**List of psychological research methods**

**Form wikipedia**

A wide range of [research methods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research_methods) are used in psychology. These methods vary by the sources of information that are drawn on, how that information is sampled, and the types of instruments that are used in data collection. Methods also vary by whether they collect [qualitative](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qualitative_research) data, [quantitative](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantitative_research) data or both.

[Qualitative psychological research](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qualitative_psychological_research) is where the research findings are not arrived at by statistical or other quantitative procedures. [Quantitative psychological research](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantitative_psychological_research) is where the research findings result from mathematical modeling and statistical estimation or statistical inference. Since qualitative information can be handled as such statistically, the distinction relates to method, rather than the topic studied.

There are three main types of psychological research:

* [Correlational research](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Correlation_and_dependence)
* [Descriptive research](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Descriptive_research)
* [Experimental research](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Experimental_psychology)

The following are common research designs and data collection methods:

* [Archival research](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archival_research)
* [Case study](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_study)
* [Computer simulation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_simulation) (modeling)
* [Content analysis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Content_analysis)
* [Experiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Experiment), often with separate [treatment and control groups](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treatment_and_control_groups) (see [scientific control](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_control) and [design of experiments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Design_of_experiments))
* [Field experiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_experiment)
* [Interview](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interview), can be [structured](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structured_interview) or [unstructured](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unstructured_interview).
* [Meta-analysis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meta-analysis)
* [Neuroimaging](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neuroimaging) and other [psychophysiological](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychophysiology) methods
* [Observational study](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Observational_study), can be naturalistic (see [natural experiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_experiment)), participant or controlled.
* [Quasi-experiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quasi-experiment)
* [Self-report inventory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-report_inventory)
* [Survey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Survey_methodology), often with a [random sample](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Random_sample) (see [survey sampling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Survey_sampling))
* [Twin study](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin_study)

Research designs vary according to the period(s) of time over which data are collected:

* [Retrospective cohort study](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retrospective_cohort_study): Subjects are chosen, then data are collected on their past experiences.
* [Prospective cohort study](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prospective_cohort_study): Subjects are recruited prior to the proposed independent effects being administered or occurring.
* [Cross-sectional study](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-sectional_study), in which a population are sampled on all proposed measures at one point in time.
* [Longitudinal study](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Longitudinal_study): Subjects are studied at multiple time points: May address the [cohort effect](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cohort_effect) and indicate causal directions of effects.

Research in psychology has been conducted with both animals and human subjects:

* [Animal study](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_study)
* [Human subject research](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_subject_research)