Case Example

Investigators conducting a longitudinal study have results indicating that the populations studied show a higher incidence of alcoholism, substance abuse, and dementia. They have also identified environmental factors that are associated with an increased risk of some cancers. Local board members upon hearing these results are disturbed about the study outcomes and do not want the results published as they maintain that they reflect poorly on their community.

Case Example Questions

* Should the investigators only publish a portion of the results?
* Should they publish the controversial results?
* Is there anyway this situation could have been prevented?

Case Example

Dr. Howser is interested in studying various types of environments and a child’s ability to adapt to those environments. Youth ages 6-12 who have been exposed to a violent community act will be followed for a period of six months. Assessments will be done through surveys and interviews. The research will be done in collaboration with a private school. Several months into the research Dr. Howser notices that some children are showing signs of anxiety and depression and engaging in risky behaviors. She believes she has the ethical obligation to intervene.

Case Example Questions

* Should Dr. Howser intervene with these students?
* Should she do nothing and maintain confidentiality as promised?
* Should she report the risky behaviors to the parents?
* Should she provide referral information to the students?