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# MY RIGHTS

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Community-based research aims to:

- ☆ understand what matters to community members
- ☆ value the skills, experience, and leadership of people in communities

Being in a study can be one way to give back to your community. It can help the public to understand the experiences of people who use drugs. Research can also help address the health needs and other issues facing people who use drugs, like housing, unfair laws, and policies. It can also help fight stigma about drug use.

**Here are important things to know about community-based research and your rights if you decide to participate in a study:**



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## WHAT'S THE POINT?

How will the research meet your needs and the needs of your community? **You have a right to ask researchers about benefits and to share your thoughts on their response.**



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## DO I GET CASH?

**If the study is paying people for participation, you have a right to be paid in cash.** It is fair practice to pay active drug users cash for participation.



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## CAN I BE HIGH OR DRUNK AND STILL PARTICIPATE?

The quick answer: **it depends.** Some researchers may not be able to work with you in a study if you are high or drunk. For other studies, it may not matter.



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## WHO WILL KNOW WHAT I SAY?

**Researchers should treat all your personal information with confidentiality.** It can be a good idea to ask the researcher the following questions: Will information be shared with any other people outside of the research team? Who will have access to what people say or do in a study?



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## HOW SHOULD I BE TREATED?

**You should be treated with dignity and respect. If you feel disrespected, you have the right to tell the researchers.** You can also complain to a Research Ethics Board. They are a group of people who review research – their contact information can be found on the consent document.

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### Legend:

1. **Community-based research:** “research” is just one way people gather information. Community-based research is one type of research where those who take part are empowered to become more involved in the research itself.
  2. **Consent document:** a document that summarizes the study and states the benefits and risks of taking part.
  3. **Confidentiality:** actions that the research staff take to protect your personal information.
  4. **Research Ethics Board:** a group of people who review research studies to make sure they are fair to participants and don't put community members in harm's way.
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