



# Safe Data Access Professionals

## What we do

The Safe Data Access Professionals (SDAP) Network was established in 2011 to facilitate the sharing of expertise, best practice and knowledge between organisations providing, or intending to provide, secure access to confidential data from the health, economics, and social science research sector. It is currently managed by the UK Data Service.

The network provides an invaluable resource for its member organisations, whether they are operating established secure settings or are just starting out. Members have found the network to be a vital resource for learning how existing facilities have been established and developed. We discuss many relevant aspects of our members' work, including the use of secure technology, information security standards, auditing and assurance practices, risk-management, managing analysts and researchers, and much more. Further, we create useful resources for staff working in secure settings. Thus far, these include materials in the areas of statistical disclosure control, capacity building, and a set of [Data Awareness Training](#) slides. All resources are available on our [website](#).

## Statistical Disclosure Control

Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) is the practice of ensuring that data remain confidential. In the context of a secure setting, this usually refers to checking statistical outputs produced from confidential sources of data. These checks are intended to ensure that no entity from the data can be revealed by examining the statistics produced from the data; nor that any confidential information is released. SDC is a critical function of any secure setting and we have published an [SDC Handbook](#) that can be used by staff employed to undertake SDC of statistical outputs, and researchers that wish to enhance their understanding. The handbook draws on the experience of our members, and in 2020 was [translated into Spanish](#) by the Director of Microdata Access, [National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico](#).

## Capacity Building

Often, we find ourselves working alone within large organisations to provide secure access to confidential data. The network provides opportunities for staff to develop by acquiring skills from other, experienced, secure data access professionals. Amongst other materials, we have produced a [Competency Framework](#) for staff working in secure settings, a useful tool for thinking through career progression, professional development, preparing for performance reviews and meeting the needs of the many stakeholders that such facilities serve.

## Members

The SDAP network has grown significantly in the last few years. At the time of writing we have representatives from over 25 organisations. You can see the list of member organisations [here](#).

## Get in touch

If you're working in a secure data facility, or are setting one up and need some help and guidance, please contact us - we'd love to hear from you!

[securedatagroup.org](https://securedatagroup.org)

