

BLSA Data Sharing

Schedules, Processes and Required Agreements

1. Thank you for your interest in using BLSA data in your research.
2. Instructions for submitting your pre-analysis plan and subsequent analysis plan are embedded in the application.
3. Reviews of all new and revised pre-analysis and analysis plans will be conducted 6 times per year, approximately every 2 months. The schedule of review dates is posted on the website. Only plans received a minimum of ONE WEEK prior to a scheduled review date will be considered.
4. Each approved analysis plan will have at least one assigned senior BLSA-related scientist who is responsible for oversight and tracking. The assigned BLSA-related scientist(s) should also be co-author(s) on resulting manuscripts.
5. The applicant assumes the following obligations and responsibilities when an analysis plan is approved. The applicant will be asked to acknowledge their willingness to abide by these guidelines at the time of pre-analysis plan submission and will sign a letter of agreement that delineates these responsibilities prior to release of data.
 - A. The applicant will complete the required data agreement transfer documentation.
 - B. Only data related to the specific aims of the approved plan will be released to the applicant.
 - C. This data may be used for informal explorations but can only result in publications that are specifically linked to the aims of the approved analysis plan.
 - D. The applicant must submit a progress report every 6 months to the assigned senior BLSA-related scientist.
 - E. All resulting manuscripts must be reviewed and approved by NIA prior to submission for publication.
 - F. The analysis plan approval is effective for two years. Renewals are possible but require a formal request and evidence of productivity.
 - G. If data is used for purposes other than approved in the analysis plan, or findings from BLSA are published without BLSA and NIA approval, the applicant will be barred from further access to BLSA data.
6. Proposal evaluation criteria include broad relevance to the mission of NIA and BLSA, availability of the relevant data, sufficient resources (from the applicant and the NIA) to support the project, clearly specified hypothesis and aims, overall scientific quality, and complementarity/lack of significant overlap with ongoing BLSA research commitments.
7. Applicants should be prepared to work within the BLSA timelines for receiving data. Applicants should expect a minimum of 2-4 months from initial submission to approval of an analysis plan and a minimum of two more months to obtain NIH IRB approval and a completed NIH Data Sharing Agreement. Given the extremely limited internal resources for composing data sets for external use, applicants should assume an additional 2-4 months minimum to receive data. In total, the entire process is unlikely to be completed in less than 6 months and may take up to one year or longer, depending on the complexity of the request.

Signature

Date