



Health Services Research Part 3: Research Questions

Crafting successful surveys for health services research is deceptively challenging. It is all-too-common for healthcare organizations to gather tons of data and then to wonder, "Now that we have collected all of this data, what should we do with it?"

If their surveys, or other data collection instruments, have not been designed correctly they sometimes cannot answer questions they originally planned to, rendering much of the data they collected unusable.

Research Methods

Ideally all health services research data collection should be driven by properly crafted statements of research purpose. These statements should drive the selection of appropriate research methods.

Surveys, while a powerful data collection tool for health services research, are not the best method of data collection for all projects.

Statement of Research Purpose

A statement of the research purpose that is unclear or improperly specified will potentially negatively impact a survey's completeness and focus. For example, if a healthcare provider has initiated a healthy diet program and wants to measure the outcomes a statement of research purpose like, "Have members' eating habits changed?" lacks the appropriate level of specificity.

A statement of research purpose like, "How has the healthy diet program affected members' knowledge, behavior, and attitudes about eating," is more complete and focused.

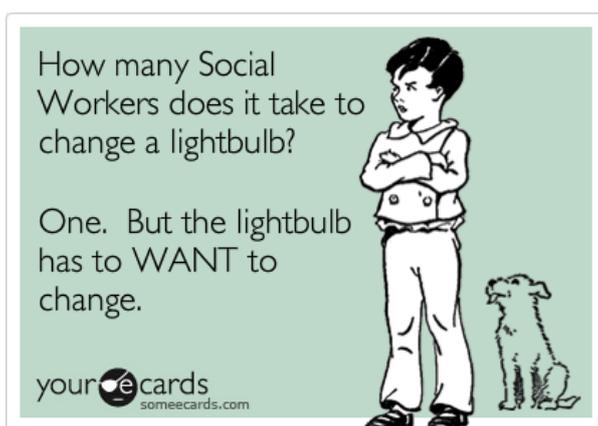
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Clinician Toolbox

While you as a provider probably help your clients navigate deep suffering, being able to laugh is a great tool they can use on their journey - and keep you from burning out from the intensity.

Invest in self-care practices, whether it's exercise, laughter - whatever nourishes your body + mind.

To your success!

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