

Unit 5: Written Training

Unit 5: Community Research Partner Rights

Topic 5.1: Keeping Community Research Partners Safe



So far, we have talked about all the ways you need to take care of research participants. As a community research partner, you also have rights. We'll talk about these in this unit.



Sometimes you study research topics that are important to you because of your own life experiences. Sometimes you may not want to do research on topics related to your lives or the people you know.



It's important to check in with yourself. It's ok if you can't work on research some days or have to ask someone to do part of the research job that is causing stress or hard feelings.

There might be times that you feel uncomfortable or unsafe when you are collecting data. This is not very common, but it is helpful to plan ahead. For example,

- You might go to an interview, but then feel like the interview location is unsafe.
- Someone in the community might not respect your job as a researcher and not talk to you respectfully.
- Someone could feel unsafe if a participant gets upset and starts yelling.



These things do not happen a lot, but if they do, you don't have to do anything that makes you feel unsafe, uncomfortable, or not respected.

During research you may hear stories that are upsetting or make you worried. It's important to work with your team to have a plan for when this happens.

Finally, if someone asks you to help them in a way that you don't feel comfortable with, like asking for money or help getting somewhere that is not related to the research, it is ok to say no. Talk to your project leader if you have questions or need help.



Mental Health for All Team Talks About Keeping Community Research Partners Safe

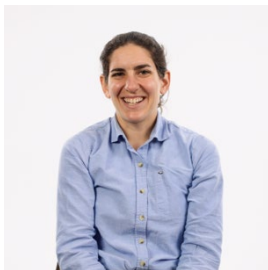


Brendan: Part of the reason I was interested in being on the research team is because I have a hard time sometimes with my own mental health. We talked as a team and agreed that if there was a time when I was feeling really sad or anxious, it was ok if I wasn't able to help out with the research study. We also agreed that if I found doing the interviews too hard, I could not do those and help the study in other ways.



Micah: One time I was meeting with someone in our study in their home. A staff member who worked there was yelling at the person.

Like Brendan, I also have trouble sometimes with my mental health. Once after an interview where someone was talking about having challenging experiences that were a lot like mine, I talked to Brendan afterwards. He helped me talk about how I was feeling. It felt good to talk about it.



Ariel: We also agreed we would always check in with each other about how we were feeling at our weekly meetings. I also let Brendan and Micah know that if they felt they needed more help than I could give them, I would help them find someone who could help them.

Micah: I really like making sure we always have a chance to talk about how we feel.