The National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging (NACDA) is interested in acquiring datasets that address research issues on the aging lifecourse and gerontological research. In 1999, the NACDA Advisory Council established a set of data priorities to guide our ability to accept and process data collections in a systematic manner. NACDA continues to have preferential interest in datasets with one or more of the characteristics that make it a “High-Priority Data Collection”. NACDA gives priority to studies funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), but is happy to acquire high-priority aging studies funded by other sources.

High-Priority Data Collections

- Longitudinal data from studies that take place over time, with at least two waves of data collection on the same measurements.
- Repeated cross-sectional data from studies with similar measures from independent samples collected over multiple waves, with each sample being representative of the population at that time period.
- Enhancements to current holdings are studies that supplement or link to NACDA’s current holdings that improve the analyses that may be performed with those datasets.
- Data on minorities from studies that focus on or identify detailed ethnic and racial groups.
- Data from probability samples from studies that use some form of random selection.
- International and cross-cultural data from studies in a variety of countries, cultures, and social contexts.
- Government- or foundation-funded “high-priority” studies that are not actively being distributed from another source, in particular prospective research projects.
- “Window of opportunity” data from major studies about addiction and HIV during the 20th century, in particular those considered “classic” studies in the field.
- Intervention studies from behavioral, prevention, and diagnostic trials.
Social science stimulus/executive function studies, often including videos or computer scripts.

Lower-Priority Data Collections
NACDA is happy to discuss research development with investigators and we are interested in all datasets which may extend our understanding of the aging lifecourse. However, the following types of data are not considered a high priority. If archived, they may be preserved with only minimal processing by NACDA staff:

- Data from non-probability samples
- Experimental and pilot studies
- Clinical data
- Data without social science content
- Data from non-human subjects (animals)

Data Processing and Release
NACDA staff conduct a confidentiality review on all deposited data. From this evaluation, staff recommend a method of data release that protects respondents from re-identification while retaining the analytic utility of the data.

A full public release is only warranted when risk of re-identification is minimal or the data are sufficiently transformed to substantially reduce that risk. NACDA staff can provide information to depositors about how to release the data as a restricted-use dataset or with delayed dissemination.

Since staff cannot know if the data are fully de-identified until after their review, all data processing tasks are conducted in ICPSR’s Secure Data Environment. During data processing, NACDA staff add value to data collections by making them easier to use for secondary analysis. See ICPSR: A Case Study on the ICPSR Web site for details.

Data release options include:

- Public release and public online analysis
- Restricted release with an approved user agreement
- Enclave-only access with an approved user agreement
- Online access after disclosure protections are applied (may require an approved user agreement)
- Delayed dissemination

NACDA’s Mission
The National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging (NACDA), located within ICPSR, is funded by the National Institute on Aging. NACDA’s mission is to advance research on aging by helping researchers to profit from the under-exploited potential of a broad range of datasets.
NACDA acquires and preserves data relevant to gerontological research, processing as needed to promote effective research use, disseminates them to researchers, and facilitates their use. By preserving and making available the largest library of electronic data on aging in the United States, NACDA offers opportunities for secondary analysis on major issues of scientific and policy relevance.