Summary Post

by Marwa Alkuwari - Sunday, 29 June 2025, 8:41 AM

Number of replies: 0

Reflecting on my initial post and the insightful peer responses from Jaafar and Sultan, I've deepened my appreciation of the ethical complexities surrounding data transparency, especially in cases with public health implications like Abi's.

Abi's situation underscores a fundamental truth: ethical responsibility in data analysis extends far beyond technical correctness. As Jaafar noted, integrity is not simply about avoiding data manipulation—it includes how results are framed and the intent behind their presentation. Selectively reporting favorable outcomes, even without altering data, risks misleading stakeholders and violating ethical standards such as non-maleficence and transparency (Corrêa et al., 2023).

Both Jaafar and Sultan emphasized the relevance of the Menlo Report's principle of "Respect for Law and Public Interest" (Finn & Shilton, 2023), affirming that public-facing research must prioritize truthfulness and accountability. Sultan also raised a valid concern about how professionals can balance transparency with contractual obligations or NDAs—an area I now recognize as requiring further exploration through ethical review boards or third-party oversight.

This discussion has reinforced my belief that integrity is not optional in data science—it is essential for maintaining public trust in research and technology. I've also learned the value of practical measures such as disclaimers, ethical escalation, and early involvement of governance bodies to prevent ethical breaches before they escalate.

Moving forward, I aim to adopt a more anticipatory ethical mindset in my academic and professional projects—one that weighs risks, protects public interest, and upholds transparency at every stage.

References

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