

Conducting health-related research with homeless participants: A systematic review of methodologies

ISMS

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Background



Conducting health-related research with homeless participants

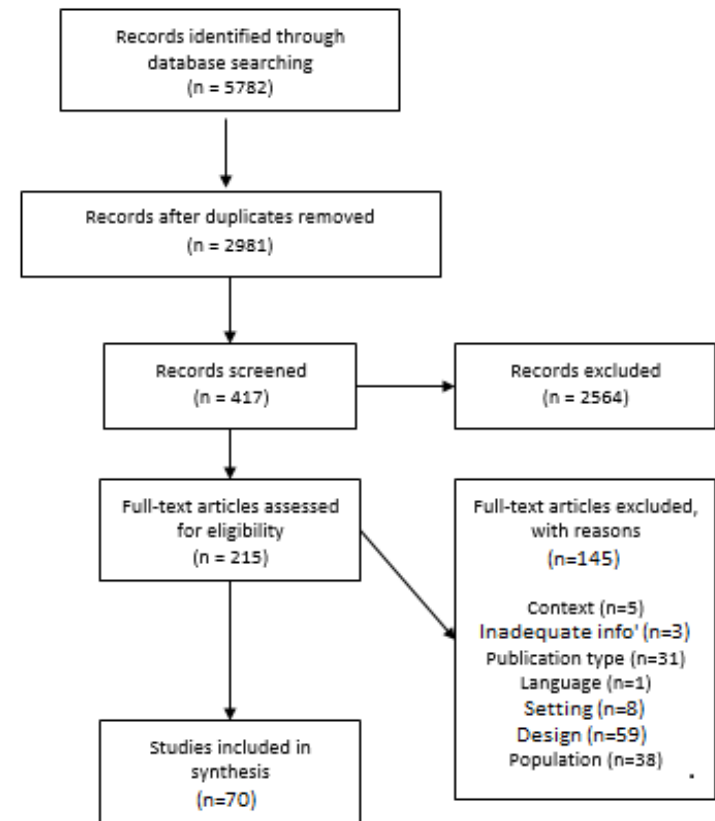
Location	USA (n=52)
Setting	residential shelter (n=22)
Sampling method	convenience (n=13)
Data collection method	interviews (n=28)
Analysis method	thematic analysis (n=40)
Health groups	substance misuse and addiction (n=11)

Identification

Screening

Eligibility

Included



Additional Considerations in research

Study	Same day	Staff-assisted	Researcher volunteer	Incentive	Verbal consent	Sobriety/cognitive competency	Surveys as structured interviews	Interpreter	Collected at recruitment site	Visual aids	Expert informed design	SUM
Appel et al.		X	X	X					X			4
Asgary et al.				X			X	X	X			4
Asgary et al.					X			X	X		X	4
Asgary et al.	X			X				X			X	4
Bagheri et al.											X	1
Biederman et al.		X							X			2
Cederbaum et al.				X					X			2
Chang et al.				X		X	X		X			4
Chau et al.	X			X			X		X	X		5
Collins et al.	X		X	X					X			4
Connors et al.	X	X		X					X			4
Daiski	X	X		X					X			4
Davis et al.	X								X			2

Overview of findings (1)

Recruitment

Technique	n	%
Verbal consent	7	10
Researcher as volunteer	8	11
Competency screening	18	26
Same day recruitment	29	41
Staff-assistance	32	46
Incentives	43	61

Recruitment: researcher as volunteer



Prior to data collection the first author undertook more than 100 hours of fieldwork and observation in order to establish trust and rapport within the homeless community. – [59]

Recruitment: Staff assistance

Each of the participating centres requested a mechanism whereby patients were first informed of the study by a member of staff. Interested participants were then introduced to the researchers, who were on site. [24]



Recruitment: Incentives

Participants were provided with a \$25 gift card to a local store within walking distance of the agency that does not sell alcoholic beverages as compensation for completing the survey. – [27]



Overview of findings (2)

Data collection

Technique	n	%
Visual aids	4	6
Language interpreter	6	9
Expert-informed design	10	14
Structured interviews	20	29
Onsite collection	50	71

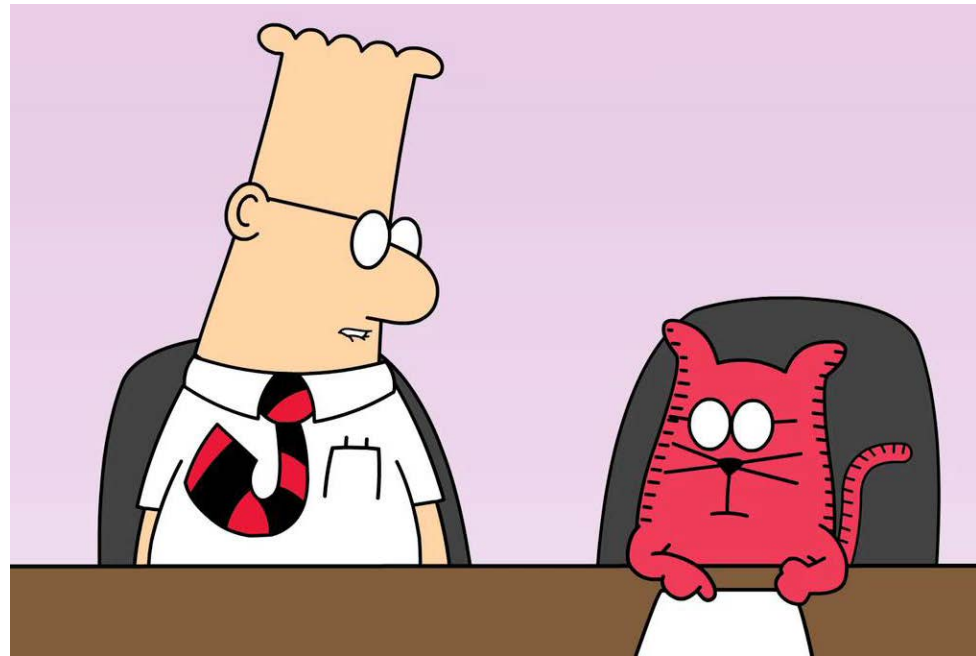
Data collection: Expert informed design



We also held formal discussions with key informants who possessed knowledge of particular relevance to the research themes, including staff and case managers of shelters, allied health workers and medical providers at shelter-based clinics. [3]

Data collection: Surveys as structured interviews

Given anticipated problems with reading level, subjects were offered the option of having the survey packet read to them by one of the project staff. –[26]



Final thoughts



Thank you!

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