Data Liberation Initiative Partnership

The Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) is a partnership between postsecondary institutions and Statistics Canada. The goal is to improve researcher access to data resources and improve data literacy, especially with respect to Public Use Microdata Files (PUMFs). The program is a critical training ground for postsecondary students who are the researchers of tomorrow, often becoming postgraduate researchers in Research Data Centres.

Communication & Engagement

DLI members

- participate with a **network of experts** from across Canada on a bilingual listserv
- receive **data and technical support** from StatCan
- **promote and facilitate** the availability of StatCan data for educational and academic research purposes
- **communicate** with StatCan on the data, metadata and educational needs and requirements of their institutions
- **dialogue** with StatCan subject-matter and Census Program experts on data gaps and the needs of members
- access **website** information about membership, data and training.

DLI members sit on two key committees:

- **External Advisory Committee** – Advises Statistics Canada on appropriate initiatives and ways to implement them to meet the objectives of the DLI and to identify the needs and requirements of DLI members.
- **Professional Development Committee** – Plans, develops and delivers both regional and national training sessions.

Data access

- **PUMFs are available** through Electronic File Transfer on **day of release** staged into SAS, SPSS and Stata.
- PUMFs **metadata** from Codebooks, data dictionaries, user guides are available **coded to DDI** standard to use in RDS analysis platform.

- Variable and survey level **search engine** is available.
- Datasets in addition to all PUMFs include **postal code files** ($10,000 value)**, SPSD/M files and Discharge Abstract Database** (DAD) from CIHI are available specifically for DLI members.
- Over 50 **aggregate data tables** ($15,000 value) are available.
- One **free Real Time Remote Access** (RTRA) account ($10,000 value).
- **Digital Object Identifiers** (DOI) are being added to the PUMFs as they are released.

Training

Professional Development Committee

- provides **virtual national training**, and in-person national or **regional training** as needed
- maintains **Borealis, The Canadian Dataverse Repository** containing web presentations for members to access.

Statistics Canada

- provides a **participation fee** for one participant per member institution to attend in-person national training
- presents online **Webinars** for new members and contacts
- subject matter **presents** at training sessions
- offers a limited number of **free custom tabulations** for students
- offers **simultaneous interpretation** for national virtual training.