

Openness and Confidentiality

Why should we protect confidential data? When is this appropriate?

Why should we be open with data? When is this appropriate?

In July 2004, the Census Bureau released correspondence and other materials indicating that the Office of Customs and Border Protection, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security, had made two requests for data about the Arab community in 2002 and 2003. The Census Bureau provided two extracts, which are data extracted from the public files, and data which are available on the Census Bureau's website in the American FactFinder. These extracts indicated the number of persons of Arab ancestry living in places of 10,000 people or more and by ZIP-code tabulation area (geographic areas closely associated with Postal Zip Codes).

How do these issues of openness and confidentiality come into play here?

From "Ethics, Confidentiality, and Data Dissemination," Hermann Habermann, Deputy Director, US Census Bureau, <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/ethics.pdf>

Brainstorm some ideas for how to both release general information and maintain individual confidentiality.

Name: _____

Tell me something interesting or new you learned today about openness and confidentiality.
Thanks.
