

RESEARCH DESIGN TABLE

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This table is intended to assist investigators to ensure that they have addressed a variety of research design issues that often emerge in the proposal writing and review stages for social science studies. Answering these key questions will help ensure that reviewers aren't left wondering "how many?" or "where?" or "when?" you will carry out the important work you are proposing. While this table is presented in a linear format, many of these questions must be answered in tandem, and therefore the process is typically iterative. With each new research question, site, or population that is added to a study, each of the questions highlighted below will need to be answered again. For example, if you intend to conduct focus groups with elected officials and surveys with homeowners, you would need to work through each column in this table with both populations in mind. For further research guidance, please visit the [CONVERGE Training Modules](#).

Research Question(s)?	Why?	When and How?	Unit of Analysis?	Who?	Where?	Data Management, Analysis, and Publication Plans?	Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval Process and Ethical Considerations?	Researcher / Research Team?
<p>What do you want to learn?</p> <p>What is the knowledge gap you plan to fill?</p> <p>Does this involve the collection of perishable data?</p> <p>How is the research potentially transformative?</p>	<p>Exploratory?</p> <p>Descriptive?</p> <p>Explanatory?</p> <p>Causal?</p> <p>Predictive?</p> <p>Participatory-Action?</p>	<p>Study design (e.g., prospective, retrospective, cross-sectional, longitudinal, etc.)?</p> <p>Data collection approach (e.g., qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods, etc.)?</p> <p>Data collection method(s) (e.g., surveys, interviews, focus groups, etc.)?</p> <p>Field equipment?</p>	<p>Individuals?</p> <p>Households?</p> <p>Groups?</p> <p>Organizations?</p> <p>Community?</p> <p>Society?</p>	<p>How many participants?</p> <p>Sampling method or approach?</p> <p>Sample inclusion/exclusion criteria?</p> <p>Participant access considerations or concerns?</p>	<p>Site selection criteria?</p> <p>Specific geographic location(s)?</p> <p>Place-based access considerations or concerns?</p>	<p>Have you written a data management plan?</p> <p>How will each data type be securely and ethically managed?</p> <p>What is the plan and timeline for analysis?</p> <p>Is there a team data sharing and publication agreement in place?</p> <p>Will the data be published and shared via designsafe-ci.org?</p>	<p>Have local partners been consulted?</p> <p>Additional considerations for potentially vulnerable populations?</p> <p>Legal, liability, privacy concerns?</p> <p>What are the potential benefits and risks of the project?</p> <p>Have team members completed CONVERGE training modules related to ethical disaster research?</p>	<p>Who will do what for this project?</p> <p>What resources are required?</p> <p>How are members of historically under-represented groups involved?</p> <p>Are locally-based researchers involved? Have other relevant stakeholders been consulted?</p> <p>Have you secured letters of collaboration or other forms of necessary documentation?</p>

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