Peer Response

by Fahad Abdallah - Monday, 23 June 2025, 8:12 PM

In your post, Ali, you give a notable ethical issue that Abi, as a responsible researcher, should consider. It is an instance of epistemic manipulation to selectively publish only positive results regarding Whizzz cereal, excluding negative findings. This selective reporting has a grave potential to mislead any stakeholder, particularly in health-related research, in which partial reporting can affect the behaviour of a populace and policy. One of the points that Taquette and Souza (2022) make is that ethical research is more than sound methodology, as it necessitates disclosure of all the results, including potentially inconvenient or unpopular ones. The work of Abi as a statistician is not associated only with the accuracy of the calculations. As Grace and Uveges (2022) underline, professional ethics of health research require honesty, responsibility, and pursuit of active interest in the protection of participants, particularly vulnerable ones, including children who could be the primary consumers of the cereal. Even when the data indicates little potential to cause harm, complete non-reporting of this issue might interfere with the fundamental ethical principles of non-maleficence and informed consent.

In addition, Elendu et al. (2023) emphasise the increasing role of researchers in a data-driven context, when research outcomes are subject to manipulation and misinterpretation. Complicity, as this is not morally sound. Abi may be professionally and legally liable to foreseeable consequences, particularly should unconstructive effects be realised later. He will thus be forced to make positive efforts to curb misuse of his work. The most ethical action Abi takes is to make all the positive and negative findings reportable with clear comments. Abi should add a formal note or publish the results separately when the manufacturer refuses to publish the full dataset. This action keeps the ethical standards and is a professional requirement to maintain the community's trust in scientific research.

References

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Peer Response

by <u>Fahad Abdallah</u> - Monday, 23 June 2025, 8:16 PM

Your post gives a valuable insight into the ethical and legal duty of computing and data professionals such as Abi. You are quite right in saying that, although Abi may not be lying with the results, the fact that he is only showing the good news about the Whizzz cereal and hiding the negative results is a gross ethical violation. Chiruvella and Guddati (2021) ensure that data professionals remain transparent and guarantee that information is not altered in a manner that causes misjudgment of the stakeholders, especially in health cases where abuse may bear direct consequences on the safety of patients or consumers.

Abi is responsible for abstaining from harm and doing things that facilitate good integrity in interpreting and communicating results. According to Rezaei et al. (2021), the ethical dilemmas in digital healthcare are more intricate, such as how the data is displayed and to whom it will be answered. Necessitating the manufacturer to discard negative data and disclose only the positive data would undermine the credibility of science and breach the moral duty of serving the community's best interest.

Naik et al. (2022) go further, claiming that ethical liability is not that of the data owner concerning the data-driven healthcare setting. If Abi foresees the possibility of his analysis being exploited or used selectively, he has the responsibility to do something about it. The release of full results or a formal disqualification would assist in avoiding the crooks' dressing of findings and save his career, reputation, and the general citizenry.

To conclude, ethical data practice involves not only correct calculation but also situational truthfulness and active care. Abi will have to fully disclose all the results and include any limitations or risks. Such ethical principles need to be observed to ensure the integrity of data science and the well-being of the population.

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by Fahad Abdallah - Monday, 23 June 2025, 8:21 PM

Kingsley, you have analysed the ethical obligations of Abi in dealing with research data in a very considerate manner in your posting. I am with you on your opinion that, although Abi might not have fabricated any data, the fact that she reported only positive findings on Whizzz cereal, being aware that the cereal might have some potentially detrimental effects, is quite an ethical malpractice. Healthcare and research ethics professionalism is based on honesty, transparency, and feeling obliged to serve the people by protecting their good (Grace and Uveges, 2022).

Your legal implications aspect is also essential. Nevertheless, besides the legal front, there is moral responsibility based on Phillips's foreseeability and avoidance. Wang et al. (2023) emphasise that in the context of health, the human operators should maintain responsibility and ethically operate until the accuracy of digital or AI-help in the research work is not induced. Abi would not be able to say he is neutral in case his silence would hurt. Through this full disclosure, he would fail to let the manufacturer publicise the promising findings without disclosing the bad ones.

Also, Kooli (2021) states that ethical standards cannot be slackened in public health emergencies or even in commercial activities associated with health. Data must be freely dubbed as transparent, whether it has financial implications or not, to ensure the trust in science and the protection of the wider community. In case of continued opposition to Abi by the manufacturer, then she should contemplate publishing the entire report in peer-reviewed publications or seeking the opinion of an independent ethics committee.

Finally, your analysis appropriately highlights ethical bravery in research. Abi should take immediate action to release all results, not only positive results, to meet professional ethics and ensure the safety of science as the instrument of truth and the safety of people.

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