

## SPECIAL REPORT

In June of 2006 the Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued a report entitled Ethical Considerations for Research Involving Prisoners. The report documents the recommendations of an IOM committee commissioned by the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), to review the ethical considerations in research involving prisoners. The report will serve as the guideline for the updated prisoner protection regulations set forth by the DHHS. The committee contends that while the OHRP's jurisdiction is inherently limited, its enforcement of codified oversight should be strengthened. The recommendations found in the report should therefore be imposed on all governmental and privately funded research. See IDCR-O-GRAM for a summary of the IOM's Ethical Considerations for Research Involving Prisoners report.

## IDCR-O-GRAM -Summary of the IOM's Ethical Considerations for Research Involving Prisoners report.

Recommendations	Details
<b>Expanded Definition of "Prisoner"</b>	In the OHRP (Office of Human Research Protections) regulations, the term "prisoner" will include individuals on parole and probation.
<b>Consistent Ethical Protection</b>	All publicly and privately funded research will be subject to the same ethical regulations. A national, publicly accessible registry of all research involving prisoners should be created.
<b>Risk-Benefit Approach</b>	All research proposals require a risk-benefit assessment. The potential benefits to prisoners must out number the risks for the research to be considered permissible. In biomedical research only personal benefits will be taken into consideration given the inherent risk of the research. Prisoners cannot make up more than 50% of the subject population in any given biomedical research project.
<b>Collaborative Responsibility</b>	Research should be tailored to fit the specific needs of the correctional setting, facilitating greater collaboration between researchers and the correctional facility.
<b>Increased Systematic Oversight</b>	Unbiased prison research subject advocates should monitor all research activity. The greater the research's risk and the more confined the correctional setting, the stricter the ethical guidelines.

Ethical Considerations for Research Involving Prisoners.  
Institute of Medicine. 2006. Available at <http://www.iom.edu/CMS/3740/24594/35792.aspx>