

## Why you shouldn't expect the DNA you send to companies like 23andMe to remain private forever

The data you shared with a [genetic testing](#) startup like 23andMe is private — for now.

But maintaining that privacy, which rests on [your data](#) being kept anonymous and secure, is getting harder, according to privacy experts, bioethicists, and entrepreneurs.

Your DNA data contains highly sensitive information about your [health](#) and identity. Everything from your ancestry to your risk of cancer to information about allergies and predisposition to Alzheimer's are often included in a genetic test report.

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Even large pools of anonymized genetic data can theoretically be tied to an individual. For at least the past decade, researchers have demonstrated that by cross-referencing anonymous DNA data with datasets that include personal information, such voter or census rolls, they can correctly “re-identify” significant portions of participants.

Plus, most of the leading genetic testing services allow customers to download their raw genetic data — the As, Gs, Ts, and Cs that make up their genetic code — using their email and profile login.

Privacy experts and bioethicists say all of these issues make the current landscape of genetic testing ripe for potential calamity.

**Read full, original post:** [After you spit into a tube for a DNA test like 23andMe, experts say you shouldn't assume your data will stay private forever](#)