FOUR PILLARS OF DATA MANAGEMENT: To Foster and Maintain Research Integrity

1. DATA COLLECTION

TIPS:

- Establish clear and standardized data collection and entry protocols
- Provide data collectors with training to ensure unbiased, valid, and reliable data
- Establish norms for having multiple people review each other's data entry work

2. DATA STORAGE AND RETENTION

Tips:

- Verify data storage and retention requirements of your funding agency, institution, and collaborators
- NIH and NSF require data retention for 3 years after the funding period ends
- Store data in a central, secure, password protected online location with regular backups



3. DATA OWNERSHIP

Tips:

- For questions about data ownership and intellectual property, contact your institution's intellectual property office
- For most federally funded studies the institution owns the data and the Principal Investigator is the steward for data
- Be proactive in addressing data concerns when changing institutions



4. DATA SHARING

Tips:

- Clarify data sharing plans from the outset of your study
- Ensure informed consent documents seek permission to share data
- NIH and NSF expect or require data sharing in many cases



FURTHER RESOURCES:

Washington University Data Management Resources https://libguides.wustl.edu/datamanagement
Office of Research Integrity Data Management

https://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/n_illinois_u/datamanagement/dmmain.html NIH Data Sharing Policy https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/



