

IMPLEMENTING IPUMS-INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIALITY PROTOCOLS  
USING CSPro/IMPS: 1991 CENSUS MICRODATA OF SAINT LUCIA (Michael Levin)

Abstract

Confidentiality protections for census microdata depend not only on the sensitivity and heterogeneity of the data, but also on the potential users. It is widely recognized that statistical agencies expend substantial effort to protect microdata from misuse by academics, their most trust-worthy users. The IPUMS-International project, by disseminating only integrated, anonymized microdata and restricting access to licensed academic users, shifts the risk-utility curve sharply rightward—substantially increasing utility with only marginal increments in risk. This paper discusses legal, administrative and technical protocols of the IPUMS-International project. In addition, we discuss an experiment to implement IPUMS technical protocols using, first CSPro, then IMPS. The 1991 census microdata of Saint Lucia is used as an example. For statistical offices that wish to implement technical anonymization measures, this experiment may be of interest.