P86 Engaging Peer Researchers in an Investigation of Food Insecurity and Paternal Incarceration: Analysis of Process and Challenges

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Objective: Although the engagement of peer researchers (PRs) improves representation of marginalized groups in community-based research (CBR), there is limited data that critically examines peer research in practice. As part of an investigation of food insecurity and paternal incarceration, we explored the processes and challenges of a research collaboration that included PRs. Key learning points were documented to help shape future best practices.

Design, Setting, and Participants: Two PRs (formerly incarcerated father and wife of an incarcerated father) were recruited through community partners to be part of a research team (n=10) examining food insecurity and paternal incarceration. The PRs helped gather and interpret individual and focus group data. Case study methodology was employed to examine challenges associated with the adopted PR model.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Data from multiple sources (e.g., field notes, minutes, debriefings) were analyzed to explore contextual factors influencing the PR collaboration. Lessons learned were reported in the final interpretive phase.

Results: Three key challenges were identified: balancing project requirements (e.g., budget, time constraints) with PR needs (e.g., support when complex feelings emerged); building authentic horizontal relationships; and utilizing the study's outputs to meet both academic and community needs.

Conclusions and Implications: To address challenges associated with PR approaches, work environments are needed that engage PRs early in the research process, provide in-depth training and genuine support, and embrace flexibility and critical reflexivity among all team members. Reciprocity-based relationships with opportunities for reflection, communication, and accommodation appear critical to PR approaches in CBR.

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P87 Reliability Testing of a Mobile App Quality Assessment Tool

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Objective: Smartphone and tablet nutrition education applications (apps) are widely available; however, an objective method for evaluating nutrition apps for quality does not exist. Our objective was reliability testing of a tool designed to evaluate app quality to guide app selection and design.

Design, Setting, Participants, and Intervention: Registered dietitians (n=25) used the 49-item app quality evaluation tool (AQEL) to review nutrition apps. AQEL is based on seven dimensions: app identification (6 items), user information about app (4 items), purpose (21 items), functionality (1 item, 7 sub-questions), features (1 item, 15 sub-questions), educational quality (12 items) and concluding questions (7 items). Each dietitian was randomly assigned 3 apps, previously categorized as popular, unpopular or additional game-based educational apps from a pool of 15 apps (five per group). App topics included calorie counters, quizzes, diabetes, weight loss and games. Dietitians repeated their evaluation after three weeks.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Repeated measures ANOVA and Cronbach's α measured reliability. One app was removed from analysis as only one dietitian reviewed that app.

Results: Dietitian item responses within test-retest studies were not significantly different ($p < .05$) between time 1 and 2 for each app (n=14) except the item "how familiar are you with this app?" for 10 apps, and 8 items that were only significantly different for 1 of 14 apps (not within the same app). Cronbach's α was .746 for educational quality and .685 for functionality. removing one item on animations increased Cronbach's α to .750 for functionality.

Conclusions and Implications: AQEL is a reliable tool that can be used with a variety of nutrition-related app types.

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P88 The Champions for Change Statewide Campaigns: An Assessment of Ad Awareness and Increased Physical Activity Using Unaided Recall

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Objective: Using unaided recall procedures, determine levels of awareness of television, radio, billboard, and public transit ads from the 2015 California Champions for Change media campaigns among low-income California mothers. Examine the relationship between ad awareness and changes in the amounts of physical activity.

Design, Setting, and Participants: Telephone interviews were conducted with 1,023 mothers from randomly-selected SNAP households prior to the launch of the 2015 campaigns; three to four months later 595 mothers were re-interviewed.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: Ad awareness was assessed by coding responses to open-ended survey items.

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