



OAK RIDGE INSTITUTE
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CEDR Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The purpose of this document is to address frequently asked questions about the Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource (CEDR). If your question is not answered by this document, please contact the CEDR staff at cedr@ornl.gov for more information.

General CEDR Information

- ◆ What is CEDR and what does it stand for?

The Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource, or CEDR, is a data repository provided by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) for providing transparency in health studies of DOE workers, former workers, contractors, and the communities surrounding DOE facilities. It also helps to ensure the public's trust in the reproducibility of these studies.

- ◆ Who can I contact for support or more information?

For more information on the CEDR program or support on the CEDR website, please contact the CEDR team at cedr@ornl.gov.

- ◆ Are there any fees associated with using CEDR?

There are no fees associated with using CEDR. The CEDR program is funded completely by the DOE for archiving, maintaining, and providing support to users for the data.

- ◆ How is data privacy maintained at CEDR?

Data privacy is important to the CEDR program, and as such, each submitted dataset is reviewed by the CEDR team to ensure that all identifiable information is removed, dates are adequately masked, and categories with <10 observations are collapsed. The original data files submitted to CEDR are stored on ORISE's encrypted network, which is compliant with current federal standards. For more information, please refer to the [CEDR user guide](#).

- ◆ Can I publish the results of my analysis?

Yes, the CEDR program highly encourages users to publish the results of their studies to further advance scientific endeavors. If using CEDR data in the study, the program asks that the CEDR be cited as the source of the data. The unique citation for each dataset can be found on the CEDR website by selecting the 'Cite Dataset' option. See below for an example citation:

*CEDR. (2024). Follow-up of uranium processing workers at Fernald between 1951 and 1985.
https://oriseapps.ornl.gov/CEDR/search_results.aspx?DataSet=FMM23A01*

- ◆ Can I use CEDR data in a presentation (e.g., classroom, conference etc.)?

Yes, the CEDR program highly encourages the use of data for scientific or educational pursuits. For presentations, please acknowledge CEDR as the source of the data.

- ◆ What types of data does CEDR specialize in?

CEDR specializes in data derived from health studies of DOE workers, former workers, contractors, or the communities surrounding DOE facilities. In particular, the majority of the CEDR studies are related to health effects of radiation exposure, although other exposure-based studies are included.

- ◆ How often is the data in CEDR updated?

The CEDR website is updated with new datasets as they become available. Once an individual submits their data to CEDR, the CEDR team works directly with them to ensure all privacy and confidential concerns are met, and the final dataset is published as soon as possible on the website. For more information on the data submission process, please refer to the CEDR user guide on the website.

- ◆ How do I cite a CEDR dataset?

Each CEDR dataset has its own unique citation, and a 'Cite Dataset' button is available for each dataset on the website.

CEDR Account Specific Information

- ◆ Who approves CEDR accounts?

The Department of Energy Program Manager for CEDR approves all accounts and data requests from CEDR. Some requests (for higher tiered data) may require additional approval from the data owner.

- ◆ How do I reset my password?

Passwords can be reset by emailing the CEDR team directly at cedr@ornl.gov. If you change institutions and no longer use the email associated with a CEDR account, you will need to create a new account. Email the CEDR team at cedr@ornl.gov for questions or assistance.

- ◆ Can I have access to more than one tier of data simultaneously?

Yes, CEDR users may have access to more than one tier simultaneously if the data requests are approved by the Department of Energy Program Manager.

- ◆ Will the information from my data request be stored? If so, how will my information be used?

Yes, the information from your data request will be stored and retained in accordance with the appropriate federal records schedule. The information for the data request may be shared with the Department of Energy Program Manager to review and approve. If applicable, the information may also be shared with the data owner (tier 3 data requests only). The contact and request information provided will be used by the CEDR team during the annual renewal process. Additionally, information from the data request may be used to summarize and describe the types of data requests, program improvement activities, and other reporting activities. No contact information or identifiable information will be used for this purpose.

- ◆ How long does it take to get account approval?

Account approval time is highly variable and depends on the data request and the information provided. Generally, approval for a typical CEDR account occurs within 1 week of submission, excluding federal holidays.

- ◆ What should I do if I forget my username or password?

If you forget your username and password, please contact the CEDR team directly at cedr@ornl.gov.

Data Request Specific Information

- ◆ Can I request Personally Identifiable Information (PII) from CEDR?

No, CEDR only provides access to de-identified data.

- ◆ If I want to request data but I do not have access to an Institutional Review Board (IRB), can I still request data?

Possibly. If the data request is for classroom or educational use only, the data request may be submitted without an IRB determination letter. Otherwise, all other requests should be engaged with an IRB before submitting the data request. If you do not have access to an IRB, please contact the Central Department of Energy IRB at CDOEIRB@ornl.gov.

- ◆ I do not think my data request requires an Institutional Review Board review. Can I still request data?

Possibly. If the data request is for classroom or educational use only, the data request for tier 1 may be submitted without an IRB determination letter. Otherwise, the individual submitting the data request should be engaged with an IRB. Only an IRB can make the determination whether research with human data qualifies as non-human subjects. If you do not have access to an IRB, please contact the Central Department of Energy IRB at CDOEIRB@ornl.gov.

- ◆ What types of data can I request from CEDR?

CEDR users can request any of the data available on CEDR. These data include health outcomes, demographics, work histories, individual exposure monitoring data (i.e., dosimetry), and environmental monitoring data. The availability of these data types varies by dataset. For more information on the types of data found in CEDR, please review the CEDR website, user guide, or catalog.

- ◆ How long does it take to process a data request?

Data requests are typically processed within two business weeks.

- ◆ What languages are accepted for data requests?

All data requests should be submitted in English.

- ◆ What should I do if my data request is denied?

All data requests are approved or denied at the discretion of the Department of Energy CEDR

Program Manager. If your request is denied, additional information about the rejection will be provided at that time.

Data Submission Specific Information

- ◆ If I submit data to CEDR, how will my data be stored?

The original data submitted to CEDR will be securely stored on the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) encrypted network. Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), the contractor managing the CEDR program under the ORISE contract for the Department of Energy, ensures that this network complies with NIST 800-171 security and privacy control requirements for federal information systems. The network incorporates all baseline security controls aligned with the Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 199 system security categorization of Moderate. ORISE will safeguard CEDR data in accordance with the NIST Moderate classification standards.

- ◆ Who will have access to my data?

Only the CEDR team will have access to original data submitted to CEDR, and this data will be maintained by the CEDR team in accordance with the appropriate federal records schedule. A de-identified copy of the data will be made available on the CEDR website, and only the first 10 rows of the data will be visible to the public. CEDR users who successfully complete the data request process will be given access to a de-identified copy of the data.

Additionally, information from the data request may be used by the CEDR team to summarize and describe the types of data requests submitted to CEDR, program improvement activities, and other reporting activities. No contact information or identifiable information will be used for this purpose, but the contact information will be maintained by ORISE in accordance with the appropriate federal records schedule.

- ◆ Can I submit personal identifiable information (PII) to CEDR?

Yes, data owners may submit PII to CEDR. To ensure data privacy, the CEDR team will remove any PII, mask dates, and collapse categories with <10 observations before publishing the data on the website. As part of the normal operations, CEDR does not provide access to PII to its users.

- ◆ Can I submit data before publication?

Yes, CEDR users are welcome to submit the data to CEDR prior to the final publication of the associated journal article. Upon request, the CEDR team can temporarily delay publishing the dataset(s) until after the article is published.

- ◆ Can I request my data be stored at a higher or lower tier than the initial tier assessment?

Yes, individuals submitting data to CEDR may request a higher or lower tier than the tier assigned by the CEDR team. However, the ultimate classification decision would be left to the DOE CEDR Program Manager.

- ◆ Where do I send my journal citation information after publication?

Please send the journal citation to the CEDR team at cedr@ornl.gov. If the citation is associated with a dataset already published on CEDR, please indicate in the email which dataset is associated with the citation.

- ◆ What formats are accepted for data submission?

The CEDR team accepts data in most of the common data formats although CSV, XLS, or TXT are preferred. If you have a question about a specific data type, please contact the CEDR team directly (cedr@orau.org).

- ◆ How do I submit data to CEDR?

At this time, individuals interested in submitting data to CEDR should complete the data submission form located on the [Data Provider Guidelines](#) page of the CEDR website, or contact the CEDR team directly (cedr@orau.org) for further questions. Once the form is received, the CEDR team will work with the data submitter to finalize the information and obtain the data.

- ◆ Are there any guidelines for data formatting?

CEDR does not have any formal formatting guidelines for submitting data. However, individuals are asked to complete the data submission form and to provide comprehensive data dictionaries for each dataset submitted.

- ◆ Can I submit data collected from international sources?

Yes, CEDR will accept data captured from international (i.e., non-United States) sources as long as the data submitter is authorized to share the data, the data relates to a health study that includes Department of Energy workers, or the Department of Energy CEDR Program Manager approve its inclusion in the CEDR program.

- ◆ How are the tiered assignments determined for the data submitted to CEDR?

The tiered assignments are determined by a rubric developed to maximize the amount of data available for CEDR users while still maintaining data privacy and adhering to human subjects' protection principles. Additionally, individuals who submit data to CEDR may request a higher tier assignment for data. Please see the CEDR user guide available on the website for more information.

- ◆ In what languages are data submission requests accepted?

The data submission requests and all materials submitted to CEDR (data dictionaries, study summaries, etc.) should be completed in English.