

Ethical Considerations in Epidemiological

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1. Introduction

- Epidemiological research often uses population data, raising distinct ethical concerns.
- Researchers must balance public health benefits with individual rights.

2. Core Principles

- **Respect for persons:** informed consent and protection of vulnerable populations.
- **Beneficence:** maximize societal benefit while minimizing harm.
- **Justice:** fair selection of participants and equitable sharing of benefits.

3. Privacy and Confidentiality

- Personal health data must be anonymized or de-identified where possible.
- Secure storage and restricted access prevent misuse and breaches.

4. Consent Challenges

- Large datasets and secondary data use may make individual consent impractical.
- Ethics committees may grant waivers under strict safeguards.

5. Oversight and Integrity

- Institutional review boards approve and monitor studies.
- Transparent reporting, avoiding conflicts of interest, and responsible communication of results maintain trust.