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Legal framework

- Statistics Ordinance [New Version], 5732 – 1972
 - ICBS may not publish statistics in a manner that enables identification of the individual
 - Only employee may see identifiable data
- Protection of Privacy Law, 5741 – 1981
 - Use of administrative data solely for purpose given to ICBS

Public Use Files

- Non-confidential microdata
- Available to anyone
 - Subject to personal/institutional license
 - “Published” on disks
 - [Online catalog](#)
 - NIS 100 per disk
 - Available through the ICBS Information Office

Public Use Files

- Possibility of identifying individual unit is minimal
 - By direct observation
 - By data linking

Public Use Files

- Strong Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC)
 - Removal of all direct identifiers
 - Top coding
 - Grouping of categories
 - Other standard SDC tools
- Limited research value due to strong SDC

MUC

- Confidential anonymized microdata provided in an environment that **minimizes** the possibility of identifying individual units
 - Small possibility of identifying individual unit
 - By direct observation
 - Safe physical/logical environment
 - Prevents data linking
 - Prevents data leaks
 - Trustworthy research population
 - Primarily academic researchers

MUC

- Confidential anonymized microdata provided in an environment that **minimizes** the possibility of identifying individual units
 - Output vetted for disclosure risk
 - Strict contractual obligations

MUC

- Less vigorous SDC than for PUF
 - Removal of direct identifiers
 - Less aggressive grouping of categories
 - More detailed data than PUF
 - More valuable to researchers
 - Research files subject to approval by ICBS Confidentiality Committee

MUC

- Current platform – Remote Access
 - From researcher's computer
 - To ICBS server
 - No data transferred to researcher
 - All programs on ICBS server
 - All program transactions on ICBS server
 - Researcher must apply to use system
 - Approval by Government Statistician
 - Individual datasets created for each research project

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MUC

- Current platform Remote Access
 - Decision to phase out usage of current RA facility due to high cost to upgrade
 - No new users
 - Interim plan to allow current users access within physical Data Research Center/s
 - Long term plan – modern Remote Access Data Research Center for all research on confidential data
 - Pursuant to changes in Statistics Ordinance

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Data Research Centers

- Confidential Data
 - Anonymized microdata that is identifiable

Data Research Centers

- Researchers from State Agencies only
 - Government Ministries, local authorities - and authorities, bodies corporate and other agencies established under law or decided upon by the Government;
 - Institutions of higher education; research institutes recognized by the Government Statistician

Data Research Centers

- Researchers meeting one or more of the following criteria
 - University researchers
 - College researchers
 - Researchers in recognized “state agency” research institutions

Data Research Centers

- Researchers must submit research proposal
 - Requires approval by ICBS Chief Scientist
 - Research datasets created to fit research needs
 - If administrative data in dataset – requires approval of administrative source
 - Datasets are anonymized but confidential

Data Research Centers

- Researchers must become “special sworn employees” of the ICBS
 - Including security clearance and computer security briefing

Data Research Centers

- Researchers must sign Research Contract
 - In framework of published guidelines at <http://www.cbs.gov.il/mucpuf/cheder-mechkar/nohal-lahoker.pdf>
- All research carried out in secure Data Research Center
 - No possibility of data linking
 - No possibility of data leaks
 - All output vetted for disclosure risk
 - Research must be published

Data Research Centers

- Remote Access Data Research Center – Bank of Israel
 - Data on ICBS servers
 - Access from secure room at Bank of Israel
 - Limited to approved researchers and approved research projects of Bank of Israel

Future plans

- Data Research Centers at CBS offices in Haifa and Tel Aviv

Future plans

- Remote Access Data Research Center for academic institutions
 - Secure rooms at institutions
 - Data on ICBS servers
 - Vetted users, research proposals, research datasets and output
 - Currently in planning stage

Future plans

- Amendments to the Statistics Ordinance
 - Eckstein 2 Committee – framework proposal to be presented at upcoming Public Council of Statistics meeting
 - Proposal to ensure clear legal basis for research and simplify procedures
 - Goal to make ICBS microdata more easily available and useful to research community

More information

- ICBS website:
http://www.cbs.gov.il/mucpuf/muc_puf_h.htm

Thank you for you
attention

