



WSS Seminar: Communicating Disclosure Risk to Non-Statisticians

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Issue: Communicating Disclosure Risk

- Community engagement can be essential to successful design, implementation, and information goals of statistical studies.
- Studies conducted under a federal pledge of confidentiality limit the ways in which study data can be communicated responsibly.

Communicating Disclosure Risk

- Federal statistical disclosure guidance is generally oriented to persons well-acquainted with statistical approaches and procedures.
- Guidance for describing disclosure risk to stakeholders—**gatekeepers, local officials, reporters, opinion leaders**—is limited, although the interest of these groups in receiving study information can be substantial.

Examples of Stakeholder Information Requests

- Reporters: interviews with participants
- Community leaders: eligible neighborhoods in sampling areas
- Health providers: number of patients in their practice recruited

How do agencies effectively communicate disclosure risk to stakeholders?

- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
- High School Longitudinal Study (HSLS)
- National Children's Study (NCS)

Seminar Format and Feedback

- Strategies may differ by
 - study design
 - particular confidentiality statutes
 - study information released to the public domain
- Panelists provide some practical guidance to inform communication strategies
- Discussion: How do these strategies compare to experience with other studies/agencies?