

BIOSPECIMEN RESERVE POLICY

THE NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF ADOLESCENT TO ADULT HEALTH (ADD HEALTH)

PURPOSE

Add Health maintains a repository of biospecimens that were collected at various timepoints during the study. These biospecimens are finite and have the potential for critical scientific advancement. Thus, Add Health has the dual responsibility of encouraging and supporting ancillary studies that utilize stored biospecimens, while also ensuring that there is a small reserve of biospecimens set aside for research purposes that simply cannot be foreseen at the current time. For this reason, Add Health has created two types of biospecimen reserves: 1) Available for Current Use Reserve, and 2) Protected Reserve. The remainder of this document discusses these two biospecimen reserves.

AVAILABLE FOR CURRENT USE RESERVE

The majority of Add Health biospecimens are accessible to approved ancillary studies that use the *Available for Current Use Reserve*. Add Health carefully evaluates all ancillary study proposals aiming to use the *Current Use Reserve*. Further, ancillary study proposals requesting biospecimens must show that their research goals align with the goals of Add Health and priorities of one or both of our main funders: the Division of Behavioral and Social Research of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the Population Dynamics Branch of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Ancillary study proposals must also strongly justify appropriate scientific need for the specific type, volume, and/or quantity of all requested biospecimens.

Biospecimens that Add Health shares with ancillary studies represent a valuable resource for new and collaborative discoveries and we encourage researchers to apply for use of these biospecimens. Please see our [Ancillary Studies webpage](#) for more specific information about biospecimen availability and the application and review processes.

Ancillary Studies proposals aiming to use archived Add Health biospecimens must follow the *Biospecimen Guidelines* listed on the ancillary studies page of the Add Health website. When ancillary study proposals are received, they undergo a formal scientific review process described at that link and the Add Health Biology Team reviews the types, volumes, and/or quantities of biospecimens requested to determine their availability.

PROTECTED RESERVE

Add Health sets aside a small portion of most biospecimens collected by the study; this is called the *Protected Reserve*. This small, long-term “lock box” biospecimen reserve is set aside for future, novel uses that cannot currently be anticipated. These biospecimens are stored for an indefinite duration and are not available via the Ancillary Study proposal process referenced above.

The table below describes the biospecimen types, volumes, and/or amounts that are being archived under the *Protected Reserve*, by Add Health wave. Per this policy, the *Protected Reserve* prioritizes the initial (baseline) wave at which each type of biospecimen was collected. Accordingly, volumes archived under the *Protected Reserve* are two times greater at the baseline than subsequent waves. This table will be updated with each subsequent data collection wave of Add Health.

BIOSPECIMEN TYPES, VOLUMES, AND/OR AMOUNTS							
Wave	Serum	Plasma	DNA	RNA	Dried Blood Spots	Stool Microbiome	Oral Microbiome
	μL	μL	μL	μL	punches	volume	volume
IV	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
V	250	250	1	-	-	variable	variable
VI	250	250	1	0.5	-	variable	-
*available in packed cells from which it can be extracted and aliquoted.							

OVERSIGHT

The Add Health Ancillary Studies Committee and the Add Health Biology Team, with consultation from representatives from NIA, NICHD, and the Laboratory for Clinical Biochemistry Research (LCBR), will meet annually to ensure careful monitoring and preservation of both the *Available for Current Use Reserve* and the *Protected Reserve*. Over the long-term, new opportunities may arise regarding potential use of archived biospecimens.