

Questions Researchers Should Ask Themselves to Determine the Ethical Implications of Their Research	
Criterion	Questions
Permissibility	Even if the research were to produce positive outcomes—such as advancing knowledge that can be applied in the future—is the research question considered ethically wrong based on social, cultural, and historical norms of the community being studied?
Respect	Would the research question lead to practices that are demeaning or disrespectful to individuals and communities even if it benefited them in other ways?
Reciprocity	Will the research question lead to outcomes that will benefit the study participants and the greater community?
Effectiveness	Is it reasonable to expect, based on the best available evidence and past experience, that the research question will achieve the study aims?
Responsible Use of Scarce Resources	Will the proposed research use scarce resources, such as time, funding, and supplies, responsibly?
Proportionality	Will the proposed research proportionately balance any risks and benefits experienced by the research participants?
Accountability/Transparency	Is the research question conveyed in such a way that it can be understood and justified by the general public?
Public Participation	Have relevant stakeholders had a meaningful opportunity to review or participate in developing the research question?

Adapted from the *Public Health Code of Ethics*

American Public Health Association. *Public Health Code of Ethics*. American Public Health Association; 2019:1-30. https://www.apha.org/-/media/files/pdf/membergroups/ethics/code_of_ethics.ashx