

TOPIC: DEVELOPMENTAL DESIGNS

Developmental Designs

- ◆ Developmental designs are used when we want to understand how humans _____ over time.
- ◆ There are _____ main types of developmental designs: 1) Longitudinal and 2) Cross-Sectional.

1. **Longitudinal Design:** A study in which individuals are followed and periodically reassessed over _____.

2. **Cross-Sectional Design:** A study in which multiple age groups are studied at a _____ point in time.

Example

Research Aim: Examine how morality develops over time.

Sample: n = 300 children.



Longitudinal Designs

Cross-Sectional Designs

Strengths	Limitations
1. Captures _____ development. 2. Establishes _____ precedence among variables.	1. _____ capture individual development. 2. Unless experimental, cannot establish temporal precedence between variables.
Limitations	Strengths
1. Time consuming and _____. 2. Attrition (participants dropping out of the study over time).	1. _____ and cheaper to conduct. 2. Do _____ lose participants due to attrition.

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EXAMPLE

Which of the following is an advantage of longitudinal research over cross-sectional research?

- a) Longitudinal designs allow us to examine the development of various psychological phenomena.
- b) Longitudinal designs have the benefit of random sampling.
- c) Longitudinal designs allow researchers to examine developmental change within the same individuals over time.
- d) Longitudinal designs tend to be quicker to conduct and more cost-effective than cross-sectional research.

PRACTICE

A research team is trying to understand social development from childhood to adolescence. They plan to collect data from different age groups (ages 8, 12, and 16) at one time point. This would be a _____.

- a) Longitudinal study.
- b) Experimental study.
- c) Cross-sectional study.
- d) Case study.