

# Tips for Using Data Preview Portal

## Data Access

DataPreview Portal

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Welcome to the DataPreview Portal (DPP) for the CLSA. Alphanumeric data collected from more than 51,000 participants at baseline are now available. Before exploring the variables in the DPP, please familiarize yourself with the study protocol and data collection tools.

## Data Preview Portal

Welcome to the DataPreview Portal for the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA). Alphanumeric data collected from more than 51,000 participants at baseline are now available. Before exploring the variables in the DataPreview Portal, please familiarize yourself with the study protocol and data collection tools used in the study.

### Study Protocol

Access the detailed protocol for the baseline phase of data collection of the CLSA.

### Data Collection Tools

Access the questionnaires used by the CLSA since it began data collection in 2011. If you would like to search keywords of interest, we recommend downloading the questionnaires and using CTRL+F, Command+F or the search function of your web browser.

### Datasets

Access the CLSA DataPreview Portal. The variable search tool is designed to enable researchers to locate items of interest within available data. If you are new to using the portal, we recommend you read the Frequently Asked Questions. Currently, the DataPreview Portal is only available in English.

# Dataset Search Tool



## Datasets

A Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) dataset holds and describes variables collected from participants at each wave of data collection. The variable search tool is designed to enable researchers to locate items of interest within available data collected from CLSA participants.

Current  
minutes  
30-min  
Data

The *Dataset Search* tool is designed to enable you to find basic information on the variables within available data. Please also consult the *Data not yet available* page.

**Dataset Search**

Variables available in the baseline data release, with filtering and

**Data not yet available**



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# Data Not Yet Available



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In addition to the information provided below, please consult the *CLSA Data Checklist* (available for download in the Data Access Application Documents) for a more detailed summary of data that are currently available or not yet available.

## Data not yet available

As part of the CLSA, a large amount of information is collected on participants in many forms, including questionnaire data, biospecimens and physical measurements. The process of reviewing and preparing this information for researchers is complex. Some of this information is still in the process of review and as a result is not yet available for researchers.

### Questionnaire Data

- Medications

Status: Under review, please check the website for updates.

### Biospecimens

- Blood
- Urine

Please email [bbc@clsa-elcv.ca](mailto:bbc@clsa-elcv.ca) if you have any questions concerning biospecimen access.

### Physical Assessments

- Images from DEXA (Bone density & bio-Impedance)
- Images for Carotid Intima Media Thickness
- Images for Plaque
- Retinal Scan Images

Status: Please check the website for updates.



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# Variable Search

 DataPreview

- Please read the SMART TIPS before you begin
- When you arrive on the front page of the DPP, take some time to familiarize yourself with its layout.

## SMART TIPS

- Variables from all Baseline interviews are preselected by default. To limit your search, select/deselect each under the 'Dataset' tab on the left
- Search for Areas of Information
- For Variable Names and Labels,
- When searching multiple terms, de

- Variables from all 4 Baseline datasets are preselected by default (CMCQ, COM, TMCQ & TRM)

Variable Dataset

All e.g. alcohol, cancer, gene, cohort, twin

Clear

CMCQ | COM | TMCQ | TRM

Variables (5,197)

Datasets (4)

10

1 2 3 ... 1 - 10 of 5197

Name

Label

Dataset

[ADL\\_ABLAP\\_COM](#)

OARS scale: Able to take care of appearance

[COM](#)

[ADL\\_ABLAP\\_TRM](#)

OARS scale: Able to take care of appearance

[TRM](#)

[COM](#)

[TRM](#)

- Variable Search results are presented in a list, and include:
  - Variable Name
  - Variable Label
  - Dataset (source of the variable)

# Selecting a CLSA dataset



## DataPreview Portal

### SMART TIPS

- Variables from all Baseline interviews are preselected by default
- Search for **Areas of Information** or **Scales** using the search fields
- For **Variable Names** and **Labels**, use the search fields under the Variable Tab
- When searching multiple terms, default search mode is AND

- To restrict your search, you can select/deselect each of the four datasets under the Dataset Tab on the left
- For example, you can choose to search only data from the COMPREHENSIVE assessment (COM, CMCQ) by unchecking the two Tracking datasets

**SMART TIP:** If you allow your cursor to hover over the dataset acronym (CMCQ, COM, TMCQ, TRM), a longer description of the dataset will appear.

The screenshot shows the DataPreview Portal interface. On the left, under the 'Dataset' tab, there is a list of dataset acronyms: CMCQ, COM, TMCQ, and TRM. The 'Dataset' tab is circled in green. Below this list, the 'Acronym' section shows CMCQ and COM checked, while TMCQ and TRM are unchecked. A green arrow points from the 'Dataset' tab to the search filter 'CMCQ | COM' in the search bar, which is also circled in green. Another green arrow points from the 'Dataset' tab to the 'Dataset' column in the search results table, which is also circled in green. The search results table shows variables with their labels and the dataset they belong to. The 'Dataset' column contains the acronym 'COM' for all listed variables.

Name	Label	Dataset
<a href="#">ADL_ABLAP_COM</a>	OARS scale: Able to take care of appearance	<a href="#">COM</a>
<a href="#">ADL_ABLBD_COM</a>	OARS scale: Able to get out of bed	<a href="#">COM</a>
<a href="#">ADL_ABLBT_COM</a>	OARS scale: Able to take bath	<a href="#">COM</a>
<a href="#">ADL_ABLDR_COM</a>	OARS scale: Able to dress	<a href="#">COM</a>
<a href="#">ADL_ABLFD_COM</a>	OARS scale: Able to feed	<a href="#">COM</a>



# Searching the DPP

## DataPreview Portal

There are 3 main ways to search the DPP:

- Using the Search Box
- Using the Variable Search Fields
- Using the Drop-down Menus

Using the Search Fields

- Variable name (*INJ\_BRKN\_COM; ALC\_HVST\_TRM;...*)
- Variable label (*food, stress, injury,...*)
- A combination of terms ("*alcohol consumption*"; "*healthy aging*";...)

Using the Search Box

- Areas of Information (*Lifestyle, Diseases, Medication,...*)
- Scales (*Life-space assessment, Kessler Psychological Distress,...*)

Using the Drop-down Menus

- Areas of Information
- Constructs

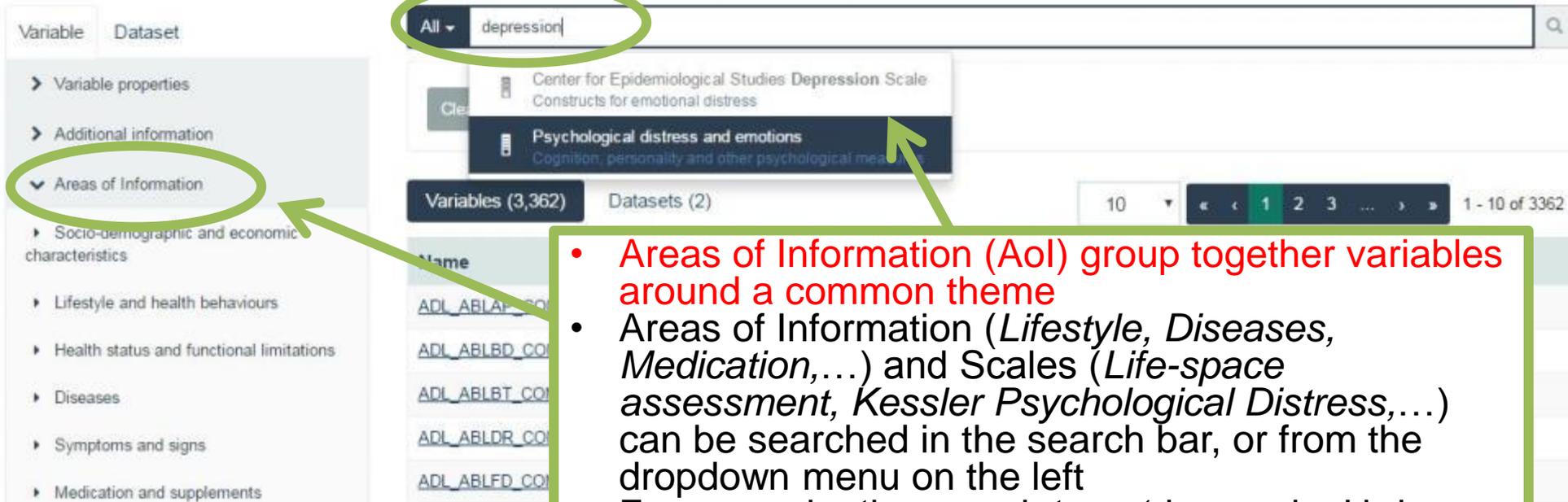
The screenshot shows the DataPreview Portal interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with a 'Variable' tab selected. Below it, there are search fields for 'Name' and 'Label', both with 'Enter text to search' prompts. Further down, there are expandable sections for 'Additional information', 'Areas of Information', and 'Constructs for cognitive functioning and mental health'. The main area shows a search bar with a dropdown menu set to 'All' and a search icon. Below the search bar, there is a table of variables with columns for variable name, label, and other details. The table includes variables like 'Able to get out of bed' and 'Able to take bath'. The interface is annotated with green boxes and arrows pointing to the search fields, search box, and drop-down menus.

# Searching by Areas of Information or Scales

 DataPreview Portal

## SMART TIPS

- Variables from all Baseline interviews are preselected by default. To limit your search, select/deselect each under the 'Dataset' tab on the left
- Search for **Areas of Information** or **Scales** using the search bar below
- For **Variable Names** and **Labels**, use the search fields under the 'Variable' tab
- When searching multiple terms, default search mode is a conjunction (**AND**). To switch to (**OR**), use the **Advanced** option



Variable Dataset

All ▾ depression

Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale  
Constructs for emotional distress

Psychological distress and emotions  
Cognition, personality and other psychological mea

Variables (3,362) Datasets (2)

10 1 2 3 ... 1 - 10 of 3362

Variable Name

ADL\_ABLAF\_CO

ADL\_ABLBD\_CO

ADL\_ABLBT\_CO

ADL\_ABLDR\_CO

ADL\_ABLFD\_CO

Variable properties

Additional information

Areas of Information

Socio-demographic and economic characteristics

Lifestyle and health behaviours

Health status and functional limitations

Diseases

Symptoms and signs

Medication and supplements

- **Areas of Information (Aoi)** group together variables around a common theme
- Areas of Information (*Lifestyle, Diseases, Medication,...*) and Scales (*Life-space assessment, Kessler Psychological Distress,...*) can be searched in the search bar, or from the dropdown menu on the left
- For example, the search term 'depression' brings up both the CES-D Scale and the 'Psychological distress and emotions' Aoi

# Searching by Variable Name

## DataPreview Portal

### SMART TIPS

- Variables from all Baseline in
- Search for **Areas of Inform**
- For **Variable Names** and **La**
- When searching multiple ter

If you have already consulted the Data Collection Tools, and are familiar with the name of the variables you are interested in, you can enter them in the search field directly. For example, 'DEP' is part of the name for all variables from the CES-D Depression Scale.

The screenshot shows the DataPreview Portal search interface. A search box on the left contains the text 'DEP'. The main search area shows a search filter 'Name:match(DEP)' applied. Below the search bar, there are 12 variables and 2 datasets listed. The variables listed are:

Name	Label	Dataset
<a href="#">DEP_BOTR_COM</a>	CES-D 10 scale: Frequency easily bothered	<a href="#">COM</a>
<a href="#">DEP_FFRT_COM</a>	CES-D 10 scale: Frequency feel everything is an effort	<a href="#">COM</a>
<a href="#">DEP_FLDP_COM</a>	CES-D 10 scale: Frequency feel depressed	<a href="#">COM</a>
<a href="#">DEP_FRFL_COM</a>	CES-D 10 scale: Frequency feel fearful or tearful	<a href="#">COM</a>
<a href="#">DEP_GTGO_COM</a>	CES-D 10 scale: Frequency feel could not 'get going'	<a href="#">COM</a>

# Searching by Variable Label

## DataPreview Por

### SMART TIPS

- Variables from all Baseline interviews are pr
- Search for **Areas of Information** or **Scales**
- For **Variable Names** and **Labels**, use the s
- When searching multiple terms, default sea

You can search using Variable Labels by entering them in the search field directly. Please note, however, this search is not likely to return an exhaustive list of variables.

- You can search using Variable Labels such as '*depression*', '*alcohol*', '*aging*',...
- You can also search using a combination of terms, such as "*healthy aging*", "*alcohol consumption*",...

**SMART TIP:** If you use **double quotes** (“”) around your search terms, you will get results containing **only** that precise term (“*alcohol consumption*”) in the label. If you do not use double quotes around your search terms, you will get results corresponding to **both** terms (i.e. '*alcohol*' + '*consumption*').

Variable | Dataset

▼ Variable properties

- ▶ Name
- ▼ Label

▶ Additional information

▶ Areas of Information

▶ Constructs for cognitive functioning and mental health

▶ Constructs for general health

Variable	Label	Dataset
<a href="#">DPR_AGE_NB_COM</a>	Age of clinical depression	<a href="#">COM</a>
<a href="#">DPR_CLINDEP_COM</a>	Clinical depression	<a href="#">COM</a>
<a href="#">DPR_CURRMED_IND_COM</a>	At least one of the medications for depression is validated By YES	<a href="#">COM</a>
<a href="#">DPR_EVRMED_COM</a>	Ever taken medication for depression	<a href="#">COM</a>
<a href="#">DPR_MEDCUR_COM</a>	Currently taking drugs for Depression	<a href="#">COM</a>

# Obtaining Descriptive Statistics

 **DPR\_CLINDEP\_COM** ←

Has a doctor ever told you that you suffer from clinical depression?

### Overview

Label	Clinical depression
Study	Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging
Dataset	<a href="#">Comprehensive Assessment V1_Baseline</a>
Value Type	text
Variable Type	Study variable

### Categories

Name	Label	Missing
1	Yes	
2	No	
8	Don't know/No answer	✓
9	Refused	✓

### Statistics

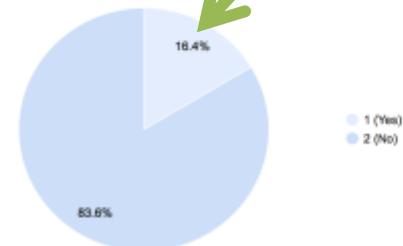
Value	Frequency
<b>Valid Values</b>	
1 Yes	4,819 16,30% (16,40%)
2 No	26,026 83,20% (83,60%)
Subtotal	29,945 99,5%
<b>Other Values</b>	
8 Don't know/No answer	86 0,30%

**SMART TIP:** You can click on the name of a variable in your search results to see:

- the actual question that was asked
- basic descriptive statistics

16.4% of Comprehensive cohort participants responded YES to the question “Has a doctor ever told you that you suffer from clinical depression?”

Valid values frequencies



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Data and Biospecimens

### FAQs

- › Data Access Questions
- › DataPreview Portal Questions
- › Application Questions

## FAQs

### Data Access

How do I get a...

Which data formats are available...

What do I do if I would like to obtain biospecimens?

What if there appears to be an error or omission in my data?

Can I apply for data as an international researcher?

What are the fees for access to CLSA data?

For additional information about the CLSA, please consult the Frequently Asked Questions on our website.

Still have questions?

Email us:  
[access@clsa-elcv.ca](mailto:access@clsa-elcv.ca)



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