

# PRASC



**Project for the Regional  
Advancement of Statistics  
in the Caribbean**

**Projet régional pour  
l'avancement de la statistique  
dans les Caraïbes**



In partnership with

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# Data Disclosure Control: An Overview

Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC)



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Prepared by Statistics Canada  
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# Data Disclosure Control and Anonymization

## What are we talking about?

Every NSO is governed by a Statistics Act. Every one of these specifies that data provided by respondents to the NSO are to be kept confidential. And so there is a legal requirement.



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# Data Disclosure Control and Anonymization

## Why is it important?

- TRUST. We promise respondents to not disclose their data
- Reputational risk
- Can affect or influence what you do and what you release in your analyses



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# Data Disclosure Control and Anonymization

## What are the challenges?

- Small populations increase the disclosure risk when disaggregating to small levels
- Striking a good balance of protecting data while at the same time maximizing its utility for analysts and users.





# Data Disclosure Control and Anonymization

**Files you have access to may already have had some actions taken such as:**

- Removal of direct identifiers
- Collapsing of some categories to eliminate cells with very small counts
- Top coding, e.g. of income values





# Data Disclosure Control and Anonymization

## Be aware of things like:

- Unusual observations – real or error?; disclosure risk?
- Very low and very high frequency counts
- Possible need for consultation with the NSO's SDC expert
- Review of information products with disclosure avoidance in mind



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