

# Indigenous Data Sovereignty

## The Importance of Indigenous Data Sovereignty

This resource is part of a series of information pamphlets and supports for Ontario Health Teams and all those working to advance integrated health and care services for First Nations, Inuit, Métis populations.

Indigenous Data Sovereignty is crucial for restoring control over data related to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples and communities. It prioritizes cultural integrity, ethical practices, and self-determination to reclaim authority over their data and narratives, and any decision-making about that data. This practice addresses historical data injustices and reshapes governance, research, and policy frameworks to reflect Indigenous values.

## Key Benefits

- 1. Improved Health Outcomes:** Supports the development of culturally appropriate health interventions, improving health outcomes by addressing community-specific needs.
- 2. Strengthened Community Empowerment:** Empowers Indigenous peoples by giving them control over the narratives and decisions that shape their lives.
- 3. Reconciliation and Justice:** Contributes to reconciliation by addressing the colonial exploitation of data.
- 4. Wholistic Data Approaches:** Ensures that data practices reflect Indigenous worldviews, leading to more sustainable and inclusive outcomes.

Additional Resources can be found at [IPHCC.ca](http://IPHCC.ca) or scan the QR code

[The Data Governance Privacy and Security Handbook](#)

[The Data Governance Indicator Framework](#)

[IPHCC Draft Policy Handbook](#)

[Data Governance Framework Appendix](#)



# Indigenous Data Sovereignty

## Objectives and Principles

**Empowering Self-Determination** by supporting the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples to govern their own data, reflecting their broader right to self-determination allowing decisions about how their data is collected, managed, analyzed, and used

**Ensuring Privacy and Ethical Standards** by introducing robust privacy protections and ethical standards for data collection and management, preventing misuse and upholding the integrity and confidentiality of information

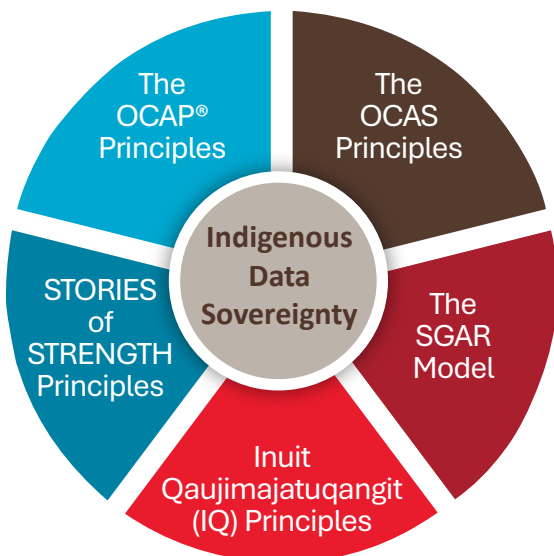
**Promoting Fair and Inclusive Research Practices** by advocating for equitable research practices where Indigenous peoples transition from passive subjects to active co-researchers and decision-makers

**Developing Culturally Relevant Data Governance** by supporting and emphasizing the use and creation of data governance systems that better align with Indigenous legal traditions, cultural contexts, and governance structures

**Indigenous Data Sovereignty is rooted in the belief that data is not just information but a form of cultural heritage and a vital resource for community empowerment. It expands the concept of sovereignty to encompass the ownership, governance, and use of data.**

**By integrating principles like OCAP®, OCAS, and IQ, and fostering innovative, culturally aligned data practices, Indigenous Data Sovereignty addresses historical data injustices and empowers Indigenous communities to shape their futures.**

## Supporting Frameworks



- 1 The OCAP® Principles**  
Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession assert the rights of First Nations over their data
- 2 The OCAS Principles**  
Ownership, Control, Access, and Stewardship focusing on the responsible management and ethical use of data
- 3 The SGAR Model**  
Secure, Govern, Act, Report
- 4 Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) Principles**  
Inuit approaches emphasizing respect, inclusion, community service, and collaboration
- 5 STORIES of STRENGTH Principles**  
Developed by the IPHCC emphasizing stewardship, transparency, ownership, respect, integrity, equity, and security.