Community Research

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP
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Qualitative Research Questions

Q1: What are the most important factors rural residents seek when accessing health care services in Erath County?

- H1: If important factors are defined, then the rate of rural residents accessing health care services will increase
- H2: If these factors are identified, then barriers to health care access will decline
- H3: If practitioners focus their efforts on understanding community residents perceptions, participation in research efforts will increase
Q2: Is there a correlation between age and perception of overall community health?

- H1: Participants who are older in age (51-70) will be more likely to rate overall community health as somewhat healthy or healthy
- H2: The perceptions of older aged participants will be different than the perceptions of younger participants
- H3: The age of participants does influence the perception of overall community health
Quantitative Research Questions

- Q3: What percentage of rural residents are satisfied with their access to health services?
  - H1: Participants who are not satisfied with their access to health care services will provide feedback with implications for community systems
  - H2: Participants who are satisfied with their access to health services will rate the overall health of the community as “healthy”
  - H3: Participants who rate their satisfaction of services as “neither satisfied” or “dissatisfied” may not be aware of the services offered in the community
Q4: What is the correlation between satisfaction in ability to perform daily living activities and the overall satisfaction with access to services?

H1: Participants who are not satisfied with their ability to perform daily living activities will have similar results in satisfaction with access to health services.

H2: There is positive correlation between ability to perform daily living activities and satisfaction with access to services.

H3: Participants who are not satisfied in their ability to perform daily living activities will indicate a need for improvement of services.
Focus Group Questions

1. What are the pros and cons of social services in rural communities?
2. What are your initial thoughts in the comparison of rural and urban communities and the allocation of services?
3. As a system member how would you describe Erath County in terms of health care and social services? Community involvement?
4. Why is this important to explore?
5. What are the perceived strengths of rural communities?
6. How do you evaluate the satisfaction of your clients? How often?

7. What can your agency do to improve the satisfaction of services?

8. From a systems perspective what are needed improvements in Erath County? How can this be accomplished through your agency?

9. What does your agency need in order to influence the needed improvements?

10. How can service providers help increase community involvement and support of development?

11. Is there anything else you would like to say regarding our discussion today?
Reviewed Journal Articles

**Community health**


Community needs assessment


Community needs


Quality of life scale


Categories Derived

- Community health
- Community needs assessment
- Community needs
- Quality of life
Important info from Articles

- History of rural communities social service disparities (Hartley, 2004)
- Collaboration among community organizations and governmental agencies (Lewis & Scott, 2013)
- Recognizing strengths in rural communities (Averill, 2002)
- Growth in elderly population (Maiden & Peterson, 2002)
- Effective community programs, affordability of services, programs to improve healthcare (Beverly, Mcatee, Costello, Chernoff, Casteel, 2005)
- Changing trends in healthcare (Plescia, Koontz, Laurent, 2001)
- Neighborhood Community Development (Goodwin & Young, 2013)
- Financial viability of rural primary health care centers (Feldman, Dietz, and Brooks, 1978)
Important info cont.

- Urban vs. Rural
Agencies Identified

- Cross Timbers Health Center
- Stephenville Medical and Surgical Clinic
- Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Stephenville
- Home Care Direct
- IntegraCare Home Health
- Moore Eye Center
- Panhandle Health Care, Inc – Regency Home Health
- STAR Council on Substance Abuse
- Stephen’s Health Care, Inc
Agencies cont.

- Stephenville Medical & Surgical Clinic
- Stephenville Sports Rehab & Physical Therapy
- Casa Brenden, Inc
- Mulberry Manor Nursing & Rehab
- Miller Pediatrics
- Erath County Senior Citizens
- Choices Life Resource Center
- Country Side Therapy Group
- Cross Timbers Family Services
- Divine Counseling Services
Agencies cont.

- New Horizons Education Services
- STARRY Counseling
- Castleview Nursing & Rehab
- Oakwood Assisted Living L.C
- Stephenville Nursing and Rehabilitation
- Foster's Home For Children
- H.O.P.E, inc
- Summer Sky, Inc
Agencies invited to community meetings

- ALL
Implications for Social Work Practice

- Increased focus on the exploration of the community needs in rural communities
- Emphasis on research grant funding in order to increase effectiveness
- Social workers need to start where the client is at, especially in communities where social work is stigmatized
- Utilize a systems and holistic approach
How does summer research help me as a social worker?

- Evidence-Based Practice & relevance to profession
- Experience
- Macro Practice
How does summer research prepare me for graduate school?

- Knowledge and understanding of how to conduct research
- How to communicate with agencies
- Hands on involvement in positive community initiatives
Unfinished/uncompleted components

- Data analysis
- Book synopsis
- Inquiry of World Health Organization
- Identification of Social Work conference

- Student was unable to complete these components due to time constraints and achieved hours
References

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