

# JERHRE NOTES

*Skills for Solving Ethical Problems in Human Research*

## Models for Paying Research Participants

Deciding how or how much to pay research participants poses conundrums. For example, high payments may make it easier to attract volunteers, but it may also lead to volunteers who falsify their qualifications in order to participate and who have little or no interest in providing valid data, and may deter their participation in subsequent research that pays less well. Cash payments are preferred over in-kind payments, but exacerbate some ethical problems connected with payment. Various models have been proposed for determining the “right” amount, but each raises its own ethical issues:

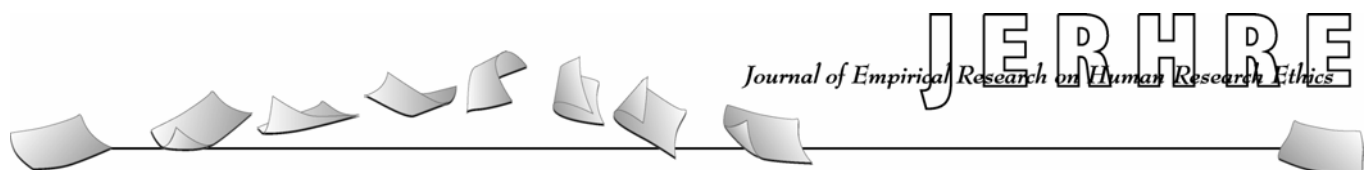
Model	Justification	Strategy	Ethical Issues
Market	Recruitment is vital to research. Monetary incentives facilitate recruiting the needed kind and number of subjects.	Payment is based on supply and demand. Completion bonuses and other incentives for completing the study are used.	This model is most likely to cause undue influence if a high level of payment is offered.
Working Wage	Participation in research requires little skill but takes time and effort and requires endurance of uncomfortable procedures.	Payment is based on a standard wage for unskilled labor, and is augmented for particularly uncomfortable procedures.	This may be more attractive to low-income participants and may involve financial sacrifice for wealthier participants.
Reimburse for Expenses	Research participation should not require financial sacrifice; it should be financially neutral.	Payment is determined by subjects' expenses, and may include payment for lost wages.	If subjects' wages vary, payment may vary within the same study.
Fair Share	Investigators earn money on funded protocols and should share.	Subject's payment is a percent of the payment made to the investigator.	Based on profit sharing, this implies lesser payment for partial completion.

Insight into the pros and cons of these models may be found in the following JERHRE articles:

Ripley, E. (2006). A Review of Ethical issues in Payment of Research Participants. *JERHRE*, 1(4),

Fry, C., Hall, W., & Ritter, A. (2006). The Ethics of Paying Research Participants in Addictions Research, *JERHRE*, 1(4),

Ripley, E., Macrina, F. & Markowitz, M. (2006). Paying Research Participants: A Research Ethics Committee Perspective, *JERHRE*, 1(4),



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