

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRIVACY, CONFIDENTIALITY, AND ANONYMITY?

Protecting research participants includes considerations for protecting their privacy, keeping information confidential, and/or allowing the participant to remain anonymous

PRIVACY

Privacy in research refers to protecting the individual's right to control access to their participation in a study (i.e., extent, timing, circumstances).

- o Carefully consider the appropriate circumstances and setting for participant recruitment, enrollment, and data collection.
- o Limit the information collected to what is essential for research purposes.



CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality pertains to protecting the participant's personally identifiable data.

- o Ensure that the participant's identity, personal information, responses, etc. will not be disclosed to anyone outside of the research team unless otherwise agreed upon.
- o Notify participants:
 - how their information will be stored during and after the study.
 - that breach of confidentiality is a potential risk of participating.
 - the steps researchers will take to secure and protect their records.



ANONYMITY

Anonymity is protected when the researcher refrains from collecting any personal identifiers, direct or indirect, that would link responses to a specific individual.

- o Data is not collected in person.
- o No key codes exist, and names and other identifiers are not collected.



Each of these practices must be articulated in an IRB protocol application

Questions? Contact irb@purdue.edu or 765-494-5942