GETTING YOUR RESEARCH OFF THE GROUND

All About the Penn IRB & What it Means for Your Dissertation
AGENDA:
What Is The IRB & Why Do I Care

IRB = Ethicist’s Review of Research

Types of Studies: exempt vs. expedited

Where Can I Ask My Questions: tips & best practices, plus who to reach out to for help
IRB as the Independent Ethicist

Serves as an independent body tasked with protecting subjects (and researchers!)

Protection of Subjects

- Imposition of Risks to Subjects
- Risks to the Data Integrity of the Study
**TYPES OF STUDIES**: determines how often you need to see us in the future

- **Not Human Subjects Research (NHSR)**
- **Minimal Risk & Exempt from Further Review**
- **Minimal Risk w/ Expedited Review**
- **Greater-than-Minimal-Risk Studies**
TYPES OF STUDIES:
So am I exempt or expedited?

Example Traits of Exempt Studies

• Collecting **non-sensitive** information that can’t be traced back to subjects
• Use of a **limited dataset** (de-identified with indirect identifiers, like dates or zip codes)
• Surveying or interviewing people on public behavior **without identifiers** or use of them to search data

Example Traits of Expedited Studies

• Collecting **sensitive** information or information that can be traced to subjects
• Use of an **identifiable dataset** that links subjects with other direct identifiers
• Surveying or interviewing on either sensitive behaviors or maintaining their **identifiers**
HOW TO SUBMIT: Most importantly, always feel free to ask questions!

Walkthrough & Guidance Online
Reach Out to Analyst Team
Reach Out to General Help Desk
Just Give Us a Call!
If you use our protocol templates, you **do not** have to fill out the **same sections** in HS-ERA.
INSIDER TIP #2: Data protection is king—and easy

Reach out to your IT Department if you’re unsure as to whether your management plan is okay.

Great Data Plans

- GSE Computers
- IT-Approved Server
- Encrypted Devices
- De-identified
INSIDER TIP #3: Consider consent & who is at unique risk

Know your options for consent, but always keep in mind how to maximize autonomy and who might need additional measures.
Remember Though:
Always reach out for help!

Questions are a good sign of thinking about the research; **never hesitate to ask!**
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