

By Wang Wang - Sunday, 19 March 2023, 5:35 PM

Peer Review

Hi Zihaad, thank you for the excellent explanation in your initial post, particularly the focus on ethical guidelines from the statistical organization code.

Indeed, even when using the same data, different conclusions can be reached (Schweinsberg et al., 2021). This may be acceptable and might not initially be considered an ethical concern. However, as you pointed out, the ASA has relevant guidelines for its members: "Statisticians should contemplate, and be sensitive to, the manner in which information is framed to avoid disproportionate harms to vulnerable groups" (ASA, 2022). In Abi's case, he should take responsibility for presenting a complete picture of the analysis, not just the aspects that the manufacturer would be pleased to hear.

Accuracy implies that the data and conclusions should be correct and not mislead people into making incorrect decisions. It is difficult to believe that an incomplete analysis can generate high-quality predictions. In my view, the ASA may have a more formal process for resolving conflicts, while the ACM or BCS may have a more informal approach that relies on discussion and negotiation. Given the ASA's expertise in statistics, Abi could consider turning to the ASA first for guidance on his actions, especially since the conclusions are more closely related to data analysis rather than programming.

References

Schweinsberg, M., Feldman, M., Staub, N., van den Akker, O.R., van Aert, R.C., Van Assen, M.A., Liu, Y., Althoff, T., Heer, J., Kale, A. and Mohamed, Z., 2021. Same data, different conclusions: Radical dispersion in empirical results when independent analysts operationalize and test the same hypothesis. *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 165, pp.228-249.

ASA (2022) American Statistical Association. Ethical Guidelines for Statistical Practice. Available from: <https://www.amstat.org/your-career/ethical-guidelines-for-statistical-practice> [Accessed 20 March 2023].