

Review of Quasi-experimental studies Assignment

Purpose

As a public health professional, understanding different study designs used in health system research and extract useful information from them is an important skill to possess. You may be often assigned to read scientific papers and reproduce information from them in concise and easy to understand form for common people and policy makers. In public health policy analyses, often natural experiments or randomized control trials are not possible. Therefore, policy researchers (in public health as well) often rely quasi-experimental study designs to deduct the impact of the particular policy. The objective of this assignment is to orient students to some of the commonly used quasi-experimental research designs in the field of public health.

Competencies obtained for MPH:

- a. evidence-based approaches to public health
 - select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health practice
- b. Planning and management to promote health
 - Select methods to evaluate public health programs

Audience

Imagine you work as main project coordinator for XYZ community food bank in Tucson, AZ. Recently, your organization have finished an intervention project on availability of fresh produce in rural areas. The administrative team at the organization is excited about the success of the project and want to understand the impact of the project. Unfortunately, due to some reasons your organization couldn't thought about such impact evaluation studies beforehand and didn't conduct natural experiments or randomized trail along with the project. However, someone in the organization suggested that the data collected before, after and during the project implementation can be used to devise a quasi-experimental study design to assess the project's impact on the community. As a project coordinator you have been asked to write a one-page summary about a quasi-experimental study designs which can be used based on the availability of data and other constrains. After analyzing different study designs, you chose to write summary using an example of a published research paper in a peer-reviewed journal. Assume you use the paper and method which is given to your team for this assignment.

Genre

Write a one-page summary of the paper in your own words answering the following questions. Also, refer to the class ppt slides for week-9 to understand the main aspects of the particular study design. Use following questions only as guiding points and feel free to make additional comments. Do not write your summary in a question-answer format.

1. What is the main research question and hypothesis presented in the paper? Are they clearly stated?
2. What are the data sources? How data is collected? Time- period? Any constrains discussed?

Preshit Ambade- Sample Teaching Assignment

3. What is the sampling strategy used? Is it clearly stated?
4. What method is used? Summarize the steps described in the methods section.
5. Any empirical model presented in the study? Describe it in brief.
6. Summarize the results in 2-3 sentences. Are the results credible and well explained?
7. Are the conclusions naturally flow from the results?
8. What are the strengths of the paper?
9. What are the weaknesses and limitations of the paper?

Formatting

The summary paper should use 12-point font (times new roman/Calibri), single space, standard margins (1 inch). In the heading, clearly mention the study title and author name. As you are not expected to cite any other paper, writing in any citation format is not required for this particular assignment. The assignment should be uploaded to the assigned folder for Week-9 before the Midnight of Sunday 23rd Sept. 2018.

Rubric for assessment

The assignment will be graded using the written assignment rubric provided in the document folder for Course website on D2L.