

Major U.S. and E.U. Data Privacy Laws

The following American and E.U. laws were enacted to help regulate and maintain data privacy.

Law	Overview
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)	American legislation ensuring patient confidentiality for all healthcare-related data
Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)	American legislation giving parents control over what data websites can collect from their children
Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA)	American legislation extending government restrictions on wiretaps to include transmissions of electronic data
Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA)	American legislation promoting the accuracy and privacy of consumer information, applied to consumer reporting agencies
Video Privacy Protection Act (VPPA)	American legislation preventing wrongful disclosure of an individual's personally identifiable information (PII) stemming from their rental or purchase of audiovisual material
Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA)	American legislation mandating how financial institutions must deal with the private information of individuals
E.U.-U.S. Privacy Shield	A legal framework for transatlantic data sharing between organizations in the European Union and United States
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	Wide-ranging data privacy and protection law applying to all individuals within the European Union and European Economic Area, carrying significant fines for noncompliance
Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS)	Widely accepted set of policies intended to optimize the security of credit, debit, and cash card transactions

Note that other U.S. and E.U. data privacy laws may apply. (Indeed, several U.S. states have enacted their own privacy legislation.) Check with your organization's designated data privacy officers about laws that might affect your work.