Data Security

OLDA Objectives

The Ohio Longitudinal Data Archive (OLDA) is housed at The Ohio State University's Center for Human Research (CHRR) and exists to:

- Serve state agencies and enable research and evaluation;

- Serve as a data hub to clearly document Ohio's data resources, facilitate data sharing and linking across agencies, and provide secure & convenient data access;

- Insure data use is consistent with agency priorities and complies with the legal terms for data sharing and extant rules for protection of human subjects, FERPA, HIPAA and other statutory requirements.

Role of OLDA

- Receive agency data

- Incorporate the various data streams into databases with the same look and feel

- Perform basic data integrity checks and alert agencies to serious anomalies

- Generate codebooks with statistics summarizing the data distribution and the definition of the various codes

- Include hyperlinks to other supporting documentation

- Provide notes alerting analysts to possible problems, definition changes, etc. thereby helping first-time users understand the data content and context

Data Security and Confidentiality

- All personal and firm identifiers are removed or replaced with random, pseudo-identifiers. Researchers are only provided access to de-identified data.
- OLDA is protected from Ohio freedom of information requests because of the university research data exemption in state law.
- Agencies control their own data; they cannot be used until and unless the relevant agencies approve a particular use. A set of legal agreements govern use, and users must submit findings for agency review in advance of public release.
- All researchers must complete the Ohio State University's online Collaborative Institutional

Training Initiative (CITI) human subjects training.

- Research proposals must have institutional review board (IRB) approval or its equivalent from the investigator's home institution.
- CHRR has managed large volumes of sensitive data since the 1960's. CHRR implements NIST 800- 53 rev 4 (moderate baseline) security standards. CHRR has withstood several audits, including penetration testing. In particular, the US department of Labor periodically conducts on site security audits.