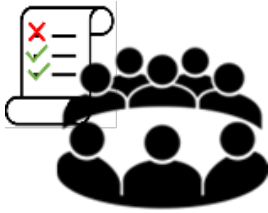


Topic 2.2.2 Institutional Review Boards



There are also groups of people that make sure researchers follow these rules. These groups are called **Institutional Review Boards** or **IRBs** and they are made up of people who are not part of the research team. IRBs check how researchers do research to make sure their plans follow the rules and will keep people safe and treat them with respect.

IRBs also check that the things researchers use follow the rules to keep people safe. They might look at the materials you use to find people to be in a study (like flyers), or the things you use to help people make a decision about being in a study (like consent forms), and the materials you use to collect information from participants (like surveys).

Getting approval from the IRB is something your team has to do before you find people to be in your study and gather information from them to answer your question.



One way you can make sure to follow the rules is by following the plan the IRB approved. This means using the forms they approved and following the plans for how you do each step of research.

The person who is in charge of the research project, the project leader, is the person who is responsible for making sure your research project follows the rules. If you're not sure about something, it's always best to ask your project leader.

There are other laws or policies that your research team may need to follow. Your project leader will talk to you about them.