ACS TQP Trauma Quality Programs
American College of Surgeons

ACS TQP Data Access Options

Guidance on Data Resources and Project Planning for Researchers

Which ACS TQP data resource is right for your study? Start by identifying your data needs.

Existing NTDS/TQP data? Use the standard PUF and optional Facility Keys.	**Additional data or linkage?** Request a custom dataset or ACS-conducted analysis.	**New prospective data?** Consider the Trauma Research Registry.

TQP PUF & Facility Keys

Primary use: Use existing de-identified NTDS/TQP data for retrospective trauma research.

Facility Keys: Allow de-identified hospital-level clustering for variation, longitudinal trends, and multi-level modeling.

Best suited for: Retrospective observational studies, QI studies, feasibility projects, and resident/fellow research.

Timeline: Approximately 1 month

Funding: Lower-cost / standard-access pathway. TQIP researchers can receive the PUF at no cost; Facility Keys are a separate add-on.

Start here: Submit an online TQP PUF application and review the relevant PUF User Manual before applying.

Custom Dataset Requests

Primary use: Extend the standard PUF with approved additional data, linkages, or ACS-conducted analyses.

May include: NTDS data not in the PUF, facility-level survey data, external indices, derived variables, or aggregate outputs.

Best suited for: Advanced retrospective analyses, linkage projects, QI studies, and studies requiring data beyond the standard PUF.

Timeline: Approximately 3-6 months at minimum.

Funding: Moderate-cost / custom dataset pathway requiring dedicated support for analytic, administrative, and legal work.

Start here: Contact ACS TQP for feasibility review before formal planning or funding requests.

Trauma Research Registry (TRR)

Primary use: Collect new study-specific data prospectively and append it to corresponding NTDS/TQP records.

May include: Randomization arms, intervention variables, post-discharge data, or custom outcomes not routinely captured in NTDS.

Best suited for: Prospective cohort studies, multicenter QI collaboratives, and registry-based clinical trials.

Timeline: Approximately 6-9+ months before anticipated data collection start.

Funding: Higher-cost / prospective infrastructure pathway, typically supported by federal agencies, foundations, or professional societies.

Start here: Contact ACS TQP during protocol or grant development with draft protocol, suggested sites, data needs, timeline, and funding status.

Not sure which data option fits?

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

Contact: traumaquality@facs.org