

Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment (AoD)

- Victorian Alcohol and Drug Collections (VADC)
  https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/alcohol-and-drugs/funding-and-reporting-aod-services/data-collection/vadc-specifications

Hospital data (HosData)

- Elective Surgery Information System (ESIS)
  https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/data-reporting/health-data-standards-systems/data-collections/esis

VAHI

Victorian
Agency for
Health
Information

- Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED)
  https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/policiesandguidelines/vaed-manual-2018-19

- Victorian Emergency Management Dataset (VEMD)
  https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/data-reporting/health-data-standards-systems/data-collections/vemd

Mental Health

- Client Management Interface (CMI) and Operational Data Store (ODS)
  https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health/research-and-reporting/reporting-requirements-for-clinical%20mental-health-services

Perinatal

- Victorian Perinatal Data Collection (VPDC)
  https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/quality-safety-service/consultative-councils/council-obstetric-paediatric-mortality/perinatal-data-collection

Other

- Agency Information Management System (AIMS)
  https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/data-reporting/health-data-standards-systems/data-collections/aims

- Victorian Integrated Non-Admitted Health (VINAH) https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/data-reporting/health-data-standards-systems/data-collections/vinah

How can I use data that I request through the Hub?

Please note that all data requests will require you to sign a Conditions of Release (COR) document. The COR outlines your obligations when using the data. The COR will differ depending on the type of data you request, including the level of sensitivity with regards to potential identification of individuals.

How long will it take for me to receive my data?

While we are committed to providing you with the data as soon as we can, all data requests are triaged depending on several factors, including:

- urgency of the request in relation to other requests in the Hub
- complexity of the request
- complexity of legislative, ethics, privacy and other contextual issues
- our overall number of requests

However, we will keep you informed of progress in relation to your request. An analyst will be in touch shortly after you submit your request and will provide you with an estimate of how long it should take.

Victorian Agency for **Health Information**

What extra features do I get if I create a Hub login?

A Hub login enables:

- 'Track' button with live progress updates
- Full history of all submitted requests
- Summary of all correspondence between yourself and Hub staff
- A simple communication tool to reply to your assigned data analyst

If you do not create a Hub login, you can only reach us by replying to our confirmation email after you submit a request.

Does the hub work on smartphones and tablets?

Yes. The Hub is designed to work on desktop, tablet or mobile devices. For best performance, we recommend you use Google Chrome or Internet Explorer browser. The Hub is compatible with most android and iphone devices.

How can I provide feedback about the Hub?

After your request is complete, you will be provided with the opportunity to fill out a short customer feedback form. We will take your feedback on board to keep improving our service!

Victorian Agency for **Health Information**