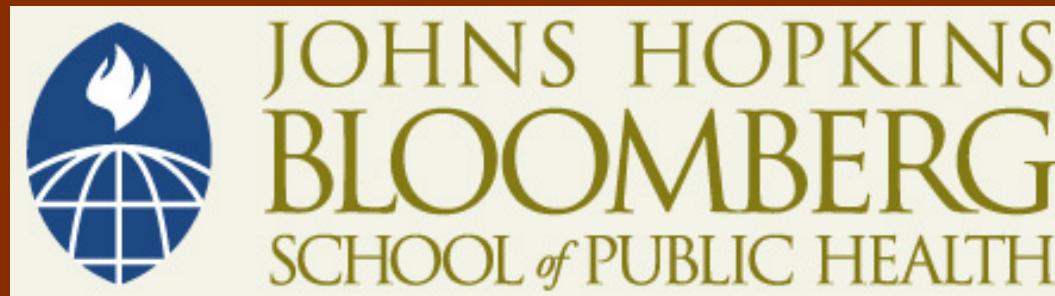


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Section D

Ethical Considerations

Ethical Considerations

“Special justification is required for inviting vulnerable individuals to serve as research subjects and, if they are selected, the means of protecting their rights and welfare must be strictly applied.”

- Guideline 13: Research Involving Vulnerable Persons

Components of Ethical Research

- Rights of the study participant
- Consent—What does “informed” mean?

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- Rights of the study participant
- Consent—What does “informed” mean?
- Confidentiality—How is this described and maintained?
- Process—How can study design enhance ethics?
- Training and supervision

Respect for Participants

- Ethical requirements for participants do not end when individuals sign the consent form and are enrolled or refuse enrollment
- Respecting participants involves ...
 - Respecting and protecting privacy and confidentiality
 - Respecting participants' rights, including allowing them to change their mind and to withdraw without penalty at any time
 - Welfare of participants should be carefully monitored throughout the data-collection process

Summary

- Vulnerability confers added risk for many different outcomes, including mental health problems
- Street children, as an example of a vulnerable population, are exposed to a range of factors that increase their risk for mental distress
- As researchers we have an ethical obligation to consider the vulnerabilities of the populations we work with