

What is Research?

Research is when you try to find answers to questions about something. For example, if you ask your neighbors how they get rid of weeds in their yards, so that their grass will be thick and green, then *you are conducting informal research*. Your questions are a form of [survey-research](#), where you are trying to find answers.

There are different kinds of research, such as:

- **Verbal survey.** For example, if a pollster asks who you are going to vote for, then you are part of a research project.
- **Written survey.** After you visit a website, if you are asked to take a quick survey, to determine if the website met your needs, then you are part of someone's research project.
- **Quantitative research.** *Example:* If reported burglaries in a city are statistically researched with dates, times and locations of crimes, then you might discover the following:
 - ✓ Most business burglaries occur at night, while shopkeepers are away at home.
 - ✓ Most residential burglaries occur during the day, when residents are away at work.
 - ✓ Most burglaries occur in the summer, when school is out.
- **Qualitative research.** *Example:* If a research psychologist wants to understand how sexual battery victims "feel" about their trauma, then the psychologist may ask personal and sensitive questions. That is a form of qualitative research.

[Research](#) is any method that tries to find answers to important criminal justice questions and issues, such as:

- Why is violent crime increasing or decreasing? (i.e., murder, robbery, sexual battery)
 - Why is non-violent crime increasing or decreasing? (i.e., burglary, theft, fraud, etc.)
 - Why are blacks more likely to be stopped and frisked than whites in some cities?
 - Why do most sheriff deputies in the U.S. leave before reaching retirement?
 - Why are police departments having difficulty finding qualified applicants?
 - Does Taser usage increase or decrease injuries for officers and citizens?
 - Why do most juvenile suicide attempts occur in fatherless homes?
 - Does the legalization of marijuana increase the rate of [psychosis](#)?
 - Why does the presence of a body camera reduce conflict?
 - Do *Drug & Alcohol Courts* reduce recidivism?
 - [\[Insert your identified research issue here\]](#)
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