

Archival Data

Examples for Research Using Publicly Available Data

#1) Deidentified & Decoded Data Accessed >No Review Required

An investigator plans to do a series of research projects on family structure and child well-being with the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey-Kindergarten (ECLS-K). The ECLS-K is a secondary data set collected by the National Center for Education Statistics and the Department of Education. This data set focuses on the educational achievement and psycho-social development of elementary school-age children. Each child participated in a cognitive assessment at each round of the study. The data also include interviews with parents and teachers. The data set is publicly-available and free of charge to anyone who wishes to order it from the NCES website. This public-use data set includes no identifying information, and also minimizes the likelihood that any teacher, parent, or child who participated in the study will be inadvertently identifiable. The investigator's research focuses on the effect of family structure on child-well being. She will conduct statistical analyses and will only report aggregate information about the participants, and she has no intent to produce an identifiable data set through the combination of this data set with another data set or through any other means.

This project **would not require IRB review** at all, because the investigator cannot readily ascertain the identities of those whose data are being used.

#2) Identifiable or Coded Data Accessed >IRB Review Required (Exempt)

(No illustration available. If you have a suggestion, please email it sloesspe@depaul.edu.)

These types of projects **require IRB review**, because the investigator has access to identifiable data, but the project would receive an exempt review, since the data are publicly available.

Examples for Research Using Privately Available Data

#1) Coded Data Received w/ Agreement >No Review Required

An investigator receives the following data from the DePaul admissions office for 1000 college applicants: a) internal application number; b) gender; c) % of days absent for senior year of high school; d) high school class rank (percentile); e) lowest grade on high school transcript; and f) a writing sample with all potential identifiers removed by an admissions officer.

In addition to receiving the data, the investigator enters into a formal agreement with the admissions office, prohibiting the release of the key that links the application numbers to names or other potentially identifiable data under any circumstances (unless and until the individuals are deceased). The researcher must retain some record of the agreement (e.g. signed letter, signed contract, email).

This project would **not require IRB review** at all, because the investigator cannot readily ascertain the identities of those whose data are being used.

#2) Coded Data Received w/out Agreement >IRB Review Required (Expedited or Full)

An investigator receives the following data from the DePaul admissions office for 1000 college applicants: a) internal application number; b) gender; c) % of days absent for senior year of high school; d) high school class rank (percentile); e) lowest grade on high school transcript; and f) a writing sample with all potential identifiers removed.

This project **would require IRB review**, but would not be eligible for an exempt review, since the investigator will receive data which include identifiers (internal application numbers).

#3) Coded Data Extracted by Researcher >IRB Review Required (Expedited or Full)

An investigator is allowed to view paper files in the DePaul admissions office for 1000 college applicants. The files contain identifiable application data, and the investigator records the following data: a) internal application number; b) gender; c) % of days absent for senior year of high school; d) high school class rank (percentile); e) lowest grade on high school transcript; and f) a writing sample with all potential identifiers removed.

This project **would require IRB review**, but would not be eligible for an exempt review, since the investigator will record data which include identifiers (internal application numbers).

#4) Deidentified & Uncoded Data Received by Researcher >No Review Required

An investigator receives the following data from the DePaul admissions office for 1000 college applicants: a) gender; b) % of days absent for senior year of high school; c) high school class rank (percentile); e) lowest grade on high school transcript; and f) a writing sample with all potential identifiers removed.

This project **would not require IRB review** at all, because the investigator cannot readily ascertain the identities of those whose data are being used.

#5) Deidentified & Uncoded Data Extracted by Researcher >IRB Review Required (Exempt)

An investigator is allowed to view paper files in the DePaul admissions office for 1000 college applicants. The files contain identifiable application data, but the investigator records only: a) gender; b) % of days absent for senior year of high school; c) high school class rank (percentile); e) lowest grade on high school transcript; and f) a writing sample with all potential identifiers removed.

This project **would require IRB review**, because the investigator has access to identifiable data, but the project would receive an exempt review, since the investigator records the data in a manner that prevents identification of participants directly or indirectly through codes.