



**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York

**Institutional Review Board**

Sponsored Programs Office, Buckham Hall B-206  
1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222  
Federalwide Assurance ID#: 00007126

## **MISCELLANEOUS CATEGORIES OF RESEARCH**

### **International Research**

Research in foreign countries presents special concerns regarding the rights and welfare of human participants.

- Human participants research in foreign countries will be reviewed at the level required for identical research conducted in the United States, although department level review does not apply.
- All materials, including consent forms, must have English language translations included with the protocol.
- Documentation of permission from local authorities is generally required before approval can be granted.
- Each site must have a federal-wide assurance on file with The Office for Human Research Protections. In certain circumstances, a Memorandum of Understanding may be used instead of the federal-wide assurance.

### **Survey Research**

A survey may cause emotional upset or worries about breach of confidentiality. Although most questionnaire studies do not require a signed consent form, researchers must still ensure that participants are given informed consent to participate in the study. All questionnaires must include a cover sheet or instructions to participants that provides them with the same information that would be included in a consent form.

### **Secondary Analysis of Existing Data Research**

“Existing” data is defined as information already collected at the time the research is initiated. When submitting a protocol for secondary analysis of existing data, the researcher must provide the following information: Name of data set; Where the data were obtained; What information is being extracted; If the data are available publicly or if permission must be obtained;

Documentation of permission to use the data (if applicable); If there are identifiers/links to identifying information and Procedures for storage and disposal of data.

Research that involves secondary analysis of **public use data sets** is exempt, if it falls under certain criteria, or if the identity of human subjects cannot be readily ascertained and the researcher will not re-identify or contact subjects. The IRB has final responsibility for determining whether a data set falls under this category or needs a full protocol.

The IRB recognizes that the term “**meta-analysis**” may mean different things in different fields. In the social sciences, the term is commonly used to describe an analysis and summary of a number of published studies using **ONLY** data that are reported in published form; there is no analysis of raw data. Because it involves neither contact with human participants nor secondary analysis of raw data, this type of meta-analysis does not need to be reviewed by the IRB. **HOWEVER**, if the meta-analysis involves any analysis of newly collected data, with or without identifiers, it **MUST** be reviewed by the IRB.

Secondary analyses of identifiable data may be reviewed at the exempt level with limited IRB review if broad consent was obtained when data were collected. If broad consent was not obtained, expedited or full board review with informed consent or waiver of informed consent will be required.