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# Observational Studies

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

## Source

NIDCR. (2018). *Types of Human Subjects Research*.

In an observational study, the investigator simply records observations and analyzes data, without administration of an intervention or alteration of the care people receive. These studies may focus on risk factors, natural history, variations in disease progression or disease treatment without delivering an intervention. They often assess specific health characteristics of the enrolled human subjects by collecting medical/dental history, exposure, or clinical data; obtaining biospecimens (e.g., for biomarker or genomic analyses); or obtaining photographic, radiographic or other images from research subjects.