

Session 1.05
Social and Behavioral Research

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Current Research Models

- “Scientifically-Based Research” (SBR) and Evidence-Based Education
- Survey Research and Consent/Permission/Assent
- Practitioner or Action Research Projects

“Scientifically-Based Research”

“...means research that involves the application of rigorous, systematic, and objective procedures to obtain reliable and valid knowledge relevant to education activities and programs; and includes...”

(No Child Left Behind Act of 2001)

“Scientifically-Based Research”

- Systematic observation or experiment
- Hypotheses tested by rigorous data analyses
- Reliable, valid measures
- Experimental or quasi-experimental design
- Replicability
- Peer review

SBR Case: Violence Prevention

- 10 primary schools, matched and then randomly assigned to treatment or a wait-list control group.
- Baseline and post-intervention data collection for three years.
- Data from surveys of students, parents, teachers, and school records.

Scientifically Based Research Case Ethical Issues

- Treatment/control outcomes
- Participation at the school/individual level
- Consent/Assent/Permission of teachers, students, and parents

Survey Research and Consent/Permission/Assent: What Rules May Apply?

- The Common Rule
- Subpart D
- The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

Common Rule's Waiver of Consent Criteria (.116(c))

- Minimal risk
- Subjects' rights and welfare not adversely affected
- Research is otherwise impracticable
- Debriefing will occur, if appropriate

Survey Research Case

- An evaluation study of four health education programs used in a school district's middle schools.
- Anonymous surveys of students asking for information about the students' own diet, extracurricular activities, exercise, and personal self-concept.

Survey Research Case Questions and Ethical Issues

- What rights are involved?
- What is “impracticable”?
- What is practicable?

Practitioner or Action Research

- Dual roles of practitioner/researchers.
- Goal of practical improvement.
- Agenda setting as a collective, ongoing process.

Practitioner Research Case

- Project: Implement and evaluate a science based substance abuse prevention model.
- Research Team: A medical anthropologist, staff from a community-based research organization, and recruited urban youth.
- Data collection: Interviews, observations, and more.
- Goals: To be determined on an ongoing basis.

Practitioner or Action Research Case Ethical Issues

- The Therapeutic/Educational/Service Misconception
- Coercion of Participants
- Confidentiality Constraints
- Controversial Agendas

Practitioner or Action Research IRB strategies

- Quality of Informed Consent
- Period of IRB Approval
- Degree of Research Plan Specificity
- Updates and Liaisons

Information Sites

- Protection of Human Subjects in Research - <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCFO/humansub.html>
- Guidance for *Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment* changes from section 1061 of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* – <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco/>