

Summary post:

The case study of Abi, a statistical programmer and researcher, highlights critical ethical dilemmas in data analysis and reporting. The primary ethical concern is the potential for selective presentation of data, which, even without falsification, can be misleading and unethical (Correia, 2023). As a researcher, Abi is bound by principles of respect, honesty, fairness, care, and justice (Craig, 2022), necessitating a comprehensive and transparent presentation of findings.

Abi's ethical obligation extends to presenting positive and negative analyses, aligning with the BCS (2022) Code of Conduct, particularly principles 1.a and 2.f, which emphasise public well-being and avoiding harm through falsification. The Association for Computing Machinery's (2018) Code of Ethics further reinforces the importance of trustworthiness in our profession.

While Abi cannot control how others use his results, he bears responsibility for ensuring clear, comprehensive, and transparent reporting (Bos, 2020). To mitigate potential misuse, Abi should include disclaimers and recommendations for independent verification (British Educational Research Association, 2019).

From a legal perspective, adhering to ethical guidelines and providing transparent reports can protect Abi from potential repercussions if the data is misused or misrepresented (UK Parliament, 2023). If discrepancies arise between original findings and presented results, documenting and reporting these to relevant professional bodies is crucial (Logullo et al. 2024).

The ethical implications extend beyond individual actions to broader societal impacts. Maintaining integrity in data analysis and reporting is essential for long-term credibility and public trust (Ortega-Rodríguez et al. 2020). As a statistical programmer and

researcher, Abi must balance his professional obligations with potential legal, social, and reputational impacts, always prioritising accurate and complete data presentation (Saltz & Dewar, 2019).

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