

Sierra Leone Ebola Database (SLED) Research Proposal

Researcher: Please review the following two journal articles. These articles contain information about the data and caveats about using these data. Please use the information from these articles and the data dictionaries to inform your research strategy when filling out this application and describing your research project. Your research project and research question(s) must be feasible when compared to the data you are requesting. If you have questions, please email: rdca@cdc.gov.

- [Building the Sierra Leone Ebola Database: organization and characteristics of data systematically collected during 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic](#). Ann Epidemiol. 2021 Aug; 60:35-44. doi: 10.1016/j.annepidem.2021.04.017.
- [Ensuring ethical data access: the Sierra Leone Ebola Database \(SLED\) model](#). Ann Epidemiol. 2020 Jun; 46:1-4. doi: 10.1016/j.annepidem.2020.04.001.

General Information	
Date:	
Title of Project:	
SLED Files and Time Period:	
Non-NCHS Data Files:	
Mode of Data Access:	☐ Virtual Data Enclave (VDE) <u>On-site Locations</u> ☐ NCHS RDC ¹ , Hyattsville, MD ☐ NCHS RDC, Rockville, MD ☐ NCHS RDC, Atlanta, GA ☐ Federal Statistical RDC ² , specify: _____
Statistical Software: (Check all that apply)	☐ SAS/SUDAAN ☐ Stata ☐ SPSS ☐ R Other, specify: _____
Proposed Start Date:	
Funding Source:	<i>Fees for RDC services are waived for researchers residing outside the United States. Researchers within the United States will need to identify a funding source since the NCHS RDC will invoice the research team for access to the data. Please see fee schedule at:</i> https://www.cdc.gov/rdc/application-process/fees-and-invoicing.html

¹ The NCHS RDC is the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Research Data Center (RDC).

² Federal Statistical RDC are research data centers governed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

List the name, institution, contact information, and role for each team member who will contribute to publications resulting from this project. Everyone listed on the research team must submit a Curriculum Vitae (CV) or resume with this application (see section J). If you have more than six team members, then please add those team members to the table below.

Research Team		
	Principal Investigator	Co-Investigator
Name		
Email		
Phone		
Institution		
Mailing Address		
Email Address		
Sierra Leone Citizen? Y or N		
US Citizen? Y or N		
	Programmer	Programmer
Name		
Email		
Phone		
Institution		
Mailing Address		
Email Address		
Sierra Leone Citizen? Y or N		
US Citizen? Y or N		
	Advisor (For Students and Post-Docs) ☐ Send Signed Student-Advisor Agreement to the NCHS RDC	Other Role, specify:
Name		
Email		
Phone		
Institution		
Mailing Address		
Email Address		
Sierra Leone Citizen? Y or N		
US Citizen? Y or N		

Complete as applicable for your project. If you answer “Yes” to any item in the table below, then Please describe this in the appropriate section of this proposal.

RDC Proposal Summary Information		
	YES	NO
Geographic variables		
Level of geography to be shown in output (check all that apply)		
National		
Provincial		
District		
Urban/rural classification		
Other		
Will geographic identifier(s) be removed after merge		
If yes, can true geographic identifiers be replaced with masked versions of these variables		
Is GIS or mapping proposed		
Dates and Temporal		
Are exact dates requested other than to calculate time of follow-up		
Merging of data with SLED restricted data		
Are external data being merged with SLED data		

Please provide a written description for each section (A through I) below:

A. Abstract: Please limit the abstract to 300 words.

B. Research Question: Describe study purpose, hypotheses, and research questions.

C. Background: Include a short literature review, no more than a half of a page focusing on prior research relevant to your topic and address the methodology that you plan to use.

D. Public Health Benefit: In one paragraph, how does your research benefit public health?

E. Data Requirements:

Please address the four items below and provide an explanation for “yes/checked” responses from the RDC Proposal Summary Information table from page 3. The SLED Data Team will use this information to create your dataset.

1. SLED Data Survey, Years, Files:

For examples, Sierra Leone Ebola Database, VHF, 2014-2015

2. Restricted- use Data:

List and describe the restricted-use variables that you will need. These variables must be listed in the Data Dictionary section of the proposal. Explain why each variable is needed and how you will include them in your analysis. Specify how geographic variables, if applicable, will be used to merge files, analyze the data and/or be presented in output.

3. Non-SLED Data:

If you plan to provide data from another source to merge to the restricted-use data, please describe the source, list the filename(s), and provide a general description of the non-SLED data. The variables from the non-SLED data must be listed in the Data Dictionary section.

4. Merge Variables:

In detail, describe the merge procedures needed to produce your analytic dataset(s). Highlight the variables used in the merge routine in the Data Dictionary. Leave blank if not applicable. The SLED Data Team will use this information to create your dataset.

F. Methodology:

We highly recommend you familiarize yourself with the analytic guidelines of the data you intend to use (please review the two journal articles listed on page 1 of this proposal). Any deviations from the methodology suggested in the guidelines will require explanation as it may pose a disclosure risk or render your project infeasible. Please address these three items in your proposal:

1. Unit or Level of Analysis and Subpopulation(s):

There can be many levels of analysis: be as detailed as possible in your description. A common example for an analysis of VHF data is where the unit of analysis is the person while the subpopulation is adults ages 18-44. A common example involving geography is when you aggregate persons to the district level so you can compare districts.

2. Analysis Plan: Provide an overall analysis plan that specifies what analytic procedures or models you will use, such as prevalence estimates, logistic regression, or log-linear modeling, and list specific statistical software package procedures.**3. Complex Survey Design:** If applicable, indicate how you will address sample weights, design variables, and other adjustments for the use of complex survey data, if applicable, using the statistical software listed in the General Information area. A detailed description about weights, design variables, and other adjustments are required and central to understanding the limitation of the data.

G. Output:

Describe in full detail all output you would like to take out of the RDC; be explicit in your details (i.e. age groupings, districts, etc.) as this section is necessary for the Proposal reviewers to assess disclosure risk. Your examples should reflect the geographic variables you will use in your output (if any).

1. **Output Needed to Confirm Accuracy of Dataset:** Since the SLED Data Team will create your analytic dataset, describe what output you need to review to ensure that your dataset was constructed accurately and is complete (e.g., need to review univariate frequencies of certain variables-please specify).
2. **Table Shells:** Include detailed examples of table shells with titles. Indicate the subsample and unit of analysis used in each type of table. Your proposal will not be approved without this information. Proposal reviewers will use the table shells to assess disclosure risk of your research project.

- 3. Presentation of Results:** Describe how you will present the results (in a report, publication in a peer-reviewed journal, presentation at a scientific meeting, used for internal policy analysis).

H. Project Data Dictionary:

Include a project data dictionary that lists each variable for each data source you listed in section E above. This should simply be a listing of variables by dataset. Your data dictionary should be formatted as a table. See example for [creating the SLED project data dictionary](#).

I. Research Citations Relevant to your Research: Please limit the list to 10 items or less.

J. Resumes/C.V.: Please insert a 2-page C.V. for each team member as listed in the table on page 2 of this proposal. Do not send resumes/C.V. as separate attachments.