**TEXT**

**HUMAN BEHAVIOR**



**Human behavior** is the potential and expressed capacity ([mentally](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy_(psychological)), [physically](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_activity), and [socially](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_actions)) of [human](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human) [individuals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Individual) or groups to respond to internal and external [stimuli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stimulation) throughout their life. While specific traits of one's [personality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personality_psychology), [temperament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temperament), and [genetics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetics) may be more consistent, other behaviors change as one moves between life stages—i.e., from birth through [adolescence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolescence), [adulthood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adult), and, for example, [parenthood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parent) and [retirement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retirement).

Behavior is also driven, in part, by [thoughts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thought) and [feelings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feeling), which provide insight into individual [psyche](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psyche_(psychology)), revealing such things as [attitudes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attitude_(psychology)) and [values](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Value_(personal_and_cultural)). Human behavior is shaped by [psychological traits](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trait_theory), as personality types vary from person to person, producing different actions and behavior. [Extraverted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extraversion_and_introversion) people, for instance, are more likely than introverted people to participate in social activities like parties.

Human behavior is studied by the [social sciences](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_science), which include [psychology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychology), [sociology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociology), [economics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economics), and [anthropology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropology). In sociology, *behavior* may broadly refer to all basic human actions, including those that possess no meaning—actions directed at no person. *Behavior* in this general sense should not be mistaken with [social behavior](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_behavior). **Social behavior**, a subset of human behavior that accounts for actions directed at others, is concerned with the considerable influence of [social interaction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_relation) and [culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture), as well as [ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics), [social environment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_environment), [authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authority), [persuasion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persuasion), and [coercion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coercion).