

## Topic 3.3.2: Main ideas of consent: Informed, voluntary, and ongoing

Remember, we mentioned 3 ideas about consent- informed, voluntary, and ongoing? Let's talk about those now.

The first big idea is that in research, researchers make sure there is **informed consent**.



Informed means that people have all of the information they need to be in a study. This includes knowing why the study is being done and what will happen if they are in the study, including good and bad things that can happen. It also means that they know how their information will be used and know their rights and the choices they have about the study.



The second big idea is that consent is **voluntary**.

Voluntary means making your own choice without pressure from other people. People in research have the right to say no to any or all parts of a research study. Remember, when people say no, that is called dissent.

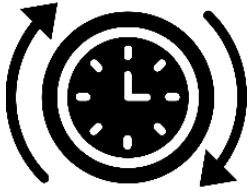
Sometimes it can be hard for someone to feel like they can say no to being in a research study. You need to pay attention to whether anyone is feeling pressured to say yes to being in a study, especially if they have a guardian or when someone has more power or control than the person.

Think about the types of people in your life who have more power than you. People who have more power than you are people who you feel like you have to listen to or who make decisions about your life. For example, if the person doing the research is their teacher or doctor, those people might have power and someone might feel like they have to participate in the research study.

Another example might be if a support person or family member really wants someone to participate in the research project or if someone is invited to be part of the research by a friend. You'll hear more from the Mental Health for All Team about how they handled these types of situations.

There are other reasons someone could have a hard time making their own choice to do research. For example, some people might feel forced to say "yes" to be in research if they are feeling rushed to make a decision.

That's one of the reasons you should always take your time with consent and let people have the time they need to think about their decision. It can also be hard to say no to a research study if the research study offers a lot of money or other valuable compensation. That's why you shouldn't emphasize payments or gifts during recruitment and you should make sure they aren't too big.



The third big idea is that consent is **ongoing**, or something that happens from beginning to end of a research study.

You should always make sure people know they can stop the study at any time even after they say yes to being in the study. You have to make sure that it is easy to stop at any time. Ongoing consent also means that people can choose to only do some of a study.