

DATA PUBLISHING

WITH THE QUALITATIVE DATA REPOSITORY (QDR)

QDR The Qualitative Data Repository

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) FOR JCOIN- SUPPORTED RESEARCH TEAMS

What is the purpose of this document?

This is a brief introduction to [QDR](#), the Qualitative Data Repository for researchers and teams funded by our collaborators from the Justice Community Overdose Innovation Network ([JCOIN](#)). We look forward to curating individual data deposits from principal investigators (PIs); in the meantime, we want to anticipate and address some general questions.

What is QDR?

[QDR](#) is a digital repository that facilitates the curation, storage, preservation, publication, and download of digital data generated through qualitative and multi-method research in the social, public health, implementation, and related sciences. QDR has well-trained staff who work with researchers to preserve and present the data from qualitative and multi-method projects in the most helpful form for appropriate secondary uses. QDR does not charge for secondary use of the data and is an organization with an academic, not commercial, mission.

What specific help can I expect from QDR?

QDR's team will work with you to review the conditions under which your study's qualitative or multi-method data (with a significant qualitative component) can be published after the end of your project. We can provide an initial consultation regarding the deposit's organization (file names, formats, etc.) and documentation. We also help in the development of a de-identification protocol (i.e., what data elements to remove, conceal, and/or aggregate and how best to indicate redactions have been applied) and can perform a disclosure risk evaluation on already de-identified data. We do not perform actual de-identification, since researchers know their data and are best positioned to do that. For a complete list of the curation steps we follow, please [review this page](#).

What is data publication?

To publish data means to make them available to others—apart from the original researcher or team who collected them—for access and use. It is important to note that “publication” does not equal full or unrestricted access to the contents of the data files. Information about the project and the data's existence (metadata) are displayed as part of data publication, but the actual data from a project might be placed under special conditions, limiting access to specific people or categories of people who qualify. JCOIN-funded researchers have a commitment to publish the data they collected under the terms of their grant with the goal of multiplying the benefits of their work.

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What do I need to do to publish JCOIN data on QDR?

Before you approach QDR directly, you should have taken the first steps described [here](#) to register your study with the [HEAL network data platform](#). Once your study has a HEAL ID (e.g., for <https://healdata.org/portal/discovery/HDP00362>, the HEAL ID is HDP00362), you can connect with QDR.

Choose the person from your research team act as primary depositor. This could be the PI, a project manager, data manager, etc.— ideally, someone familiar with the data who can answer questions needed for appropriate curation. This authorized depositor should [create a free QDR account](#) and then navigate to the QDR [data catalog](#) while logged in, to fully activate their new account.

Once the person designated to be the team's deposit contact has completed that step, they can reach out to QDR directly at qdr@syr.edu with the subject line "JCOIN deposit". That email should be sent from the same email address they used to register on the QDR site. In the email, they should share the HEAL ID for the project. (Optionally, they can indicate the status of the data — not yet collected, collected but not yet fully de-identified, etc. Additionally, they might want to share the text of the actual informed consent used with participants. Reviewing the terms of the informed consent is the next step the QDR team will take, to assess the most appropriate form for data publication.)

Once the QDR team receives this email, we will be able to use a HEAL-QDR Bridge tool to "port" the study's metadata from the HEAL Platform, initiate a deposit entry on the QDR system, and assign the team's contact person as a contributor to the deposit. The contact can then can access it prior to publication.

At this point, the primary depositor will be able to upload data and documentation into the QDR system. A more detailed step-by-step description of what to expect from the full deposit process can be found here: <https://qdr.syr.edu/deposit/process>.

If more than one person on the team would like to be designated as an active deposit contributor (i.e., be able to upload files and / or review the prepublication "behind-the-scenes" version of the data deposit), each should also create a QDR account as described above and let us know.

Are the data on QDR "open access"?

"Open-access data" or "[open data](#)" are terms typically used to describe data that can be accessed, downloaded, copied and repurposed without financial, legal, or other limitations. In that strict sense, QDR does not provide open-access data. Due to the nature of qualitative data, our approach requires limitation to the secondary uses of any of the data we publish (for noncommercial scholarly and pedagogical purposes only), as well as additional qualifications for access to some materials that are restricted. (cont.)

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Additionally, as a part of the academic data infrastructure, we require that any data used from the site be unaltered and that appropriate credit be assigned by standardized citation for each project or file referred to in secondary work.

Who might use the published data and how?

The data published on QDR are only legally available to potential secondary users for noncommercial scholarly uses. Typically, that means that other scholars can review the way a published study was done (e.g., research transparency or verification), do further research (e.g., analyze existing interview transcripts with a new question in mind) or use the data for teaching (e.g., train students how to conduct qualitative data collection by studying the example provided in a given published data project). Secondary users are required to cite the data publication if they refer to it in any future written products.

For further general FAQs, please visit this page: <https://qdr.syr.edu/about/faq> or contact QDR at qdr@syr.edu (please include “JCOIN” in the subject line). We look forward to working with you!