



Online Ethics Center
FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

Cells and Surveys: Should Biological Measures Be Included in Social Science Research?

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Body

What can social science, and demography in particular, reasonably expect to learn from biological information? There is increasing pressure for multipurpose household surveys to collect biological data along with the more familiar interviewer-responder information. Given that recent technical developments have made it more feasible to collect biological information in non-clinical settings, those who fund, design, and analyze survey data need to think through the rationale and potential consequences. This is a concern that transcends national boundaries. *Cells and Surveys* addresses issues such as which biologic/genetic data should be collected in order to be most useful to a range of social scientists and whether amassing biological data has unintended side effects. The book also takes a look at the various ethical and legal concerns that such data collection entails.

Read [*Cells and Surveys: Should Biological Measures Be Included in Social Science Research?*](#)

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