

Unit Record Versus Aggregate Data: Perspectives on Postsecondary Education Data Collection, Retention, and Release (1998)

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- *When should individual data be made available only in the aggregate and when should individual unit records be shared or made available?*
- *What are the strengths and weaknesses of each of these techniques for data collection, retention and release?*

About This Report

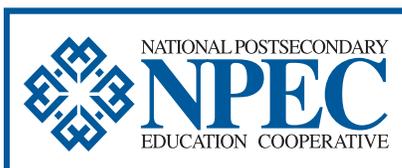
When preparing a survey methodology, a researcher must decide which data sharing method to employ: unit record or aggregate data. *Unit Record Versus Aggregate Data* provides a balanced treatment of both these options for data release, comparing and contrasting the benefits and limitations of each. The procedural and ethical considerations related to unit record data are also discussed.

Who Can Use This Report

Survey administrators and institutional researchers who are interested in assessing data sharing methods will benefit from the discussions of unit records and aggregate data in this report.

How To Obtain This Report

This publication can be downloaded from the NCES Electronic Catalog at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=98280>.



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