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## Research Population

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All research questions address issues that are of great relevance to important groups of individuals known as a research population.

A research population is generally a large collection of individuals or objects that is the main focus of a scientific query. It is for the benefit of the population that researches are done. However, due to the large sizes of populations, researchers often cannot test every individual in the population because it is too expensive and time-consuming. This is the reason why researchers rely on sampling techniques.

A research population is also known as a well-defined collection of individuals or objects known to have similar characteristics. All individuals or objects within a certain population usually have a common, binding characteristic or trait.

Usually, the description of the population and the common binding characteristic of its members are the same. "Government officials" is a well-defined group of individuals which can be considered as a population and all the members of this population are indeed officials of the government.



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## Relationship of Sample and Population in Research

A sample is simply a subset of the population. The concept of sample arises from the inability

of the researchers to test all the individuals in a given population. The sample must be representative of the population from which it was drawn and it must have good size to warrant statistical analysis.

The main function of the sample is to allow the researchers to conduct the study to individuals from the population so that the results of their study can be used to derive conclusions that will apply to the entire population. It is much like a give-and-take process. The population “gives” the sample, and then it “takes” conclusions <sup>[1]</sup> from the results obtained from the sample.

## Two Types of Population in Research

### Target Population

Target population refers to the ENTIRE group of individuals or objects to which researchers are interested in generalizing <sup>[2]</sup> the conclusions. The target population usually has varying characteristics and it is also known as the theoretical population.

### Accessible Population

The accessible population is the population in research to which the researchers can apply their conclusions. This population is a subset of the target population and is also known as the study population. It is from the accessible population that researchers draw their samples.

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#### Links

[1] <https://staging.explorables.com/drawing-conclusions>

[2] <https://staging.explorables.com/what-is-generalization>