

Confidentiality Commitment for National Psychiatric In-patient Reporting System

The National Psychiatric In-patient Reporting System (NPIRS) under the management of the Health Research Board, undertakes to strictly preserve the anonymity of data received from service providers and to the publication of such data. The NPIRS Team is committed to ensuring that all data is compiled to the highest standard. In particular, the NPIRS Team adheres to the principles set out in the 'Irish Statistical System Code of Practice' (www.isscop.ie/codeofpractice/) and has signed a statement of commitment to ISSCoP.

The NPIRS Team is committed to protecting the confidentiality of all HRB NPIRS data, consistent with the HRB's obligations under Irish law. Broad classifications and aggregation are used to protect against disclosure of information pertaining to individuals. While the NPIRS database is event-based and not person-based and thus the potential to identify individuals is minimal, even in aggregated data, certain combinations of attributes can sometimes contain a very small number of cases. Where there is a risk of potentially identifying individual people, statistical disclosure control techniques are employed to safeguard the confidentiality of information about individuals. This includes suppressing cell values less than five and further suppressing other values if, when left, they may potentially allow identification of individuals. This may reduce the level of detail published or alter a dataset in a minor way so that personal information is not identifiable.
