

DATA ETHICS

Data Analysis for Journalism and Political Communication
(Spring 2024)

Prof. Bell

BOUIE, “QUANTIFYING THE PAIN OF SLAVERY”

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade - Database								
Year range	Ship, nation, owner	Itinerary	Enslaved people	Dates	Captain and crew	Outcome	Source	
Results	Summary statistics	Tables	Data visualization	Timeline	Maps	Timelapse		
Showing 1 to 15 of 36,079 entries								
Configure columns Show 15 rows Download								
Year arrived with slaves (IMP)	Voyage ID	Vessel name	Place where vessel's voyage began (IMP)	Principal place where captives were purchased (IMP)	Principal place where captives were landed (IMP)	Linked voyages	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1817	1	Pastora de Lima	Rio de Janeiro	Mozambique	Bahia, place unspecified		290	Dias, Manoel José
1817	2	Tibério	Bahia, place unspecified	Mozambique	Bahia, place unspecified		223	Mata, José Maria da
1817	3	Paquete Real	Bahia, place unspecified	Cabinda	Bahia, place unspecified		350	Ferreira, José dos Santos
1817	4	Bom Caminho	Bahia, place unspecified	Quilimane	Bahia, place unspecified		342	Dias, Domingos Francisco
1817	5	Benigretta	Bahia, place unspecified	Cabinda	Bahia, place unspecified		516	
1817	6	Voador	Bahia, place unspecified	Mozambique	Bahia, place unspecified		515	
1817	7	Formiga	Bahia, place unspecified	Malembo	Bahia, place unspecified		204	Viana, Isidoro Antônio

Go to SlaveVoyages.org and spend a few minutes exploring the data. Think about the implications of collecting and sharing this data. What are some of the benefits of sharing this data? What are some of the risks? Do the benefits outweigh the harms?

TUSKEGEE SYPHILIS STUDY



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Justice

Groups who bear the burden of research should also be the beneficiaries of that research.

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- Selection of subjects

- ▶ Do not select favored subjects for highly beneficial research and unfavored subjects for risky research

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- There are financial benefits that accrue to the companies, not the research subjects

CASE STUDIES

- 1 Home DNA Testing
- 2 Crisis Text Line
- 3 Diversity in Faces (DiF) dataset

CASE STUDIES

- 1 What are the relevant ethical principles and practices in this case?
- 2 In what ways/why are there concerns about a violation of ethical principles in this case?
- 3 What are some ways that data could have been used more ethically in this case?

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- De-identification is the process of removing direct and indirect identifiers

DE-IDENTIFICATION

1 Remove direct identifiers

Antenatal Card: B2-2296 Report Date: 2006-07

Patient Name	Patient Id	Age	Birth Date	Address	Husband	Clinic Name
Patient2332		20-25		Region 3	married	Inst_OC3

Previous Pregnancies

Month/Year	Duration	Health During Pregnancy	Mode of Delivery	Type of Labor	Birth Weight	Outcome
1 / 19	Full Term	health_type 3	Spontaneous Vaginal	Spontaneous	Infant 1: 2.5	Alive
1 / 19	Full Term	health_type 4	Spontaneous Vaginal	Spontaneous	Infant 1: 3.0	Alive
12 / 1	Full Term	health_type 2	Spontaneous Vaginal	Spontaneous	Infant 1: 2.3	Alive

Lab Tests

Date Request	Lab Type	Date Results	Results	Site	Clinician
2006-0	Hb - 1st screen	2006-11-13	12.6	InstOC3	Dr_16
24rd week					

Drug Interventions

Date Given	Folic	Iron
2006-0	X	X
18th week		

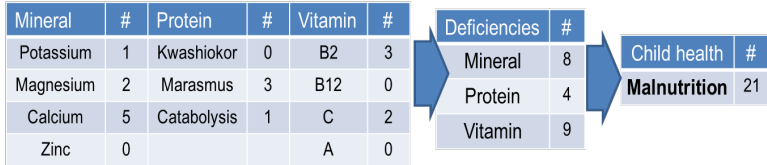
DE-IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Remove direct identifiers
- 2 Aggregate or reduce the precision of a variable
 - ▶ Generalize the meaning of categories

SubjID	Region	RegGen
2253	21239	212
2254	21238	212
2255	21135	211
2256	06058	060

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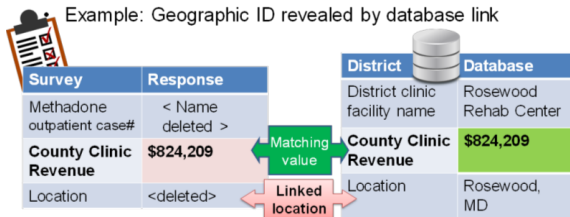
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Age	Actual Wealth	Top-coded Wealth
24	24,778	24,778
31	26,750	26,750
42	26,780	26,780
64	35,469	30000+
27	43,695	30000+

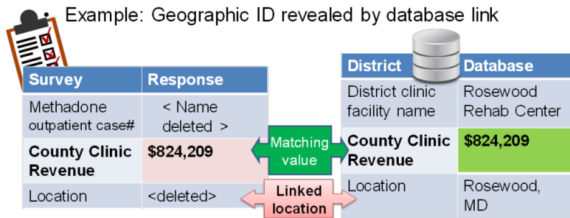
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- 3 Anonymize keys that link to other datasets
- 4 Maintain a master log of all replacements, aggregations, or removals and keep it in a secure location separate from the de-identified data files



DE-IDENTIFICATION EXERCISE