



Your Rights: Data Protection in Health

If your health data is being collected for research, you have rights that protect how your information is used. These are governed by data protection laws, which require researchers to be transparent, responsible, and ethical.

Note: The persons participating in health research are referred to as data subjects.

Right to informed consent	Data subjects have a right to be informed about how their personal information will be used.
Right to privacy and confidentiality	The data subject has a right to have their information protected, and that the personal data be held with integrity, consistency, accuracy, and trustworthiness.
Right to access your data	Data subjects have the right to request a copy of their personal data.
Right to withdraw consent	As a data subject, you have the right to stop your participation in health research, and the right to not show interest anymore.

What are personal data protection laws?

Personal Data Protection laws are designed to protect the public's personal information. Health research projects that collect or share data must comply with these laws, ensuring that data is handled ethically and legally, especially when shared across borders or used in long-term studies.

Many African countries have adopted or are in the process of developing national legislation on data protection. These laws are designed to reflect local contexts while aligning with global standards. They define:

- The rights of data subjects
- Conditions for sharing data across borders
- Specific rules for using personal data in scientific research

Explore the Data Laws in Africa through this interactive map compiled by PUBGEM-Africa ([Click here](#))