# Financial or Service Utilization Data Resources

## CMS BSA Public Use Files

- Basic Stand Alone (BSA) [Medicare Claims Public Use Files (PUFs)](#).
- Contains Medicare de-identified claims files, available for public use.
- There are 11 BSA/PUF files are available from the CMS site.
- These files are available to researchers as free downloads in CSV format. They contain non-identifiable claim-specific information and are within the public domain.

## CMS "Non-Identifiable" Limited Data Set (LDS) Files

- CMS [LDS files](#) are identical "Beneficiary Encrypted Files," but they have been stripped of data elements that might permit identification of beneficiaries.
- The Research Data Assistance Center (ResDAC) is a CMS contractor (University of Minnesota) that provides free assistance to academic, government, and non-profit researchers interested in using [Medicare and/or Medicaid data](#) for their research.

## CMS Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) files

- The tool used to collect and report performance data by home health agencies is called the Outcome and Assessment Information Set ([OASIS](#)).
- Since 1999, CMS has required Medicare-certified home health agencies to collect and transmit OASIS data for all adult patients whose care is reimbursed by Medicare and Medicaid with the exception of patients receiving pre- or postnatal services only (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2013).
- To my knowledge, OASIS data is not available for download.

## CMS Data Navigator

- [CMS Data Navigator](#) is a menu-driven search tool that is used to find data and information products for specific CMS programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, or on specific health care topics or settings-of-care.

## U.S. Census Bureau Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) data

- Health Status, Health Insurance, and Medical Services Utilization (2001 to 2011 tables) are available from the Census Bureau [Health Data](#) page.

## Veterans Administration Utilization Files

- The VA Information Research Center (VIReC) develops resources and provides guidance to VA researchers using VA data.
- Data access is tiered and depends on the [use of the data and the data source](). The appropriate avenue for submitting an individual data request is determined by:
  - the use of the data (e.g. R&D/IRB approved VA research project or preparatory to research);
  - the identifier requested (real or scrambled SSN);
  - the data level requested (local, VISN, and/or National);
  - the data format desired (e.g. SAS, SQL); and
  - the data access manager (e.g. NDS, CUPS POC).

References

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2013). Home Health Quality Initiative. *2013*. doi: 102598