

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910973716303321
Titolo	Private lives and public policies : confidentiality and accessibility of government statistics // Panel on Confidentiality and Data Access [of the] Committee on National Statistics, Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Research Council and the Social Science Research Council ; George T. Duncan, Thomas B. Jabine, and Virginia A. de Wolf, editors
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C., : National Academy Press, 1993
ISBN	9786610196357 9781280196355 1280196351 9780309576116 0309576113 9780585002453 0585002452
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 274 pages)
Altri autori (Persone)	DuncanGeorge T JabineThomas B De WolfVirginia A
Disciplina	323.44/8
Soggetti	Privacy, Right of - United States Public records - Access control - United States United States Statistical services
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 229-241) and index.
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Sommario/riassunto

Americans are increasingly concerned about the privacy of personal data--yet we demand more and more information for public decision making. This volume explores the seeming conflicts between privacy and data access, an issue of concern to federal statistical agencies collecting the data, research organizations using the data, and individuals providing the data. A panel of experts offers principles and specific recommendations for managing data and improving the balance between needed government use of data and the privacy of respondents. The volume examines factors such as the growth of computer technology, that are making confidentiality an increasingly critical problem. The volume explores how data collectors communicate with data providers, with a focus on informed consent to use data, and describes the legal and ethical obligations data users have toward individual subjects as well as toward the agencies providing the data. In the context of historical practices in the United States, Canada, and Sweden, statistical techniques for protecting individuals' identities are evaluated in detail. Legislative and regulatory restraints on access to data are examined, including a discussion about their effects on research. This volume will be an important and thought-provoking guide for policymakers and agencies working with statistics as well as researchers and concerned individuals.
