Research Question 1

“Do there exist potential risk factors correlated with a poorer quality of life in Erath County?”

Rationale statement: It’s important to determine if there are any risk factors that could potentially have an impact on one’s quality of life so that action can be taken to reduce their impact or remove them.

a. When data is quantitatively evaluated, lower economic status and education level will be a prominent risk factor, along with ethnicity.

b. When data packets are quantitatively evaluated, being female will be a correlated factor which influences the other risk factors of lower economic and educational status (gender gap).

c. When data packets are quantitatively evaluated, the age of which an individual is will also contribute as a possible risk factor (the very old) for a lower overall quality of life.
Research Question 2

“Do there exist any age groups more susceptible to mental and physical health problems than the others?”

Rationale statement: If any age groups exist that appear to be more at risk for a poorer quality of life, we can isolate the influencing factors that pertain to affecting their quality of life in that age group and study them and their effects accordingly.

a. When data packets are quantitatively evaluated, the older population will be found to be at risk for physical health problems due to the tendency of illness to occur as one ages.

b. When data packets are quantitatively evaluated, adolescents will prove to be more at risk for mental health problems (than the rest of the age groups) alone due to the “turbulence” which often accompanies the transition to adulthood.

c. When data packets are quantitatively evaluated, results will show that the young and older populations are both equally susceptible to mental and physical health problems than the other age groups.
“What is the overall perception of the services provided in Erath County?”

Rationale statement: It’s important to understand the perspectives of both agencies and individuals who reside in this county in order to determine strengths and weaknesses of the services provided for any positive improvements to be made to the community.

a. When the data is qualitatively evaluated, the individual responses will show that the community services are outdated in regards to information/knowledge of the service in the community and the method(s) of technology used by the agencies to carry out their services.

b. When the data is qualitatively evaluated, the responses will find that some community services are lacking, especially regarding public transportation needs.

c. When the data is qualitatively evaluated, the information will display that many of the services in Erath County are generic in nature and not very specialized.
Research Question 4

“How can the quality of life in Erath County be improved?”

Rationale statement: It’s important not only to determine what areas need improvement in a community, but also to examine various methods, models, and theoretical frameworks implemented in similar communities in order for more effective change to result.

a. When the data is qualitatively evaluated, results will prove that one the most urgent needs in the area will be public transportation.

b. When the data is qualitatively evaluated, results will show that quality of life in Erath County could be improved by adding more up-to-date services to the agencies.

c. When the data is qualitatively evaluated, individual reports will show that more communication and interaction between the agencies will increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services.
List of Journal Articles (Rural)

• “Explaining rural/non–rural disparities in physical health–related quality of life: a study of United Methodist clergy in North Carolina.” –Miles, Andrew; Proeschooldbell, Rae; Puffer, Eve


• “Lessons learnt from a community–based participatory research project in a South African rural context.” – Lazarus, Sandy et al.

• “Establishing a clinic for young people in a rural setting: a community initiative to meet the needs of rural adolescents.” – Ervin, Kaye; Phillips, Jacqueline & Tomnay, Jane

• “Improving the mental health functioning of youth in rural communities” – Moore, Matthew A. & Walton, Betty A.
“Impact of Community on Personal Well-Being in Urban China.” – Yip, Ngai; Ming Leung; Terry Tse Fong; Huang, Ronggui


“Assessing the Transportation Needs of Low-Mobility Individuals: Case Study of a Small Urban Community in Utah.” – Jansuwan, Sarawut; Christensen, Keith M. & Chen, Anthony

“Different Predictors of Quality of Life in Urban Environment.” – Tartaglia, Stefano

“Urban Adolescents' Understandings of the Relationship Between Background and Success.” – Noonan, Anne; Spencer, Renée; Belle, Deborah & Hewitt, Amber
List of Journal Articles (Community Organization)

- “Race, class, and community organizing in support of economic justice initiatives in the twenty-first century.” – Franklin, Sekou
- “The Effect of Neighborhood-Based Community Organizing: Results from the Seattle Minority Youth Health Project” – Cheadle, Allen et al.
- “The role of interpersonal communication in the process of knowledge mobilization within a community-based organization: a network analysis.” – Gainforth, Heather L. et al.
- “Community Organization Study” – Lovig, Justine H. & Skogan, Wesley G.
- “Organized Communities, Stronger Schools” – Mediratta, Kavitha et al.
List of Journal Articles (Community Development)

- “Social Justice Approach to Community Development.” – Checkoway, Barry
- “Comparative Advantages: Creating Synergy in Community Development” – Zdenek, Robert O.
- “Ensuring Children and Young People Have a Voice in Neighbourhood Community Development.” – Goodwin, Susan & Young, Alexandra
- “Engaging Older Adults in Community Development.” Austin, Carol D.; McClelland, Robert W.; Sieppert, Jackie & Perrault, Ellen
- “The Fruit of Collaboration Between Local Government and Private Partners in the Sustainable Development Community Case Study: County Valcea.” – Marin, Camelia; Dorobantu, Roxana; Codreanu, Diana & Mihaela, Ruxandra
Categories developed from articles

- Rural
- Urban
- Development
- Organization
- Health
- Well-being
- Communities
- Participation
- Human/social factors
Disparities do exist between rural and urban areas, with rural areas having the poorer quality of life.

Even if public transportation is provided in rural areas, residents may have trouble accessing it at a great distance from their homes.

Interpersonal communication networks among community organizations are associated with the mobilization of knowledge.

Effective community organization can lead to improvements in schools and the partnerships schools have with the community.

The social justice approach can be implemented in communities where one dominant ethnic group is the majority, in order for other smaller ethnic groups to have a voice and be provided justice in their community.

Using the comparative advantages strategy, responsibility assigned to agencies or social services based on their strengths and capabilities results in more efficient results of funds, resources, and ultimate development goals for the community.
Focused primarily on six types of capital communities have: cultural, human, political, built, financial and natural

Provides an overview of how rural societies operate, as well as the complexities in maintaining them

Explores how various capitals in these societies are changed through a constantly changing world economy, consumption patterns in the communities, and government structure and organization

Describes the three models of community development (self-help, technical assistance and conflict) and how they all relate/ differ from each other in terms of their characteristics and implementation of plans
Agencies Contacted

- Erath County Child Welfare Board
- Foster Home for Children
- Casa Brendan
- Casa for the Cross Timbers Area
- Cross Timbers Family Services
- Salvation Army
- United Way
- Palo Pinto Community Services
- Department of Human Services
- North Central Texas Workforce Center
- H.O.P.E., Inc.

Agencies Collaborating

- Foster Home for Children
- Casa for the Cross Timbers Area
- Erath County Child Welfare Board
Implications for Social Work on Micro, Mezzo, and Macro Levels

- **Micro** – Research included studies with various individual perspectives, which are important regarding personal care in a social service, especially regarding strengths or limitations of a model, plan or action, or organization itself.

- **Mezzo** – Relationships between community and organizations, as well as those between individuals and services, were examined. It is important in order for there to be effective organization and efficient delivery of services to those in the community.

- **Macro** – Communities as a whole were evaluated in regards to specific concerns or barriers which lowered the quality of life for residents. It is important that community-wide evaluations are made in order for areas to develop further and address additional and current needs for their inhabitants.
How Summer Research Benefits as a Social Work Major

- Allows student to become used to contacting agencies/organization and enhances communication skills
- Provides experience for student in research skills (such as preparing literature reviews)
- Broadens the student’s range of understanding, insight, and capacity to retain information through the numerous intricacies involved in the research project
References


References (cont.)


References (cont.)


