



The Australian Longitudinal
Study on Male Health
aifs.gov.au/tentomen



Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing



Australian Government
Australian Institute of Family Studies

Ten to Men: The Australian Longitudinal Study on Male Health

Data Access Policy (August 2026)

1. Terms and Definitions

AIHW s29 Confidentiality Undertaking: All users accessing linked NDI administrative datasets under *Ten to Men* must comply with the confidentiality provisions set out in section 29 of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987 (Undertaking of Confidentiality, s.29).

Australian Data Archive: national service provider responsible for providing access to datasets through a platform called Dataverse.

Data: means survey datasets, linked datasets and related Study information made available to approved data users.

Restricted Release Survey Dataset: While all datasets have been confidentialised, there are fewer restrictions on the data available in the Restricted Release dataset. Access to this dataset may be granted where the researcher can demonstrate a genuine need for the additional data and that they meet the necessary additional requirements. **Overseas users are not eligible to apply for this dataset.**

General Release Survey Dataset: The data available in this dataset have been more heavily confidentialised. Some information available in the restricted release dataset is not available in this dataset. All researchers are eligible to apply for access to this dataset.

Linked Administrative Datasets (MBS, PBS, Centrelink and NDI): The data available in these datasets have been de-identified and confidentialised, and linked to the *Ten to Men* survey datasets using the unique *Ten to Men* ID. These datasets include the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS), Centrelink administrative data, and the National Death Index (NDI). Access to these datasets requires compliance with additional data custodian requirements. **Overseas users are not eligible to apply for this dataset.**

Data Access Team: *Ten to Men* personnel responsible for administering data access requests and the provision of data.

Data Access Committee: The *Ten to Men* body responsible for reviewing and approving data requests.

Health Insurance Act 1973/National Health Act 1953: Commonwealth legislation governing the protection and permitted use of MBS and PBS data.

Lead Investigator: Researcher responsible for overseeing a research project.

Linked administrative dataset: A dataset containing records from an external data source – including the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), Centrelink, and National Death Index (NDI), that are linked to *Ten to Men* survey data. Access to these datasets require compliance with additional data custodian requirements

Metadata: Contextual information about the *Ten to Men* datasets primarily documenting the research datasets, including data dictionaries.

NHMRC: means the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Personal information: Data that may identify a study participant as defined in s 6(1) of the *Privacy Act*.

Research Project: Individuals conducting approved research projects using *Ten to Men* research data.

Researchers: Individuals using *Ten to Men* data for research purposes.

User: means the person or organisation named in the Data User Agreement.

2. Background

- 2.1. *Ten to Men* is a publicly funded resource to be used for the purpose of furthering the public good with a particular emphasis on expanding the knowledge base on male health, and supporting policy and program development in male health.
- 2.2. *Ten to Men* data are available for use in projects that are scientifically and ethically sound as defined by the NHMRC Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research.
- 2.3. *Ten to Men* data will not be made available for commercial purposes/benefits.
- 2.4. The Australian Institute of Family Studies manages access to *Ten to Men* data.
- 2.5. This policy applies to researchers seeking access to the following datasets:
 - Research data from the *Ten to Men* questionnaires (General Release or Restricted Release).
 - Linked datasets containing data from external administrative sources, such as Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS), Centrelink and National Death Index.
- 2.6. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Terms and Conditions of Data Use which details the conditions for use of *Ten to Men* data.
- 2.7. Approval of requests for *Ten to Men* data will be via a process that is transparent,

accountable and equitable.

3. Data Access – General Conditions

- 3.1. The privacy of study participants must be protected at all times.
- 3.2. Personal or identifiable information of *Ten to Men* participants is not available.
- 3.3. Researchers affiliated with a University or recognised research institution or research organisation, government department or enrolled Research students are eligible to access *Ten to Men* data. Overseas users are not eligible to apply for the Restricted Release or Linked datasets.
- 3.4. Requests can be made for data for research projects, and in-principle approval to include *Ten to Men* data in research funding applications.
- 3.5. Research projects must meet the public good criteria, be scientifically and ethically sound and contribute to the knowledge base on male health as described in the study aims and objectives.
- 3.6. Access is limited to those researchers named in an approved request.
- 3.7. Researchers must provide the Study (and relevant data custodians) with a written update on the progress of the Project by August of **each year**. Progress updates will include the stage of the Project, relevant data outputs and dissemination. Researchers who continue to disseminate findings through presentations or publications are deemed to be current data users and therefore annual progress reports are required. A reminder email for Project updates will be sent to all current users in early August of each year.
- 3.8. Researchers must notify the Study in writing to confirm that they are no longer using the data to:
 - conduct analyses of the data or produce outputs
 - produce publications or reports using the data
 - present findings using the data.

Researchers will need to complete a short End-of-Project form to verify this.

4. Data Access Procedure – Research Project

- 4.1. The data request process is managed by the Australian Institute of Family Studies.
- 4.2. A Data Access Request Form must be submitted.
- 4.3. The Request Form includes the following:
 1. Project title;
 2. 100 word lay summary of the proposed project (this summary along with the name and affiliation of lead investigator will be published on the *Ten to Men*

- website and may be included in *Ten to Men* reports);
3. Project outline describing the background and significance of the project, main research questions and relation to the aims of *Ten to Men*;
 4. Policy relevance, including information on the public benefit and policy relevance of the research, and how this relates to *Ten to Men* (where applicable);
 5. Intentions to combine external data sources to *Ten to Men* data;
 6. Brief analysis plan;
 7. Time frame and funding;
 8. Expected research outputs;
 9. Details of data storage and access management arrangements;
 10. Proposed outputs;
 11. Name, contact details and signature of lead investigator, and supervisor for student projects;
 12. Details of all other researchers requiring access to the data;
 13. External administrative datasets requested.
- 4.4. The Data Access Request Form should be submitted to the *Ten to Men* AIFS Data Manager at ttmdatamanager@aifs.gov.au.
- 4.5. The review process comprises two stages: a Technical and Administrative Review and a Data Access Committee review.
- 4.6. Requests will be approved by the AIFS *Ten to Men* Data Access Committee. For requests to access General or Restricted Release data, the review process will take up to two weeks from the date of receipt. For requests to access linked administrative datasets, the review process will take up to four weeks from the date of receipt of the request.

Technical and Administrative Review

- 4.7. Requests undergo initial review by the AIFS *Ten to Men* Data Access Team for completeness, eligibility and general feasibility based on the information provided in the Data Access Request Form.
- 4.8. Requests that are incomplete, or where further information is required to assess eligibility or feasibility, will be returned with a request for additional information.
- 4.9. Researchers are responsible for ensuring that *Ten to Men* data are suitable for the proposed Project. The *Ten to Men* data dictionaries, data books and questionnaires are available at <https://aifs.gov.au/tentomen/resources/collections/resources-data->

[users](#) to aid in evaluating the suitability of *Ten to Men* data for the proposed Project. Researchers may request additional information to assist in evaluating suitability. If substantial data manipulation or analyses are required to provide that information, Researchers may be asked to cover costs.

- 4.10. Projects will not be formally assessed with respect to overlap or duplication. However, in order to avoid duplication of effort information on previous and currently approved Projects is provided at <https://aifs.gov.au/tentomen/data-users/access-usage/approved-projects>. It is the researchers' responsibility to assess potential overlap and to revise their research questions accordingly to avoid duplication with already approved projects.
- 4.11. Following successful Technical and Administrative review, requests will progress to the Data Access Committee review.

Data Access Committee Review

- 4.12. The Data Access Committee comprises members of the *Ten to Men* project team with expertise in a wide variety of population and health fields, survey methodology, research and analysis, and statistical sciences.
- 4.13. Each request will be independently reviewed by all members of the Committee.
- 4.14. Requests will be reviewed against the following criteria:
- Serves the public good/relates to *Ten to Men* objectives;
 - Data is fit for purpose;
 - Strength/feasibility of the hypothesis/research questions;
 - Research plan is achievable;
 - Appropriateness of proposed methodology;
 - Appropriateness of principles and practices to handle research datasets while maintaining the anonymity of information.
- 4.15. The Committee may approve, deny, or request further information.
- 4.16. The Data Access Committee will provide their feedback and final decision to the Data Access Committee Co-ordinator to communicate the outcome to the Lead Investigator.
- 4.17. All approved data users are required to complete and sign a Data User Agreement and Deed of Confidentiality. This will be provided to the Lead Investigator via email. The Lead Investigator is responsible for ensuring that each researcher named on the application completes their own Deed of Confidentiality and that this is returned via email to the Data Manager.
- 4.18. The Data Manager will facilitate delivery of survey data and linked data to approved users through the Australian Data Archive.

5. Research Funding Applications

- 5.1. Researchers seeking to include the future use of *Ten to Men* data as part of a research funding application are required to complete the Request for Data Access Form.
- 5.2. The Request for Data Access Form and any related documentation should be submitted via email to the Data Manager at ttmdatamanager@aifs.gov.au.
- 5.3. Requests to use *Ten to Men* data in future research projects are subject to the same criteria as described above in Section 3.
- 5.4. Following the technical and administrative review, the *Ten to Men* Data Access Committee will review requests.
- 5.5. If the review is favourable, in-principle approval to use *Ten to Men* data will be granted.
- 5.6. In-principle approval does not result in release of *Ten to Men* data. It merely approves the inclusion of *Ten to Men* as a data source in a funding application.
- 5.7. Should the funding application subsequently be successful, the researchers must follow the standard data access procedures as described in Section 3 and 4 to obtain access to *Ten to Men* data.

6. Linked Administrative Datasets

- 6.1. *Ten to Men* provides Researchers with the opportunity to apply for access to linked administrative datasets containing Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), Centrelink and National Death Index (NDI) data.
- 6.2. The process to access linked administrative datasets is to request via Part E on the Data User Access Request Form. For further information, please contact the Data Manager at ttmdatamanager@aifs.gov.au.
- 6.3. Researchers approved to access certain linked datasets must meet any extra conditions set by the data custodian. All users of NDI data will be required to sign an AIHW s 29 confidentiality undertaking before data release, and users of MBS/PBS data are bound by provisions of the Health Insurance Act and National Health Act
- 6.4. Linked datasets are released to approved users via the Australian Data Archive Dataverse platform.
- 6.5. Publications using linked external data must also acknowledge the source of that data (e.g. Services Australia and/or AIHW) in addition to the standard *Ten to Men* acknowledgment as defined in the Data User Agreement.

- 6.6. Publications using MBS, PBS or Centrelink linked administrative data will need to provide Services Australia with a copy of any draft publication containing Services Australia data at least 20 days (but no less than 10 days) before submission for publication (or as otherwise agreed). The User must also provide Services Australia with a final copy of any published report or article that used its data.

7. Ethics Approvals

- 7.1. Existing Australian Institute of Family Studies Human Research Ethics Committee approval is considered sufficient to use *Ten to Men* data to contribute to the knowledge base on male health as described in the study aims and objectives and no additional ethics documentation is required.
- 7.2. Users of MBS or PBS linked data are deemed to be bound by provisions of the Health Insurance Act 1973 and National Health Act 1953, just as Commonwealth officers are. Unauthorised use or disclosure of such data is an offence under those Acts.

8. Fees and charges

- 8.1. There are no fees associated with accessing *Ten to Men* survey or linked data.