IRB Decision Tree #2: Does My Project Require an Application to the IRB?

Will you, a member of your research team or a collaborator observe, interact with, or intervene with individuals to gather information that will be used for research? Examples: Surveys, questionnaires, focus groups, interviews; Games, experiments in physical or in electronic environments; Physical or biomedical procedures (imaging, scanning, blood collection); Diet, nutrition studies, taste tests; Use of instruments or devices, including phones, to collect data or monitor or influence behavior; Passive observation of public behavior (in physical or online environments, including social media); Studies examining individuals' responses to manipulation of their physical or online environment; Studies examining effectiveness of educational tools or curricula; Another activity that involves observation of, or interaction with, individuals to gather information

NO →

Research will use only existing data

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Refer to IRB Decision Tree #3 on Existing/ Secondary Data

YES ↓

Is the information being collected 'about' individuals?

NO →

The focus of the project is only on products, methods, policies, procedures, organizations: e.g., interviewing transportation staff and officials about parking or transportation policies and procedures.

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YES ↓

The focus of the project is on people, or their opinions, perceptions, choices, decisions regarding themselves or how methods, policies, procedures, organizations etc. affect them.

NOT Human Subjects Research (No application to the IRB is needed)

YES ↑

Is the sole intent of the project to meet course requirements, with **no intention to use the results for something other than the course assignment?**

NO →

The project may lead to use of the results outside of the course (e.g. publication, presentation, thesis, dissertation).

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Is this a **class project**?

YES →

NO ↓

Is the project an **oral history, ethnographic or journalistic piece**?

YES →

Does the project involve stories that will draw broad conclusions about the population, cultures, norms or practices even if no research hypothesis is being tested?

YES

NO ↓

Published materials will be limited only to document or reporting on events, situations, policies, institutions or systems without the intent to form hypotheses, draw conclusions, or generalize findings.

NO ↓

Is this a **quality assurance/quality improvement QI/QA study** (assess, improve, or develop programs for an organization)?

YES →

NOT Human Subjects Research (No application to the IRB is needed)

NO ↓

Project is Human Subjects Research.   Application to the IRB and written notice of approval is required before study can begin.