

# Anonymization

## Direct Identifiers

Be aware that the use of pseudonyms to mask participants' identities needs to be included in the methods section.

## Indirect Identifiers

A combination of background variables could lead to the identification of a subject or respondent even when a pseudonym is used to mask direct identification. (e.g., the research location in a small town, the specific profession or position such as mayor or high school principal, details of family history) that, together, would likely render some of the individual respondents recognizable even with the use of pseudonyms. Take care to mask direct and indirect identifying information.

<b>Indirect Identifiers</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Anonymization Example</b>
Age	Age: 27	Age range: 25-30
Occupation:	Principal	Teaching professional
Income:	\$43,558	range \$40,000-44,999
Household composition:	Single mother with two children aged 8 and 12	Single mother with two school-aged children
Educational Institution:	Humboldt State University	Public 4-year university
Workplace:	Safeway	a leading supermarket chain
Organization:	Boys and Girls Club	a national youth organization
Geographical identifiers (birth place, place where the respondent grew up, place of residence, etc.):	Arcata, CA	a town in Northern California
Dates (Birth, Employed, Graduation, etc.):	February 22, 1981	Between 1980-1985

Adapted from UK Data Archive University of Essex