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?