



Research Fact Sheets Series

Fact Sheet #3

Participating in Research

Who participates in research?

Anyone can take part in research. Usually social research projects are trying to answer a specific question about how something affects* a certain group of people.

Researchers will want to talk with people who are being affected by the things being researched. For example, when the CIC did a review of peoples experiences with home sharing we wanted to talk with people who lived (or used to live) in a home share and their famlies.

How do I know if I want to be involved?

Before you decide if you want to take part in the research you can ask the researcher questions.

Some questions you may want to ask are:

- What is the research about?
- What will the research be used for?
- Who is paying for the research?
- Who will have access to my private information and how will it be protected?
- Does the researcher have permission* to do the research?



What does it mean to be a research participant?

Taking part in research means that you are helping the researcher answer the questions they have about an event/program/group of people. This might mean talking to the researcher one on one or talking with a group of people about a specific subject, or you may be involved in answering completing a survey.

Once you make the decision that you want to be involved you have the right to...

- Say 'No' at any time.
- Say 'Yes' to only certain parts of a project.
- Change your mind during the project and stop being involved.
- Get information about the project in ways you understand. (For example: in plain language)
- Ask any questions you may have.
- Get answers to all of your questions.
- See the results of the research.

Researchers must follow strict guidelines when doing a research project. Universities, provinces, countries and international organizations have rules about how research can be done when human beings are research participants. This is done to protect people involved in the study and make sure they are treated ethically*, meaning the researcher respects the rights of people participating, treats them with dignity and does not take advantage of them.

Where do you find out how to get involved in research?

Sometimes there will be posters hung up in your community, at a coffee shop for example, that are asking people to be involved in research. Sometimes a researcher may contact you because you belong to a certain club or because you are getting a certain service. Often universities will advertise research projects that they need participants for. They could do this by putting up posters, having information on their website, sending out an email, etc. Usually researchers are looking for someone with specific characteristics* for their project so be sure to check if you are a good match for the project. For example, they may be doing a study about people who live in a certain neighborhood. You could only be part of the study if you live in that area.

*Starred words are explained using plain language in the Fact Sheet Series Glossary on the CIC website: cic.arts.ubc.ca

Why is participation important?

Researchers are trying to learn things about an event or group of people by studying the event or people. By participating in research, you can help improve things and help people better understand things about your world. Taking part in research allows you to voice your opinions and be part of changing things for the better.

“I believe it is important for self advocates to be involved in all aspects of research and help share the information with other community members.”

— Michael McLellan, CIC Board Member

If you need any help to read or understand this document please ask someone for support. You can also call or email the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship to ask questions.

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