ACS TQP Participant Use File:
Appropriate Use Recommendations

The ACS Trauma Quality Programs (TQP) Participant Use File (PUF) is one of the most widely used datasets for trauma research. However, not all published TQP PUF studies reflect appropriate usage of the dataset or appropriate methodological documentation. To mitigate potential bias and improve the reproducibility of published studies, the ACS has developed the following recommendations for TQP PUF users.

STEP 1
Project Selection

The TQP PUF is best suited for quantitative analyses of collected National Trauma Data Standard (NTDS) data acknowledging the limits of the sample. Inappropriate TQP PUF projects include those making nationally representative estimates, linking to external datasets, or requiring spatial or temporal analysis beyond duration.

STEP 2
Defining Your Analysis

Anyone using the TQP PUF should consult the NTDS Data Dictionary for each data year involved in their research to ensure familiarity with data elements and understand how data definitions may have shifted across years.

STEP 3
Variable Selection

Not all data elements collected in the NTDS Data Dictionary are available in the de-identified TQP PUF dataset. A complete list of data elements available in the dataset can be found in the TQP PUF User Manual.

STEP 4
Patient Selection

While all TQP PUF records meet NTDS criteria, not all records meet TQIP reporting criterion. Please use the TQP_INCLUSION table in the dataset to select TQIP patients by program type (Adult, Pediatric, Level 3).

STEP 5
Reporting Your Findings

The ACS recommends using the RECORD* reporting guidelines for studies utilizing TQP PUF data. A checklist of items that should be addressed in your findings can be accessed using the link below.

STEP 6
Reusing Your Datasets

Permission to utilize the TQP PUF datasets is granted on a per-project basis via the TQP PUF application process. Any additional projects using these data will require a new application and approval by ACS TQP staff.

*Reporting of Studies Conducted Using Observational Routinely Collected Data (RECORD). RECORD Checklist: https://www.record-statement.org/checklist.php. Accessed November 15, 2023