

Wisconsin Longitudinal Study

Instructions for Requesting Genetic Data

Despite past and present misuses of genomic data, the WLS recognizes the promise that such data have for advancing scientific inquiry into the multiple, complex factors that shape health and well-being across the life course. We are therefore pleased to offer researchers access to genomic data. Researchers must submit four things listed below. After approval by the WLS PI, applicants will receive a data use agreement that needs to be signed by a person who has signing authority from the applicant's institution.

Please send:

1. A brief statement acknowledging the potential pitfalls of genomics research and a plan to avoid them in the course of the design and conduct of the study as well as in the interpretation and reporting of findings. Please read the example of a statement below.
2. A short proposal (5 pages maximum) describing the research question and study design. Please include a title for your project. Researchers should make it clear whether they want to work with the first or second wave of genetic data. Those wishing to work with the second wave of data should specify whether they want imputed or non-imputed data. For more information on the differences between the waves of genetic data see: <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/wlsresearch/documentation/>
3. A copy of, or a link to, a Curriculum Vitae (CV) of **every researcher** who will work with the genetic data. NOTE: Students and Post-Docs are eligible to receive the data but only if they also submit the name and CV of a faculty sponsor.
4. Documentation of IRB approval

to Carol.Roan@wisc.edu

Example of statement

We intend to use the WLS data for a project studying social and genetic factors influencing life quality in old age. We plan on using polygenic scores as simple measures of genetic predispositions to (mental)health outcomes, avoiding any interpretations about genetic reductivism and determinism. We intend to study the correlations between the polygenic scores and the outcomes, and how social factors (such as educational level) may mediate or moderate (reinforce or compensate) for genetic predispositions. We are well-aware that we cannot claim anything about the underlying genetic mechanisms, we will avoid any deterministic language in interpretation and dissemination of results. We are aware of the misuse of genetic information to justify inequality and even mistreatment of certain groups. Our goal is, in contrast, to enrich social stratification studies on health with genetic information in order to reach a more nuanced understanding of inequality in health.

Accessing the Data

Approved researchers who are not at UW- Madison will receive instructions on how to download the genetic and phenotypic data files using Globus file transfer.