WHY IS BROADER ACCESS TO PUBLICLY FUNDED DATA IMPORTANT?

Researchers use data to evaluate effectiveness, quality and value in health care.

Having access to high-quality data can enable researchers to:

- Identify cost-effective, evidence-based care
- Predict treatment response for different patients
- Evaluate innovative systems and payment designs

Many important data sets are publicly funded by:

- THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
- STATE GOVERNMENTS

A new study shows that there are barriers in accessing publicly funded data.

What did they find?

Policy inconsistencies and other hurdles put publicly funded datasets OUT OF REACH for many researchers.

Federal datasets provide access, but researchers may face barriers based on:

- Researcher affiliation
- Purpose of request
- Funding source

Researchers also face indirect hurdles:

- Prolonged wait times for approval and delivery
- High user fees
- Lack of recent data

4 out of 10 states provide access to state government employees and contractors only

6 out of 10 states provide certain types of files for external research requests

Why reduce roadblocks to data accessibility?

The investment in data is growing faster than access is being addressed.

Balancing PRIVACY with ACCESS to quality publicly funded data can help researchers TACKLE some of our biggest HEALTH CARE QUESTIONS, ultimately leading to important IMPROVEMENTS in care.

What's next?

AUTHORS MADE 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. FOCUS ON RESEARCH QUALITY AND INTENT, not researcher’s affiliation
2. Increase AVAILABILITY OF GRANULAR DATA that can be linked
3. Utilize TECHNOLOGY to enhance data security
4. Establish STRONG PROCESSES to alleviate indirect access barriers