

# ACS TQP Research Pathways

*Guidance on Data Resources and Project Planning for Researchers*

**Which ACS TQP research pathway is right for your study? Start with the type of data you need.**

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| <b>Existing NTDS/TQP data?</b><br>Use the standard PUF and optional Facility Keys. | <b>Additional data or linkage?</b><br>Request a custom dataset or ACS-conducted analysis. | <b>New prospective data?</b><br>Consider the Trauma Research Registry. |
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| TQP PUF & Facility Keys                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Custom Dataset Requests                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Trauma Research Registry (TRR)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <p><b>Primary use:</b> Use existing de-identified NTDS/TQP data for retrospective trauma research.</p> <p><b>Facility Keys:</b> Allow de-identified hospital-level clustering for variation, longitudinal trends, and multi-level modeling.</p> <p><b>Best suited for:</b> Retrospective observational studies, QI studies, feasibility projects, and resident/fellow research.</p> <p><b>Timeline:</b> Approximately 1 month</p> <p><b>Funding:</b> Lower-cost / standard-access pathway. TQP researchers can receive the PUF at no cost; Facility Keys are a separate add-on.</p> <p><b>Start here:</b> Submit an online TQP PUF application and review the relevant PUF User Manual before applying.</p> | <p><b>Primary use:</b> Extend the standard PUF with approved additional data, linkages, or ACS-conducted analyses.</p> <p><b>May include:</b> NTDS data not in the PUF, facility-level survey data, external indices, derived variables, or aggregate outputs.</p> <p><b>Best suited for:</b> Advanced retrospective analyses, linkage projects, QI studies, and studies requiring data beyond the standard PUF.</p> <p><b>Timeline:</b> Approximately 3-6 months at minimum.</p> <p><b>Funding:</b> Moderate-cost / custom dataset pathway requiring dedicated support for analytic, administrative, and legal work.</p> <p><b>Start here:</b> Contact ACS TQP for feasibility review before formal planning or funding requests.</p> | <p><b>Primary use:</b> Collect new study-specific data prospectively and append it to corresponding NTDS/TQP records.</p> <p><b>May include:</b> Randomization arms, intervention variables, post-discharge data, or custom outcomes not routinely captured in NTDS.</p> <p><b>Best suited for:</b> Prospective cohort studies, multicenter QI collaboratives, and registry-based clinical trials.</p> <p><b>Timeline:</b> Approximately 6-9+ months before anticipated data collection start.</p> <p><b>Funding:</b> Higher-cost / prospective infrastructure pathway, typically supported by federal agencies, foundations, or professional societies.</p> <p><b>Start here:</b> Contact ACS TQP during protocol or grant development with draft protocol, suggested sites, data needs, timeline, and funding status.</p> |

## Not sure which pathway fits?

Contact ACS TQP staff early to discuss feasibility, timelines, data availability, and funding considerations before submitting a grant or protocol.

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