



Fact Sheet on Anonymous Data Collection

Please note that the information below is not legally binding. This information sheet is intended as an aid when collecting and processing anonymous data.

It does **not** apply to data that is only anonymised during its collection or processing (see the information sheet on informed consent).

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1. What is anonymous data collection?

- When data is collected and held anonymously, the data subject cannot be identified from the very start. Thus, the collected data cannot be linked to the person whose data has been collected or only with extraordinary effort.
 - **Please note:** Data protection regulations do not apply to anonymous data. As a result, it is not necessary to gain consent in principle.
 - Nevertheless, in the interests of academic integrity, those affected should always be informed of the (anonymous) collection of their data whenever possible.

2. Who should when be informed about what?

- There are no official legal requirements. However, the written form is recommended (e.g. in the form of an information sheet).
- The information must be provided before the actual data collection.
- What information should be provided?
 - Details of the person responsible for the project who will be processing the data (the “principal investigator” (PI), project manager, etc.), including their contact information
 - The nature, extent and duration of data processing
 - Information on the location and duration of data storage and the security measures in place (in particular the server location)
 - The specific purpose of the data collection and processing
 - The fact that participation is voluntary
 - Any ways in which the anonymous data will be shared or used (e.g. publication, subsequent use, etc.)
 - The option of being informed about the research results
 - **Important:** It must be ensured that this does not give any opportunity to link data to its owner (e.g. if the participant voluntarily provides their email address so that they may be contacted).
- **Please note:** Consent **cannot** be withdrawn, as the data cannot be connected to the specific individuals.
- For any questions, please contact datenschutz@unibas.ch