

SaxInstitute | SURE: Secure Unified Research Environment

Why choose SURE for data release?

A guide for data custodians

The fast and flexible way to share health data with the research community

Australia has one of the world's most comprehensive collections of population-based health data. The Secure Unified Research Environment (SURE) offers data custodians a powerful and secure platform for sharing this information with researchers.

Independently managed by the Sax Institute, SURE gives researchers access to pre-approved linked data from hospitals, cancer registries, clinical trials, and the use of government services.

There are now more than 25 organisations from every Australian state and territory uploading data to SURE, and 450 researchers using the facility for research tackling major health issues such as cancer, diabetes and mental health.

How does SURE work?

SURE is purpose-built for researchers and data custodians, and provides a highly secure environment for both the sharing and analysis of sensitive health data.

When researchers join SURE, they are allocated a virtual workspace that runs entirely on hardware physically located at and controlled by the Sax Institute. This means that researchers can log in remotely and analyse data, without datasets ever leaving SURE.

We also work closely with custodians to understand how they want to share their information with researchers. We can put permissions and rules in place that suit the most restrictive or most liberalised data release requirements or any combination in between. These services are designed to give custodians a range of security controls so that researchers access the most useful and insightful sets of data.



"SURE provides an amazing opportunity for researchers to access data that wouldn't otherwise be available to us. It also gives data custodians the confidence to be able to release data to researchers."

Dr Emily Callander
Health Economist at Griffith University and SURE user

Key benefits of SURE

Highly secure data management you can trust

SURE is accredited and regularly audited under ISO27001:2013 to provide custodians with the utmost confidence in security management practices. All data is made available to researchers in a safe environment that satisfies data governance and security requirements to known and consistent standards.

A national resource approved for rapid data release

The SURE platform is nationally recognised and hosts sensitive health data from all Australian states and territories. This cuts down on waiting times for researchers, and allows for the rapid release of data for health research.

Customised data controls and insights

When you share data with SURE, you also get to see how it's being used. Our team of experienced data managers can provide regular reporting on researchers' use of SURE, from logging of file access to individual keystrokes and data viewing.

New servers that conduct analysis in half the time

We've recently upgraded to powerful new servers, meaning researchers can now conduct analysis 50% faster. And thanks to our new server environment, SURE users and custodians have more than enough storage for upload and analysis.

Constant upgrades to keep pace with Australian researchers

SURE is continually responding to the needs of custodians and users, and is currently developing new solutions for artificial intelligence analysis and hybrid-cloud computing that will provide more flexibility and options for analysing data.

FIND OUT MORE

To begin working with SURE, or to discuss your research needs, please contact the Sax Institute SURE team.

Email: sure-admin@saxinstitute.org.au
Visit: saxinstitute.org.au/solutions/sure/
Phone: (02) 9195 6060

About the Sax Institute

The Sax Institute is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that connects evidence with decision-making. We help governments and organisations understand what works and act to improve the health and wellbeing of every generation. SURE was developed by the Sax Institute, and is operated as part of Data Connect Australia with funding from the Australian Government National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) and the NSW Government.

SURE's upgraded servers were purchased with a NSW NCRIS Co-Investment grant from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment through the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer.

NCRIS National Research Infrastructure for Australia An Australian Government Initiative

DATA CONNECT AUSTRALIA

NSW GOVERNMENT

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