

What is social and behavioral research?

Social and behavioral research explores how and why people behave the way they do in certain situations and how this might impact human health. Researchers look at individuals or at larger groups, such as families, communities, and societies to find ways to solve social problems and improve health.

Researchers might look for answers to questions like:

- Why some people don't take medicines prescribed by their doctor
- How communities respond to gang violence
- What helps children make healthy food choices
- Why some teenagers engage in risky behaviors
- What helps senior citizens live independently
- Why people live longer in some countries than in others

Who takes part in social and behavioral research?

- Adults and children
- Families
- Communities
- Regional, religious, cultural, or social groups
- People with a disease or condition being studied

Questions to ask:

1. What is the purpose of the study?
2. What will happen if I participate?
3. What kinds of questions will you ask me?
4. How long will the study last?
5. What are the risks to me?
6. Will taking part in this research benefit me?
7. Will there be any costs to me?
8. What will you do with my study information?
9. How will my privacy be protected?
10. What happens if I decide to leave the study early?



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This brochure contains general information for educational purposes and is not intended to provide medical advice. Talk with your doctor or research team before acting on any information contained herein for advice specific to your situation.

More questions?

Call:

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Social and

Behavioral Research



**Participating in research is your choice.
Be informed. Ask questions. Get answers.**

What does it mean to take part in a social and behavioral research study?

Being in a social and behavioral research study often means answering questions in a survey that you fill out (questionnaires) or that the researcher might ask you over the phone. In some studies researchers will want to interview you, and ask you questions so you can tell the researcher how you feel about a particular subject. In other studies researchers might observe you while you do a certain activity. Some studies might involve reviewing your medical records.

Some studies will not benefit you as an individual, but taking part may help others in the future. Researchers may be able to improve the health of a community or help a group with a particular disease or condition.

Before deciding to take part in a study, you should understand the goal of the study. You should learn what you will have to do for the study and how much time it will take, and whether you will be paid for participating.

Participating in research is a choice

Protections are in place to help assure the safety of research volunteers (also called “research subjects”) and ensure volunteers are treated with respect. The research team will go over an Informed Consent Form with you. They will explain the study’s goals and

possible risks and benefits. Ask for help if you don’t understand something. You should never feel rushed or pressured. Being part of a research study is completely voluntary – it’s your choice.

What are the risks of taking part in social and behavioral research?

One common risk of taking part in social and behavioral research is that private information you shared with the researchers could accidentally be shared with other people. Researchers will explain ways they guard against this. Most of the time, even if the researcher writes an article about the study, your name will not appear.

You might also feel uncomfortable answering some questions the researchers ask you. You can decide not to answer any questions that make you uneasy and you can stop the interview at any time.

Specific risks will be described in detail in the Informed Consent Form. Make sure you understand the risks before agreeing to participate in the study.

