SAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Secondary Analysis to Generate Evidence (SAGE) is a collaborative data platform that connects stakeholders through data. SAGE provides the processes and tools to enable data-driven collaborations between researchers, community organizations, and government. SAGE provides technical infrastructure and governance processes that protect participant/client privacy and ensure ethical re-use of data.

Governance

SAC: SAGE Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC) is a Board appointed Committee Chaired by a Board Director. The SAC provides advice on broad directions and strategies of SAGE implementation. The members are from funder organizations, targeted sectors (universities and not for profit), experts in ethics, information privacy, and data reuse. Currently, the members include representatives from University of Alberta, University of Calgary, Research Ethics Board, the Alberta Office of Information Privacy Commissioner, Research Data Canada, Alberta Innovates, and a Community Based Organization.

Implementation Group: The SAGE Implementation Group, is composed of internal staff as well as close collaborators from other organizations. It guides the SAGE operation. Workstream Leads (technical, operations, strategy, and knowledge mobilization) report into the SAGE Implementation Group. Current members include representatives of data depositors, University Library, Research Ethics Board, the non-profits community, other major data and research initiatives (e.g., Tomorrow Project), etc.

SAGE Team: The SAGE team is composed Director of Data Operations, Project Coordinators and Data Analysts. They are responsible for the day to day SAGE operations.

Depositing Data

SAGE works with the Data Producer through the following data deposit process to facilitate the deposit of data. In general, (1) chart of deposit's re-use conditions, (2) data deposit agreement, (3) metadata development, (4) data submission to SAGE, (5) data and documentation review, (6) promotion of data set.

Accessing Data

We currently hold 12 datasets including two large birth cohort studies, which represent over 5000 Albertan families; however, SAGE is NOT an open repository, access to data is controlled. In general, the data access process encompasses the following trajectory: (1) study proposal and eligibility, (2) proposal review, (3) cost-recovery estimate, (4) ethics board approval, (5) data access agreement, (6) code of conduct acknowledgment, (7) access to analytical environment.

Secure Analytical Environment

SAGE data is stored on a secure server and accessed through a secure Analytic Environment (AE), a virtual desktop system that allows remote access for customized dataset and the analytic tools. Authorized users access the AE using two-factor authentication. Individual level data cannot leave the system to ensure the protection of client and patient confidentiality. The AE is a close system with no internet connection and data cannot be copied and moved out of the system by the users. SAGE staff vet analytic outputs to minimize the risk of re-identification before the aggregated analysis results are released to the users.

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