

# Psychology: The science of behavior?

Norwood, Elson, Kurz & Hussey

## **Abstract**

*(note: written in the past tense although this work has not yet been conducted,  
in order to minimize the need for changes over time)*

Psychology calls itself the science of behavior. Baumeister et al. (2007) called this self-image into question by pointing out that the study of actual behavior had decreased over the previous four decades. Nearly two decades since, in a world where digital devices including smartphones, wearables, and home devices have greatly expanded the potential to collect behavioral data, we revisit this question of how the types of measurements we commonly collect align with our field's self-image. This study estimates prevalences and trends in the use of different types of measurements in psychological research. 450 articles published between 2009-2024 reporting original quantitative research were randomly sampled from 5 journals in each of 6 subfields of psychology. Two raters coded the types of measurements each article employed and whether the research attempts to speak to behavior.

*[summary of results and discussion will be added here]*