Concerns about risk (e.g. potential harm or privacy breach)

Pre-publication

CONCERNS ARE RAISED TO THE DATA PUBLISHER

Confirm receipt and state that the issue will be looked into

Evaluate the nature, validity, and severity of the concerns

Does the case involve concerns about a major ethics breach?

No concerns

Contact the corresponding author. Request comments on the concerns, supporting documentation as needed, and information about other affected content

No response, or institution advises you can proceed

Evaluate comments and materials received

Optional: Seek input from a subject matter expert, if needed

Does the author respond?

Yes

Follow-up as appropriate based on the outcome of institutional review

No

Does the author respond?

Yes

Reject the dataset

No

Evaluate comments and materials received

Following the authors’ response, are there remaining concerns about the data?

Yes

Reject the dataset

No

Can the concerns be addressed by restricting access or updating the dataset?

Yes

Dataset access restrictions can address concerns

Issues can be addressed by dataset updates (e.g. to anonymize, deidentify, or remove data of concern)

Restricted dataset access, if accepted for publication

Ask authors to provide an updated dataset

Continue with consideration of the dataset

No concerns

NOTIFY PERSON WHO RAISED THE CONCERN, AUTHORS, AND AFFECTED THIRD PARTIES OF CASE OUTCOME

Consider contacting the institution to ask if they would like to investigate before you take further action, per CLUE guidelines

Notify parties hosting related content of the concerns and that you are following up

Evaluate the nature, validity, and severity of the concerns

Does the case involve concerns about a major ethics breach?