

Health data in South Korea

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Overview

Korean Health Panel Study (KHPS)

National Health Insurance Service (NHIS) claims data

Korean National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (KNHANES)

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List of Korean datasets on health

1. Korean Health Panel Study (KHPS)
2. National Health Insurance Service (NHIS) claims data
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Overview

- Survey data
 - All values are self-reported
- Panel data
- Household level sampling
 - Family members can be identified
- Visit level health care utilization

What's inside?

- Demographic and socioeconomic variables
 - Individual and household income
 - Educational attainment
- Health care utilization
 - Outpatient / inpatient / emergency care
 - Unit of observations: visit level
- Health behaviors
 - Smoking / drinking / exercise
 - Consumption amount denoted in categories, not continuous
 - Based on the action before the survey date
- Vital
 - Death and birth
 - Not many

Who's inside?

- Sample size
 - Household: 7,000 / Individual: 21,000
 - Not big enough for rare outcome analysis
- Panel structure
 - 2008 - 2018
 - 2 cohorts: 2008-2018 / 2014 - 2018

How to get access

- Request access here ([Korean](#) / [English](#))
 - All you need to do is sign the consent form
- Access to the file: physical
 - Data will be sent to you by email
- Difficulty: 2 (easy)

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- Administrative data
- Insurance claims data
- Large sample size

What's inside?

- Beneficiary information
 - Health insurance type
 - No income, but health insurance premium
 - No education
- Health care utilization
 - T20: visit level (diagnosis / payment / surgery)
 - T30: procedures
 - T40: additional diagnosis
 - T60: prescription
- Vital
 - Death and birth
 - Usually large enough for analysis

T20 health care visit dataset

- Diagnosis
 - Coded using **KOICD** (ICD-10 codes in Korean)
 - Many are masked in the Standard Cohort Database
- Coinsurance Reduction Program for Rare and Severe Diseases
 - Can be used to identify cancer diagnosis
- Payment
 - Amount paid by the beneficiary
 - Amount paid by NHIS

T30 procedures

- Procedure codes are hard to find
 - Need to look at Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service procedure codes ([Link](#))
 - Only in PDF format, not in Excel

Who's inside?

- Sample size
 - Standard Cohort Database: 1 million random sample
 - Can be customized
 - No household or family relationship
- Panel structure
 - 2002 - 2019

How to get access

- Request access here (**Korean** / **English**)
 - Need IRB exemption ⇒ **MUST BE IN KOREAN!**
 - Detailed research proposal
- Access to the file: virtual
 - NEED TO BE PHYSICALLY IN KOREA
 - Standard Cohort Database: VPN access
 - Customized database: need to go to research data center
- Difficulty: 4 (difficult)
 - A lot of hassle and inefficiencies
 - Expensive
 - Strongly recommend calling NHIS even before IRB stage (Emails are not answered)

Caveats

- Data do not include private care (비급여)
 - Only hospital visits that generate insurance claims
- Cancer screenings are stored in separate datasets
 - Not included in T30
 - Need to be requested separately (call first)
- Importing external data and exporting research output is difficult
 - Sometimes, external Stata packages are not allowed (I KNOW!)
 - Exporting research output requires approval and takes a long time
 - Only 10 files a day are allowed (be aware of image resolutions)
- Expensive and data not well documented

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- Survey data
 - All values are self-reported
- Health examination data
 - Measured at the time of interview
- Nutrition information

How to get access

- Request access here ([Korean](#) / [English](#))