

Title: Jumping to Conclusions

Author: Gerald P. Koocher and Patricia C. Keith-Spiegel, *Children, Ethics, and the Law: Professional Issues and Cases*, University of Nebraska Press, 1990.

Description: A researcher makes conclusions from her data that are inappropriate given the study design. The authors present this case as an example of poor research practice.

Headings: Study Design and Risk-Benefit Analysis; Experimental designs (randomization, clinical trials)

Case Type: Illustrative

Jumping to Conclusions

Ann Naïve, a school counselor, wanted to “test out” her hypothesis that poor study habits were caused by aggressive tendencies. She asked junior high school students who were sent to the guidance office for fighting on the playground if they liked to study and how much time they spent studying. Twenty-three out of 31 students said that they did not like to study, and most of the children studied less than 3 hours a week. She therefore concluded that her hypothesis had proved to be fact.