



October 16, 2018

Ms. Bernadette Ombayo
School of Social Work
University of Texas at Arlington

IRB Submission Inquiry & Project Determination of Non-HSR

Good morning Ms. Ombayo,

Thank you for contacting the UT Arlington Office of Research Administration; Regulatory Services regarding a study titled, "Teen dating violence and school behaviors and outcomes: The mediating role of health-related behaviors" to be conducted using publicly available human subject data collected as part of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey conducted by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/yrbs/data.htm>).

Upon reviewing the procedures involved with the study, it appears they would not meet the definition of, "research with human subjects" as defined by the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) and would therefore not be subject to review or approval by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at UT Arlington. OHRP defines research as:

- "A systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge." A human subject in research is defined as, "A living individual about whom an investigator conducting research obtains data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or ***identifiable private information.***"

From the description of procedures provided to the UTA IRB Office, it appears that the existing dataset to be used for your analysis is entirely publicly available on the CDC's website. Since you will not be intervening nor interacting with any human subjects due to the exclusive use of pre-existing data for your analysis, and the dataset itself is publicly available, your study does not meet the above definition. Therefore, this project is not subject to review or approval from the UTA IRB, and you do not need to submit a protocol to our office at this time.

Please note that although IRB review is not required for this study, there may be other institutional requirements or agreements such as Data Use Agreements that pertain to this project. Please contact Dan Vincenzo, UT Arlington's Agreements Manager, at vincenzo@uta.edu for assistance in processing study-related legal agreements. In addition, it is your responsibility to abide by the [UT Arlington Standards of Conduct](#) and the ethical standards within your field for all projects and activities, even when IRB review is not required.



In addition, if the procedures that were outlined and provided to our office change such that IRB approval might be necessary, or you have any questions regarding this determination, you are responsible for contacting our office at RegulatoryServices@uta.edu.

I have included the link for decision charts provided from OHRP from which this determination is made for your reference below.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alyson Stearns'.

Alyson Stearns
Regulatory Services Manager
Office of Research Administration;
Regulatory Services

OHRP reference: <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/checklists/decisioncharts.html>