

Overview of the PATH Study

Who is sponsoring the PATH Study?

The PATH Study is a collaboration between the [National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#), [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#), and the [Center for Tobacco Products \(CTP\)](#), [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#). NIH/NIDA awarded a research contract to [Westat](#), an independent research firm in Maryland, to conduct the PATH Study. Beginning in fiscal year 2024, several NIH institutes, offices, and centers also support the PATH Study. These include the National Cancer Institute, National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Library of Medicine, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, and the Office of the Director.

What is the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (FSPTCA)?

The [FSPTCA](#) was signed into law in 2009 and gave the FDA the authority to regulate the manufacture, marketing, and distribution of tobacco products.

Some of the specific authorities that the FSPTCA grants to FDA include:

- Restricting tobacco sales, distribution, and marketing to youth
- Requiring disclosure of tobacco product ingredients
- Implementing standards for tobacco products to protect public health
- Requiring warning labels on smokeless tobacco products

What is the timeline for the PATH Study?

The PATH Study is a national longitudinal cohort study. The field test for the PATH Study took place between November 2012 and February 2013. Below is a table of data collection Waves with respective dates for data availability.

Wave #	Begin Date	End Date	RUF Release Date	PUF Release Date
Wave 1	September 2013	December 2014	December 2015	August 2016
Wave 2	October 2014	October 2015	March 2017	June 2017
Wave 3	October 2015	October 2016	May 2018	September 2018
Wave 4	December 2016	January 2018	May 2019	November 2019

Wave #	Begin Date	End Date	RUF Release Date	PUF Release Date
Wave 4.5 (Special Collection)	December 2017	December 2018	March 2020	September 2020
Wave 5	December 2018	November 2019	February 2021	September 2021
Wave 5.5 (Special Collection)	December 2019	December 2020	April 2022	October 2022
Adult Telephone Survey (Special Collection)	September 2020	December 2020	April 2022	October 2022
Wave 6	March 2021	November 2021	March 2023	September 2023
Wave 7	January 2022	April 2023	April 2024	December 2024
Wave 7.5 (Special Collection)	April 2023	December 2023	April 2025	June 2025*
Wave 8	January 2024	December 2024	April 2026	Summer 2026*
Wave 8.5 (Special Collection)	February 2025	December 2025	Fall/Winter 2026*	Summer 2027*
Wave 9	January 2026	December 2026*	Fall/Winter 2027*	Summer 2028*

* Projected dates may change

Notice for Wave 9 Data Collection of the PATH Study: Wave 9 data are being collected with a mix of Web and in-person interviews. No biospecimens are being collected in Wave 9. The Wave 9 fielded questionnaires are available for download under the *Documentation and Publications* topic below.

What future data collections are planned for the PATH Study?

Data collection for Wave 9 is scheduled to begin in January 2026 and end in December 2026. Data will be collected primarily through Web interviews. No biospecimens will be collected in Wave 9.

What are some of the characteristics of PATH Study data collection waves?

An infographic that provides a summary of PATH Study design features, data collection, and access to study data is available [here](#).

A table summarizing the PATH Study data collection protocol by wave (pdf) is available [here](#). The table shows PATH Study protocols for Waves 1 through 8, including special collection studies. The protocols outlined in the table for each wave include data collection period, interview modes, participants and instruments fielded, and biospecimen collection.

Documentation and Publications

Can I request a copy of the questionnaires that are being used for the PATH Study?

The Adult and Youth/Parent questionnaires and supporting documentation for Waves 1 through 7 are available on the [RUF](#) and [PUF](#) pages on the NAHDAP website and also provided below.

Wave 1

- [Wave 1 Adult Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 1 Adult Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 1 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 1 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

Wave 2

- [Wave 2 Adult Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 2 Adult Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 2 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 2 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

Wave 3

- [Wave 3 Adult Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 3 Adult Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 3 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 3 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

Wave 4

- [Wave 4 Adult Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 4 Adult Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 4 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)

- [Wave 4 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

Wave 5

- [Wave 5 Adult Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 5 Adult Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 5 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 5 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

Wave 6

- [Wave 6 Adult Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 6 Adult Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 6 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 6 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

Wave 7

- [Wave 7 Adult Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- Wave 7 Adult Annotated [Instrument](#) (Spanish Version) (pdf)
- [Wave 7 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 7 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

Wave 8

- [Wave 8 Adult Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- Wave 8 Adult Annotated [Instrument](#) (Spanish Version) (pdf)
- [Wave 8 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 8 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

Wave 9

- [Wave 9 Adult Data Collection Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- Wave 9 Adult Data Collection [Instrument](#) (Spanish Version) (pdf)
- [Wave 9 Parent Data Collection Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- Wave 9 Parent Data Collection Instrument (Spanish Version) (pdf)
- [Wave 9 Youth Data Collection Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 9 Youth Data Collection Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

The Biomarker questionnaires and supporting documentation for Waves 1 through 7 are available on the [Biomarker RUF page](#) on the NAHDAP Website and also provided below.

- [Wave 1 Urine Collection and NEQ Data](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 1 Blood Collection and NEQ Data](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 2 Urine Collection and NEQ Data](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 3 Urine Collection and NEQ Data](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 4 Adult Urine Collection and NEQ Data](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 4 Youth Urine Collection and NEQ Data](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 5 Adult Urine Collection and NEQ Data](#) (pdf)

- [Wave 5 Youth Urine Collection and NEQ Data](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 7 Adult Urine Collection and NEQ Data](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 7 Youth Urine Collection and NEQ Data](#) (pdf)

Please note that the Wave 8 instruments with Nicotine Exposure Questions below are not the final versions of the instruments, but they are the versions that were fielded. The final annotated instruments and codebooks, updated in response to any issues identified and corrected during or after fielding, will be available when the data are released.

- PATH Study Wave 8 Tobacco Use Form (English Version) (pdf)
- PATH Study Wave 8 Tobacco Use Form (Spanish Version) (pdf)

How can I tell if a particular question or set of questions were asked across waves?

The PATH Study documentation includes variable-level crosswalks for each instrument that indicate whether a question or set of questions were asked in each wave. These crosswalk files are auxiliary files that can be used in conjunction with the annotated instruments and codebooks to quickly compare content across waves. The crosswalk files link questions across waves for each respective instrument so that users can easily identify the number of waves or time points at which data for specific questions are available for analyses. The crosswalks include variables from primary waves and special collections. The [PATH Study Adult Variable Crosswalk](#) (xlsx) and the [PATH Study Youth Variable Crosswalk](#) (xlsx) are available as Excel workbook files under the Study-Level Files in the RUF, SCRUF, PUF, and SCPUF collections. These files are updated when data and documentation are released in the aforementioned collections.

Can I request a copy of the participant consent forms? New FAQ!

Participants provide consent at their initial interview and biological sample collection. Consent forms from Wave 1 and Wave 4 are available with the Questionnaire data files for each respective wave. Consents remain in effect for all subsequent waves. Note that the consent forms were revised for Wave 4, wherein the clause that allowed participants to request their data be destroyed was removed. As such, participants who signed consent forms starting in Wave 4 may refuse participation at any time, but any data provided before their refusal will be retained by the study. In Wave 6, a new process was added to re-consent participants who first signed consent forms in Waves 1 to 3. The primary objective of the re-consenting process was to allow participants to agree to the terms of the revised consents being used since Wave 4. The re-consenting process continued through Wave 8 so that nonrespondents from earlier waves had the opportunity to agree to the terms of the revised consents.

Can I use the PATH Study questionnaires for my own research?

The PATH Study's documentation is available for your use and may be reproduced in whole or in part without permission from NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse or FDA's Center for Tobacco Products. Please cite your use of the PATH Study Questionnaire in your publication appropriately using the "Data and documentation" citation included in the response to the next question.

How can I cite PATH Study data or documents used in my research?

Please note the citations below are templates. We request researchers replace "YYYY-MM-DD" with the current version date (date of distribution by ICPSR for the current version of the respective data collection) and replace "XX" with the current version number. The version date and version number are displayed at the top of the web page for each study in the PATH Study series. The suggested citations for various PATH Study offerings are specified below.

Data and documentation

PATH Study Restricted Use Files (RUF):

United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Drug Abuse, and United States Department of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. Center for Tobacco Products. Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study [United States] Restricted-Use Files. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], YYYY-MM-DD. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36231.vXX>

PATH Study Biomarker Restricted Use Files (BRUF):

United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Drug Abuse, and United States Department of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. Center for Tobacco Products. Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study [United States] Biomarker Restricted-Use Files. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], YYYY-MM-DD. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36840.vXX>

PATH Study Special Collection Restricted Use Files (SCRUF):

United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Drug Abuse, and United States Department of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. Center for Tobacco Products. Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study [United States] Special Collection Restricted-Use Files. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], YYYY-MM-DD. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37519.vXX>

PATH Study Public Use Files (PUF):

United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Drug Abuse, and United States Department of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. Center for Tobacco Products. Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study [United States] Public-Use Files. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], YYYY-MM-DD. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36498.vXX>

PATH Study Special Collection Public Use Files (SCPUF):

United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Drug Abuse, and United States Department of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. Center for Tobacco Products. Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study [United States] Special Collection Public-Use Files. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], YYYY-MM-DD. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37786.vXX>

User Guides

PATH Study Restricted Use Files (RUF) User Guide:

United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Drug Abuse, and United States Department of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. Center for Tobacco Products. Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study [United States] Restricted-Use Files, User Guide. ICPSR36231-vXX Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], YYYY-MM-DD. <http://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36231.userguide>

PATH Study State Identifier Restricted Use Files (SIRUF) User Guide:

United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Drug Abuse, and United States Department of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. Center for Tobacco Products. Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study [United States] State Identifier Restricted-Use Files, User Guide. ICPSR36231-vXX Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], YYYY-MM-DD. <http://doi.org/10.3886/70z7-0j44>

PATH Study Tobacco Universal Product Code (UPC) Restricted Use Files User Guide:

United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Drug Abuse, and United States Department of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. Center for Tobacco Products. Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study [United States] Tobacco Universal Product Code (UPC) Restricted-Use Files, User Guide. ICPSR36231-vXX Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], YYYY-MM-DD. <http://doi.org/10.3886/c0kr-hx51>

PATH Study Biomarker Restricted Use Files (BRUF) User Guide:

United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Drug Abuse, and United States Department of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. Center for Tobacco Products. Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study [United States] Biomarker Restricted-Use Files, User Guide. ICPSR36840-vXX Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], YYYY-MM-DD. https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36840.userguide_restricted

PATH Study Special Collection Restricted Use Files (SCRUF) User Guide:

United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Drug Abuse, and United States Department of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. Center for Tobacco Products. Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study [United States] Restricted-Use Files, User Guide. ICPSR36231-vXX Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], YYYY-MM-DD. <http://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36231.userguide>

PATH Study Public Use Files (PUF) User Guide:

United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Drug Abuse, and United States Department of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. Center for Tobacco Products. Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study [United States] Public-Use Files, User Guide. ICPSR36498-vXX Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], YYYY-MM-DD. <http://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36498.userguide>

PATH Study Special Collection Public Use Files (SCPUF) User Guide:

United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Drug Abuse, and United States Department of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. Center for Tobacco Products. Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study [United States] Public-Use Files, User Guide. ICPSR36498-vXX Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], YYYY-MM-DD. <http://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36498.userguide>

What are the Digital Object Identifiers (DOI) for the PATH Study?**PATH Study Series Page**

<https://doi.org/10.3886/Series606>

Please note the DOI links below are templates. We request researchers replace “XX” with the current version number. The version number is displayed at the top of the web page for each study in the PATH Study series.

PATH Study Restricted Use Files (RUF)

<https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36231.vXX>

PATH Study Biomarker Restricted Use Files (BRUF)

<https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36840.vXX>

PATH Study Special Collection Restricted Use Files (SCRUF)

<https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37519.vXX>

PATH Study Public Use Files (PUF)

<https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36498.vXX>

PATH Study Special Collection Public Use Files (SCPUF)

<https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37786.vXX>

Are pdfs of PATH Study publications available?

Due to publication restrictions by journals, the PATH Study is not permitted to distribute pdfs of the articles published using the PATH Study data. However, these articles are cited on the [PATH Study Series page](#). You may be able to access these publications through your individual and/or institutional subscriptions. Publications supported by NIH funds will become publicly available at [PubMed Central](#) soon after acceptance for publication without embargo upon the official date of publication, as noted in the [NIH Public Access Policy](#). Other journals may make their articles open-access. Alternatively, you can contact the corresponding author directly to request a copy of the article.

Are pdfs of PATH Study-supported posters and presentations available?

A list of [PATH Study-supported posters and presentations](#) (pdf) can be found here. If you are interested in obtaining a pdf copy of the PATH Study-supported posters and presentations, please email the request directly to the presentation/poster author. Please note that PATH Study-related presentations that were not supported by the contract are not included in this list.

Does the PATH Study provide information about tobacco use?

Yes, the PATH Study has created a series of cross-sectional and longitudinal data tables and figures that provide information about tobacco use among youth (aged 12-17), young adults (aged 18-24), and adults (aged 25+). These [Data Tables and Figures](#) are available for public use.

Special Collection Studies

What are special collection studies?

Special collections occur between biannual primary data collection waves and focus on a subsample of participants. No biospecimens are collected during special collection studies. Annotated or fielded instruments are available for download (refer to the next question.)

Wave 4.5 was a special data collection that occurred between Wave 4 and Wave 5. Data collection began in December 2017 and ended in December 2018. Data were collected from PATH Study youth participants who were aged 12 to 17 years at the time of Wave 4.5.

Wave 5.5 was a special data collection that occurred between Wave 5 and Wave 6. Data collection began in December 2019 and ended in December 2020. Data were collected from PATH Study youth participants who were aged 13 to 17 years and adult participants who were aged 18 and 19 years at the time of Wave 5.5.

Data collection for Wave 5.5 was temporarily suspended on March 17, 2020, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among participants and interviewers, and to comply with local and state restrictions.

In order to maintain the safety of PATH Study participants and interviewers, data collection for Wave 5.5 resumed in July 2020 as telephone interviews only and concluded on December 31, 2020. The Wave 5.5 RUF and PUF contain weighted data only from these telephone interviews.

The PATH Study Adult Telephone Survey (PATH-ATS) was a special data collection that occurred between September 10, 2020 and December 20, 2020. Data were collected by telephone from a subsample of PATH Study adult participants who were aged 20 or older at the time of PATH-ATS.

Wave 7.5 was a special data collection that occurred between Wave 7 and Wave 8. Data collection began in April 2023 and ended in December 2023. Data were collected from PATH Study youth participants who were aged 12 to 17 years and adult participants who were aged 18 to 22 years at the time of Wave 7.5.

Wave 8.5 was a special data collection that occurred between Wave 8 and Wave 9. Data collection began in February 2025 and ended in December 2025. Data were collected from PATH Study youth participants who were aged 12 to 17 years and adult participants who were aged 18 to 24 years at the time of Wave 8.5.

Can I request a copy of the questionnaires that are being used for the Special Collection Studies?

The questionnaires and supporting documentation are available on the RUF page on the NAHDAP website and provided below.

Wave 4.5

- [Wave 4.5 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 4.5 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

Wave 5.5

- [Wave 5.5 Adult Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 5.5 Adult Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 5.5 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 5.5 Youth / Parent Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

PATH-ATS

- [PATH-ATS Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [PATH-ATS Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

Wave 7.5

- [Wave 7.5 Adult Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 7.5 Adult Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 7.5 Adult Telephone Interview Show Card Booklet \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 7.5 Adult Telephone Interview Show Card Booklet \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 7.5 Youth/Parent Annotated Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 7.5 Youth/Parent Annotated Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 7.5 Parent Telephone Interview Show Card Booklet \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 7.5 Parent Telephone Interview Show Card Booklet \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 7.5 Youth Telephone Interview Show Card Booklet \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 7.5 Youth Telephone Interview Show Card Booklet \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

Wave 8.5

Please note that the Wave 8.5 instruments below are not the final versions of the instruments, but they are the versions that were fielded. The final annotated instruments and codebooks, updated in response to any issues identified and corrected during or after fielding, will be available when the data are released.

- [Wave 8.5 Adult Data Collection Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 8.5 Adult Data Collection Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 8.5 Parent Data Collection Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 8.5 Parent Data Collection Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 8.5 Youth Data Collection Instrument \(English Version\)](#) (pdf)
- [Wave 8.5 Youth Data Collection Instrument \(Spanish Version\)](#) (pdf)

Access to the Data

How do I get access to the PATH Study Restricted-Use Files (RUF)?

The questionnaire data in the PATH Study RUF are only accessible through the ICPSR Virtual Data Enclave (VDE). Use the "Access Restricted Data" link in the [PATH Study RUF Access Notes](#). The initial screen in the VDE Management System describes the process to apply. Applicants are encouraged to also read our [online VDE Guide](#).

How do I get access to the PATH Study Biomarker Restricted-Use Files (BRUF)?

The PATH Study Biomarker RUF is only accessible through the ICPSR Virtual Data Enclave (VDE). Use the "Access Restricted Data" link in the [PATH Study Biomarker RUF Access Notes](#). The initial screen in the VDE Management System describes the process to apply. Applicants are encouraged to also read our [online VDE Guide](#).

How do I get access to the PATH Study biospecimens?

Notice: As of April 24, 2025, the Biospecimen Access Program (BAP) will be on hiatus and will not accept any new concept statements or applications.

When the BAP is available, researchers interested in accessing PATH Study biospecimens for biospecimen research can refer to the [PATH Study Biospecimen Access Program](#) page. This page

provides instructions on applying for access, the schedule for reviewing applications, and frequently asked questions about the program.

I am using the PATH Study Restricted-Use Files. What are the appropriate procedures that I should follow?

Please refer to our [VDE Guide](#), which includes information about using the VDE and how to request disclosure review of VDE output. Please cite your use of the PATH Study RUFs in your publication using the citations provided in the PATH Study RUF [study description](#) and the PATH Study Biomarker RUF [study description](#). In addition, use the [citation web form](#) to notify ICPSR of your publication so that it can be added to the ICPSR Bibliography.

I am using the PATH Study Public-Use Files. What are the appropriate procedures that I should follow?

Since you are using the PATH Study PUF downloaded from the NAHDAP Website, you can analyze and publish from those data without having NAHDAP review any of your materials before publication. However, when presenting or publishing on that data, remember that you are required by the PUF's Terms of Use to protect the identity of all research subjects and the confidentiality of the information that they provided from deductive disclosure. Please cite your use of the PATH Study PUF in your publication using the citation provided in the PATH Study PUF [study description](#) and in the FAQ above (How can I cite PATH Study data and documentation). In addition, use the [citation web form](#) to notify ICPSR of your publication so that it can be added to the ICPSR Bibliography.

Learning Resources

How can I learn more about the PATH Study?

The PATH Study team has prepared instructional videos to help researchers.

- The [PATH Study 101](#) video provides an overview of the PATH Study design and methods, the data collection protocol, data types, data collection instruments, and data documentation.
- The [PATH Study 102](#) video provides an overview of accessing and using PATH Study data, an introduction to the Biospecimen Access Program (BAP), and a review of resources related to the PATH Study on the NAHDAP web pages.
- The [PATH Study 103](#) video provides an overview of the complex sample design and available weights (including cross-sectional, single-wave, and all-waves, weights) in Waves 1 through 5.
- The [PATH Study 201](#) video is Part 1 of a webinar that provides examples of longitudinal data analysis approaches that can be used with the PATH Study data.
- The [PATH Study 202](#) video is Part 2 of a webinar that provides additional examples of longitudinal data analysis approaches that can be used with the PATH Study data.
- The [PATH Study 203](#) video is a webinar that provides an overview of how to conduct a discrete-time survival analysis with PATH Study data.
- The [PATH Study 204](#) video provides an overview of causal modeling and how to conduct moderation and mediation analyses using PATH Study data.

In addition to these instructional videos, NAHDAP hosts annual interactive workshops where data users and researchers can learn about various aspects of the PATH Study. Additional information about NAHDAP's offerings are available on the [Training and Support](#) web page.

I have questions regarding the collection, content, weighting, documentation, or structure of PATH Study data. Who do I contact for assistance?

Questions about the collection, content, weighting, documentation, or structure of PATH Study data may be submitted to the new Westat email: PATHDataUserQuestions@Westat.com. NOTE: This email address is not for questions about statistical analysis or analytic guidance. For analytic questions, researchers may wish to consult with statisticians and analysts at their institutions.

Data Analysis

I have questions regarding my data analysis files or statistical code. Who do I contact for assistance?

The PATH Study is unable to assist with individual analytic questions from researchers. Researchers are encouraged to consult other pages at ICPSR such as the [Help](#) and the [Teaching & Learning](#) pages. You may also wish to consult with statisticians and analysts at your institution with more specific questions.

Is there a special funding announcement for existing data analysis specifically for the PATH Study data or existing data analysis grants other than the conventional mechanisms, e.g., a R03?

The PATH Study does not provide funding for existing data analysis. However, interested researchers are encouraged to check the [NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts page](#) for funding opportunity announcements that suit their research goals.

Specific Data Content

How were the nicotine dependence questions in the PATH Study instruments developed?

The nicotine dependence questions were developed using various nicotine dependence scales, including the following: Wisconsin Inventory of Smoking Dependence Motives (WISDM (primary and secondary)), Hooked on Nicotine Checklist (HONC), Nicotine Dependence Syndrome Scale (NDSS), Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) (risky use, social impairment, impaired control, withdrawal) and The Fagerstrom test for Nicotine Dependence.

Will researchers be able to access the tobacco product images used in the PATH Study?

The generic tobacco product images used in the questionnaire are included in the appendix of the annotated instruments. However, due to the PATH Study's legal agreement with the advertising monitoring and aggregation companies that furnished the tobacco product advertisements used in the first wave of the study, the specific tobacco product images cannot be released.