

**Request for Proposals
Research Data Centre Program
Statistics Canada
Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB): Settlement Services Data Modules
Fall 2019**

The Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) combines linked administrative immigration and tax data files. It is a comprehensive source of data on the socioeconomic outcomes of the immigrant taxfiler population in Canada.

New data from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) on settlement services provided to permanent and non-permanent residents have been recently integrated into the IMDB. These data are based on the Immigration Contribution Agreement Reporting Environment (iCARE). The data integrated into the IMDB cover the services provided from 2013 onward.

Immigrants and non-permanent residents receive settlement services in Canada or before arrival. A variety of services are offered—some are related to employment or needs assessments, and others are related to information and orientation.

The IMDB is managed by Statistics Canada on behalf of a federal–provincial consortium led by IRCC. The IMDB provides detailed and reliable information on the labour market behaviour of different categories of immigrants over a period that is long enough to assess the impact of characteristics at admission (e.g., education, knowledge of English or French). With the integration of settlement services data, researchers can look at the association between use of settlement services and socioeconomic outcomes over time.

The benefits of analysis using the settlement services data modules in the IMDB include

- support for evidence-based policy and decision making
- increased use of administrative data sources for research, thereby reducing data collection costs and respondent burden for surveys
- inferential statistical analysis on confidential microdata, and analytical work that is complex in nature or that is not suitable for other forms of data access.

The pilot project at the research data centres aims to address the feasibility of supporting the extended use of the IMDB integrated with settlement services data. This will allow for further testing of the reference material and the confidentiality vetting rules, and testing of the IT resources necessary to transfer and analyze these large data files.

The data

[Longitudinal Immigration Database \(IMDB\)](#)

The IMDB covers all immigrants admitted to Canada since 1980 and all non-permanent resident permits since 1980. For this population, outcomes are available from annual tax files since 1982. This statistical

program is a census with a longitudinal design. Data are collected for all units of the target population; therefore, no sampling is done.

Researchers unfamiliar with administrative data are cautioned that using the IMDB requires manipulating multiple large data files. Consequently, many researchers have found that it takes time to become familiar with the IMDB and to be able to use it in their research.

Settlement services modules

The settlement services modules integrated into the IMDB consist of both service provider-level and person-level data that cover a range of services received since 2013, including

- language assessment
- language training
- employment-related services
- needs assessment and referrals
- community connections
- information and orientation
- Resettlement Assistance Program
- pre-arrival needs and referrals
- pre-arrival community connections
- pre-arrival information and orientation.

Submissions

Although a limited number of proposals for both cross-sectional and longitudinal analyses will be considered, research that includes the following types of analyses or results is of particular interest:

- proposals with direct connection to IRCC policy and program needs
- proposals that make use of the connections between use of settlement services and longitudinal socioeconomic outcomes.

Researchers are invited to submit proposals for consideration by **December 13, 2019**. The submitted research proposals will be assessed based on the research areas of interest and the proposed types of analysis, including the viability of the proposed research. Proposals that are better aligned with the above-described research areas of interest, types of analysis and results will receive more favourable consideration.

All researchers will be notified by **early 2020**. Researchers whose proposals are accepted should be able to access the data by early 2020.

Researchers with approved projects are expected to

- attend user group meetings as required
- provide feedback on the data and documentation
- understand that vetting rules are being tested and that vetting is being done by the committee; therefore, the release of data may take longer than non-pilot projects.

Over the next year, we will be testing the robustness of the vetting rules with these proposals. Therefore, vetting could be delayed. Because of the potential impact on the timely completion of their research, researchers should bear this in mind when considering applying for access to the IMDB at this time.

Please refer to the [IMDB technical report](#).

Please contact Mustafa Ornek (Mustafa.Ornek@canada.ca) for questions related to proposal development and submission. Please contact Tristan Cayn (tristan.cayn@canada.ca) for data-related questions.

Proposals should be submitted by January 17, 2020, to:

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