

GPS Data Collection Myth & Fact: Ensuring Your Safety and Privacy



ACTIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

“Our research team is dedicated to protecting your privacy and addressing any concerns you may have about participating in our study. Below, we answer some common questions and clarify common misconceptions about the Qstarz BL-1000ST GPS device and our data collection practices.”

Why We Use GPS Data?



Global Positional Systems (GPS) technology helps us better understand physical activity patterns in real-world settings. This information is invaluable for designing programs and policies that promote healthier lifestyles for children and families, and in recommending places that give access to physical activity to all community members.

Myth 1: The GPS device tracks my location in real-time.

Fact: The Qstarz BL-1000ST does NOT track your location in real-time. The device passively records raw location data, which are downloaded later for analysis. No one, including our research team, can monitor your live movements or location.

Myth 3: My GPS data will enable researchers to know what I'm doing.

Fact: Although GPS data are very informative for research, these devices do not collect refined enough details to be able to infer what an individual may be doing at any given location. Simply stated, the data are very raw and unspecific, and only help us in understanding general spatial patterns for aggregate groups.

Myth 5: The government will know where I live.

Fact: We do NOT share data with anyone, including government agencies. The raw data collected by the GPS device is highly complex and requires specialized knowledge and software to interpret. Only trained geospatial scientists on our research team, using expensive and advanced software tools, can process and analyze this encrypted data.

Myth 6: My personal information, like citizenship or nativity status, is being collected.

Fact: We do NOT ask for or collect any information about citizenship status or nativity. Our research focuses solely on physical activity patterns, and all data collected are limited to the scope of the study.

Myth 2: My location data will be detailed enough to identify me.

Fact: GPS data provides useful insights for research. In our study, the main utility of GPS data, when paired with activity monitor (accelerometer) data, is to help us identify locations where more physical activity happens in your middle school community. The collected data lacks a precise context to identify individuals. Also, all data will be made anonymous and combined into school group totals when we share results. This helps make sure no one can be identified and everyone's privacy is protected.

Myth 4: My data might be shared or misused.

Fact: Protecting your data is our highest priority. All information is stored securely. Only approved members of the research team can see it. We follow strict rules to protect people's information. Our team has safely protected data from more than 100,000 children in studies across Texas without any problems.

Reassurance from Experience



Our team has successfully conducted research studies with over **100,000** children across Texas without a single data privacy or security issue.



You can trust that your information is in safe hands. This project has been approved by the school district and your campus.



Please don't hesitate to contact us for questions or concerns. We are here to ensure you feel informed and comfortable participating in our study.



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