Learning Outcome

After participating in this session, students will be able to classify research literature into the four main kinds of program evaluation as described by the Encyclopedia of Social Work.

Directions

1. Break up in to your groups.
2. Determine who will report your group work to class.
3. Working alone at first, do the following:
   a. Read the article about Program Evaluation from the Encyclopedia of Social Work;
   b. Read over the four article abstracts assigned to your group;
   c. assign one of the four kinds of program evaluations to each of your four article abstracts (Hint: they are not all cut and dry and some might not even be a program evaluation);
   d. Along the way note things that indicate high- or low-quality research projects; and
   e. After completing this, come together with your group.
4. As a group do the following:
   a. discuss your answers, if there are disagreements, try to come to some agreement about the article abstract in question;
   b. report on one or two of their article abstracts to class;
   c. make notes of their colleague’s presentations; and
   d. turn in one article abstract sheet with your group’s answers and notes on it.
Group Presentation Notes

Group 1

Group 2

Group 3

Group 4

Group 5

Group 6

Group 7
The class would be divided up into groups. Each group would have about eight unique search results to analyze.

Title: Optimizing geriatric social work education: Program and individual characteristics that promote competencies.

Authors:
Greenfield, E.A. egreenf@ssw.rutgers.edu
Morton, C.
Birkenmaier, J.
Rowan, N.L.

Source:

Peer Reviewed:
Yes

SWAB Print Version:
50 (1) No. 131 2014

Abstract:
Since 1998, the Hartford Partnership Program in aging Education (HPPAE) has been implemented in over 70 graduate social work programs. This study examined whether program and individual student characteristics are associated with students' knowledge, skills, and values in aging. The authors conducted a secondary analysis of national program evaluation data. Results from hierarchical linear models indicated greater gains in knowledge of aging among full-time students, as well as students in programs that had defined field rotation models and/or that made greater use of geriatric social work competencies. Implications for efforts to enhance graduate social work education in aging are discussed. (Journal abstract)

Classification:
3310 - Aging and the Aged
3330 - Education/Schools

Subjects:
Aging
Social work education
Curriculum

ISSN: 0163-4372
DOI: 10.1080/01634372.2013.771807

Document Type: Article
Title: Finding safety: A pilot study of managed alcohol program participants’ perceptions of housing and quality of life.

Pauly, Bernadette (Bernie); Gray, Erin; Perkin, Kathleen; Chow, Clifton; Vallance, Kate; Krysowaty, Bonnie; Stockwell, Timothy


Abstract

Background: There is a higher prevalence of alcohol use and severe alcohol dependence among homeless populations. The combination of alcohol use and lack of housing contributes to increased vulnerability to the harms of substance use including stigma, injury, illness, and death. Managed alcohol programs (MAPs) administer prescribed doses of alcohol at regular intervals to people with severe and chronic alcohol dependence and homelessness. As a pilot for a larger national study of MAPs, we conducted an in-depth evaluation of one program in Ontario, Canada. In this paper, we report on housing and quality of life outcomes and experiences of the MAP participants and staff. Methods: We conducted a pilot study using mixed methods. The sample consisted of 38 people enrolled in or eligible for entry into a MAP who completed a structured quantitative survey that included measures related to their housing and quality of life. All of the participants self-identified as Indigenous. In addition, we conducted 11 in-depth qualitative interviews with seven MAP residents and four program staff and analyzed the interviews using constant comparative analysis. The qualitative analysis was informed by Rhodes’ risk environment framework. Results: When compared to controls, MAP participants were more likely to retain their housing and experienced increased safety and improved quality of life compared to life on the streets, in jails, shelters, or hospitals. They described the MAP as a safe place characterized by caring, respect, trust and a nonjudgmental approach with a sense of family and home as well as opportunities to reconnect with family members. Conclusions: The MAP was, as described by participants, a safer environment and a home with feelings of family and a sense of community that countered stigma, loss, and dislocation with potential for healing and recovery. The MAP environment characterized by caring, respect, trust, a sense of home, “feeling like family”, and the opportunities for family and cultural reconnections is consistent with First Nations principles for healing and recovery and principles of harm reduction. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Publication History

- First Posting: May 9, 2016

- Accepted: Jan 21, 2016

- First Submitted: Jun 14, 2015

Language

English
Title: Lessons learned from the first-year evaluation of a small-scale home visitation program.

Authors: Zolnoski, S. amstacks@wayne.edu; Stacks, A.M.; Kohl-Hanlon, A.; Dykehouse, T.A.


Peer Reviewed: Yes

SWAB Print Version: 50 (1) No. 248 2014

Abstract:

Home visitation programs to prevent child maltreatment are offered in many communities. Agencies in these communities want to help families in need while under increased pressure to provide effective services. Funding is limited and competitive; some agencies might choose to limit funds spent on supervision, training, and evaluation as a way to provide more direct service. In this article, the authors' use an implementation science framework and the results of an evaluation of a small home visitation program to underscore the importance of ongoing training and supervision, attention to fidelity, and program evaluation. The evaluation included 17 families entering the program during 21 months. Evaluators visited families in their homes at the beginning of the program and again 10 months later. Like many other well-intended, small-scale programs, this one "borrowed" from evidence-based models and expanded enrollment criteria in an attempt to better serve families. Findings from the evaluation suggest that the program, as it was carried out, was not effective at reducing parenting behaviors known to be associated with child maltreatment. The authors' offer advice to funding and community agencies based on these findings and implementation science. Future evaluation research must pay greater attention to fidelity and implementation. (Journal abstract)

Classification:

3315 - Children and Families/Child and Family Welfare
2310 - Case Management and Casework
2335 - Research

Subjects: Assessment; Parenting; Intervention

ISSN: 0148-8376

DOI: 10.1080/01488378.2012.699407

Document Type: Article
Title: Addressing mental health stigma among young adolescents: Evaluation of a youth-led approach.

Authors:
Bulanda, J.J. jbulanda@aurora.edu
Bruhn, C.
Byro-Johnson, T.
Zentmyer, M.


Peer Reviewed: Yes

SWAB Print Version: 50 (2) No. 737 2014

Abstract:
Stigma around mental illness puts adolescents at risk for not seeking help for themselves or helping peers dealing with mental distress. This program evaluation looks at a youth-led mental health awareness promotion campaign, in which high school students led educational workshops for at-risk middle school students in an after-school program. Pre- and posttests were used to measure knowledge about mental illness as well as social distance; a total of 57 pre-and posttests were analyzed. Analyses revealed statistically significant changes in both the Knowledge and Social Distance Scales. The results suggest that salutary results can be realized as a result of very brief intervention with youths around the topic of mental health awareness. (Journal abstract)

Classification:
3340 - Mental Health/Mental Illness
3315 - Children and Families/Child and Family Welfare

Subjects:
Stigma
Mental health
Intervention

ISSN: 0360-7283
DOI: 10.1093/hsw/hlu008

Document Type: Article
Title: A qualitative evaluation of the section 8 housing choice voucher program: The recipients' perspectives.

Authors:
Teater, B.A. B.Teater@bath.ac.uk

Source:

SWAB Print Version:
48 (3) No. 1034 2012

Abstract:
Research and evaluations on social programs often fail to consider the clients' perspective, yet such perspectives are critical to ensure that the programs and policies best meet clients' needs. Through individual interviews, this qualitative evaluation of the implementation of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, in a Midwestern city, USA, explored the recipients' perspectives in relation to the program's implementation and ability to meet their needs. The data analysis revealed detailed experiences in regard to program rules and priorities, stigma, and recipients' outcomes, and recommendations in regard to customer service, understanding recipients' circumstances, and program rules. Implications for social work practice and housing administrators are discussed, and evidence for clients' experiences and perspectives in program evaluation is provided. (Journal abstract)

Classification:
2315 - Clinical Practice/Psychotherapy
4310 - Economics/Public Welfare

Subjects:
Data collection
Stigma
Research

ISSN:
1473-3250

Document Type:
Article
Abstract

Documentary filmmaking approaches incorporating community engagement and awareness raising strategies may be a promising approach to evaluate community-based participatory research. The study purpose was 2-fold: (1) to evaluate a documentary film featuring the formation and implementation of a farmers' market and (2) to assess whether the film affected awareness regarding food access issues in a food-desert community with high rates of obesity. The coalition model of filmmaking, a model consistent with a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach, and personal stories, community profiles, and expert interviews were used to develop a documentary film (*Planting Healthy Roots*). The evaluation demonstrated high levels of approval and satisfaction with the film and CBPR essence of the film. The documentary film aligned with a CBPR approach to document, evaluate, and disseminate research processes and outcomes. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)
Title: Challenges in measuring the fidelity of a Child Welfare Service intervention.

Authors:
Stuczynski, A. astuczynski@nsri.org
Kimmich, M.H.

Source:

Peer Reviewed:
Yes

SWAB Print Version:
47 (3) No. 1267 2011

Abstract:
This article is a case study of an effort to implement and measure the fidelity of a child welfare intervention, family team meeting (FTMs). It describes the challenges practitioners faced in implementing FTMs. It discusses the evaluation challenges encountered in specifying, measuring, and reporting on model fidelity. It presents the findings of an interim fidelity assessment and the implications for next steps in the program evaluation. The authors reach a 3-fold conclusion: (a) the use of fidelity assessment can aid practitioners to focus on the specifics of their implementation; (b) qualitative factors related to program implementation and local context are critically important to evaluation efforts; and (c) fidelity can provide the basis for targeted outcome measurement. (Journal abstract)

Classification:
3315 - Children and Families/Child and Family Welfare
2315 - Clinical Practice/Psychotherapy

Subjects:
Assessment
Intervention

ISSN:
1554-8732

Document Type:
Article
Title: Indicators of a successful naturally occurring retirement community: A case study.

Authors:
Elbert, K.B. kbetry-elbert@ifedsti.org
Neufeld, P.S.

Source:

Abstract:
A naturally occurring retirement community (NORC) with supportive service programs holds great promise for providing cost-effective services to enable seniors to age in place. This article describes program activities, services, partnerships, and indicators for a successful 3-mile suburban neighborhood NORC. Program evaluation of participation and exit data are powerful indicators of success: St. Louis NORC's nursing home placement rate is 2% compared to the national average of 4.5%, and its state average of 4.8%. A case study demonstrates the importance of resident awareness of availability of NORC services and home modifications. (Journal abstract)

Classification:
3310 - Aging and the Aged
2335 - Research

Subjects:
Community-based programs
Assessment
Research

ISSN:
0276-3893

Document Type:
Article
Title: What types of designs are we using in social work research and evaluation?

Authors:
Holosko, M.J. mholosko@uga.edu


Peer Reviewed: Yes

SWAB Print Version: 47 (2) No. 582 2011

Abstract:
This article addresses a void in the literature about social work research and evaluation (R&E) designs, in particular related to the quality of its published work. Data were collected by reviewing three empirically oriented journals, Research on Social Work Practice, Journal of Social Service Research, and Social Work Research over three publication years 2005, 2006, and 2007. A total of N = 329 articles were content analyzed accordingly: research versus non research, designs used, design objectives, sample sizes, primary statistics used, and outcomes. Main findings were (a) social work’s R&E is uniquely characterized by a cohort of non research studies, which assist in understanding the author empirically published work; (b) the most frequently used designs were pre experimental (82.2%) and least frequently used were experimental (2.3%); (c) design objectives were equally dispersed across exploration, variable relationships, instrument development, and program/evaluation; (d) primary statistics used were parametric (82.2%); and (e) 96.7% of the studies specified outcomes within them. Implications are directed to better understanding the context of where social work R&E is conducted, not apologizing for the designs used, and how one can and should strengthen study designs to offset concerns. (Journal abstract)

Classification:
2335 - Research
2340 - Theories/Conceptual Frameworks
2300 - Theory and Practice
2315 - Clinical Practice/Psychotherapy

Subjects:
Research
Social work

ISSN: 1049-7315

Document Type: Article
Title: Harm reduction for drug abusing ex-offenders: Outcome of the California prevention and education project MORE project.

Authors:

Bowser, B.P. benjamin.bowser@csueastbay.edu
Jenkins-Barnes, T.
Dillard-Smith, C.
Lockett, G.


Peer Reviewed: Yes

SWAB Print Version: 46 (3) No. 1077 2010

Abstract:

MORE was a mobile outreach drug abuse prevention and HIV harm reduction program primarily for ex-offenders who are active drug users. Through case management, clients were provided substance abuse education, counseling, and referral. Long term goals of these services were to reduce their drug use and re-incarceration for drug related crimes. From January 2002 to May 2006, 487 unduplicated clients were recruited in year long cohorts and offered services. The program evaluation tool was the Federal Office of Budget and Management Government Performance and Results Act questionnaire. Government Performance and Results Act interviews were conducted at in-take into the program, approximately six months later and again approximately 12 months after their initial in-take. By the six and 12 month follow-up interviews, active drug using clients reported significant reductions in their use of alcohol, cocaine/crack, heroin, and fewer sex partners and crimes. Program completers reported significantly reduced cocaine/crack and heroin use as well as fewer days in jail and crimes than non-completers (p < .01 to .001). Six program components account for these reductions: case management, day-treatment, outpatient services, outreach, HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse education. The differences in program service intensity, income, and employment for program completers and non-completers were analyzed using logistic regression. The intensity of case management and all services received along with having higher income by month six were the most significant predictors of program completion. (Journal abstract)

Classification:

3305 - Addictions
3320 - Criminal Justice and Violence

Subjects:

Drug use
Prevention

ISSN: 1543-3714

Document Type: Article
The meaningful involvement of service users in social work education: Examples from Belgium and the Netherlands.

Driessens, Kristel; McLaughlin, Hugh; van Doorn, Lia


Abstract

This article links the development of service user involvement championed in the United Kingdom to two examples in Dutch-speaking qualifying social work programmes: one from Belgium and one from the Netherlands. In both projects, a longer lasting cooperation with more marginalised service users was established. The Belgium project highlights social work lecturers and service users living in poverty, working in tandem to deliver a module to social work and socio-educational care work students. The example from the Netherlands involves young people from a homeless shelter as peer-researchers, working together with social work students. Both projects, one focusing on social work education and on social work research, highlight striking similarities in the positives and challenges of working with service users including how this challenges both groups preconceptions of the other, deepens learning but also creates greater potential for confrontations which need to be managed creatively. The article also identifies the pre-requisites for this to be effective including appropriate resourcing, training, facilitative skills and acknowledges that collaborations can be extremely fragile. However, such projects need further investment, experimentation and implementation on an international scale to share learning and promote creative approaches for the development and learning of social work students. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Document Type: Journal Article

Digital Object Identifier: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02615479.2016.1162289

Keywords: User participation; research; Europe; international; social justice; values; equalities; partnership; organisations

Index Terms: *Client Participation; *Educational Program Evaluation; *Social Casework; *Social Services; *Social Work Education; Social Justice; Social Values; Values

PsycINFO Classification: 3410 Professional Education & Training

Population Group: Human; Male; Female

Age Group: Adulthood (18 yrs & older)

Location: Belgium; Netherlands

Methodology: Empirical Study; Interview; Qualitative Study

Tests and Measures: ET37-Questionnaire for Students’ Evaluation of Teaching
Mentoring children of prisoners: Program evaluation.

Bruster, B.E. bbruster@fgcu.edu
Foreman, K.


Yes

48 (4) No. 1543 2012

This program evaluation explores Seton Youth Shelters, Mentoring Children's Prisoners (MCP) Program. The following questions were researched: (a) Where are the children residing, (b) Are mentoring services effective, (c) How are the children faring emotionally and psychologically, and (d) How often and what form of communication do they use. The findings reveal that youth participating in MCP have an increased interest in school, better relationships with their family, and find speaking to someone about everyday issues or problems helpful. Family members report a positive change in the youth attitude, increase interest in school, completion of homework, and greater interest in their well-being. (Journal abstract)

3315 - Children and Families/Child and Family Welfare
4340 - Special Populations

Youths
Mentors
Prisoners

1937-1918

10.1080/19371918.2012.629955

Article
Title: Practice guidelines for the assessment of clinically significant treatment outcomes in the children's mental health system.

Authors:
Chomycz, S. schomycz@lakeheadu.ca
Schmidt, F.


Peer Reviewed: Yes

SWAB Print Version: 52 (3) No. 868 2016

Abstract:
The use of program evaluation to monitor client change and improve intervention effectiveness is gaining increasing importance in the mental health field. However, there is a lack of literature available in community-based clinics for those who desire to evaluate the effectiveness of services. Through this article the authors review the literature on the best methods to assess clinically significant treatment outcomes in community-based children's mental health services. The strengths and weaknesses of commonly recommended methods of evaluating change are discussed (i.e., reliable change index, percentage of improvement, normative comparisons, and effect size) using a dataset from a community-based parenting program (N = 308). (Journal abstract)

Classification:
3340 - Mental Health/Mental Illness
3315 - Children and Families/Child and Family Welfare
2315 - Clinical Practice/Psychotherapy
2310 - Case Management and Casework
2335 - Research

Subjects:
Mental health
Outcomes
Treatment

ISSN: 2376-1407

DOI: 10.1080/23761407.2015.1031417

Document Type: Article
Services to LGBTQ runaway and homeless youth: Gaps and recommendations.

Maccio, Elaine M.; Ferguson, Kristin M.


Abstract

This article identifies gaps in services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) runaway and homeless youth (RHY) and offers recommendations from the literature to fill them. Participants were 24 staff from 19 LGBTQ-RHY-serving agencies across the country. Over a 2-month period, researchers conducted 1-hour phone interviews with program staff and agency directors. Data from the interview transcripts were coded using template analysis, and the researchers modified the themes using an iterative coding process. Analyses yielded the following themes: a) housing services, b) educational services, c) employment services, d) family services, e) LGBTQ-affirming services, f) cultural competency training, and g) advocacy and organizing. Participants' perceptions of these gaps are provided, as are literature-driven recommendations to address those gaps. The findings from this study have the potential to guide program developers and policy makers in providing comprehensive, LGBTQ-affirming services for a substantial portion of the RHY population.

(PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Publication Type: Journal; Peer Reviewed Journal

Document Type: Journal Article

Digital Object Identifier: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2016.02.008

Keywords: LGBT youth; Homeless youth; Runaway youth; Youth agency; Youth service; Youth program

Index Terms: *Homeless; *Program Evaluation; *Runaway Behavior; *Sexual Orientation; Social Services

PsycINFO Classification: 3373 Community & Social Services

Population Group: Human; Male; Female

Age Group: Adulthood (18 yrs & older); Young Adulthood (18-29 yrs)

Location: US

Methodology: Interview; Qualitative Study; Quantitative Study
Improving the community response to sexual assault: An empirical examination of the effectiveness of sexual assault response teams (SARTs).

Greeson, Megan R.; Campbell, Rebecca; Bybee, Deborah; Kennedy, Angie C.


Abstract

Objective: Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) seek to improve the response to sexual assault by coordinating the efforts of police, prosecutors, nurses/doctors, victim advocates, and other sexual assault responders. However, SARTs vary with respect to their structure, that is, the composition and organization of their team. Therefore, the current study explored the relationship between SART structure and effectiveness.

Method: A random sample of N = 172 SART leaders was interviewed. Participants reported on SART structural characteristics and their perceptions of their team’s effectiveness at improving victims’ help-seeking experiences, victims’ participation in the criminal justice system, police processing of cases, and prosecution of cases. Results: Cluster analysis revealed 3 types of SARTs: “Low Adopters” utilized fewer formal structures and were less likely to institutionalize collaborative processes into their teamwork; “High Adopters” utilized more formal structures and were more likely to institutionalize collaborative processes, but did not engage in program evaluation as a multidisciplinary team; and “High Adopters Plus Evaluation” were similar but also engaged in evaluation as a team. High Adopters Plus Evaluation were perceived as significantly more effective than Low Adopters across all domains. High Adopters Plus Evaluation were perceived as more effective at improving victims’ participation in the criminal justice system than High Adopters. SARTs with broader active membership from more stakeholder groups also tended to have higher perceived legal effectiveness.

Conclusions: SARTs should consider broad-based active membership and adopting formal structures and collaborative processes to organize their team. Future research can continue to examine factors that contribute to SART success. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Document Type: Journal Article

Digital Object Identifier: http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/a0039617

Keywords: rape; coordinated community response; multidisciplinary team; sexual assault response team

Index Terms: *Community Services; *Intervention; *Rape; *Sex Offenses; Adjudication; Help Seeking Behavior; Legal Processes; Teams

Age Group: Adulthood (18 yrs & older)

Methodology: Empirical Study; Quantitative Study

Tests and Measures

<table>
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<th>Membership Breadth Index</th>
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<tr>
<td>Perceived Legal Effectiveness Measure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perceived Effectiveness at Improving Victims’ Experiences Measure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Is anybody there? Informal supports accessed and sought by youth from foster care.

Rutman, Deborah; Hubberstey, Carol


Abstract: Young people’s ‘ageing out’ of foster care has been described as stark and abrupt, in sharp contrast with the gradual process of transitioning to adulthood experienced by parented youth in the general population. Research has demonstrated that being supported during this transition is associated with a variety of health, social, and educational outcomes. The purpose of this article is to report former foster youths' perspectives on their informal supports, what difference these supports made for them, and what they believed would be useful in their transition to adulthood. Data came from semi-structured interviews with 43 former foster youth aged 19–26. Findings revealed that while approximately half the informants reported having support from family, most did not have family whom they regularly relied upon for emotional, practical and/or financial support. Further, while nearly all youths indicated that having support made a difference to them, many also noted that for daily living, they were on their own. The study's findings are an important reminder of the gulf existing between youth from care and parented youth in terms of their access to support during their journey to adulthood. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Publication Type: Journal; Peer Reviewed Journal

Document Type: Journal Article

Digital Object Identifier: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2016.02.007

Keywords: Former foster youth; Transition to adulthood; Informal supports for youth; Support needs of foster care youth; Program evaluation

Index Terms: *Foster Care; *Life Changes; *Needs Assessment; *Program Evaluation; Social Support

PsycINFO Classification: 3373 Community & Social Services

Population Group: Human; Male; Female

Age Group: Adulthood (18 yrs & older); Young Adulthood (18-29 yrs)

Location: Canada

Methodology: Empirical Study; Interview; Qualitative Study; Quantitative Study

Tests and Measures: Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment
Title: The promise and challenge of practice-research collaborations: Guiding principles and strategies for initiating, designing, and implementing program evaluation research.

Authors:
Secret, M. mcsecret@vcu.edu
Abell, M.L.
Berlin, T.

Source:

Peer Reviewed: Yes

SWAB Print Version: 47 (1) No. 45 2011

Abstract:
The authors present a set of guiding principles and strategies to facilitate the collaborative efforts of social work researchers and practitioners as they initiate, design, and implement outcome evaluations of human service interventions and programs. Beginning with an exploration of the interpersonal barriers to practice-research collaborations, and building on their experiences in successfully completing a community-based research evaluation, the authors identify specific relationship-focused principles and strategies and illustrate how these approaches can guide practice-research teams through the various sequential activities of the evaluation research process. In particular, it is suggested that practice-research collaborations can be formed, strengthened, and sustained by emphasis on a spirit of discovery and shared leadership at the start of the relationship, use of a comprehensive evaluation model to clarify and frame the evaluation and program goals, beginning where the client is when selecting research methodology and measurement tools, commitment to keeping the program first and recording everything during the implementation and data-collection stages, discussion of emerging findings and presentation of findings in graphic format at the data-analysis stage, and a total team approach at the dissemination stage. (Journal abstract)

Classification:
2315 - Clinical Practice/Psychotherapy
2310 - Case Management and Casework
2330 - Group Work/Group Therapy
2335 - Research

Subjects:
Collaboration
Research
Community-based programs

ISSN: 0037-8046

Document Type: Article
Title: Towards program evaluation for practitioner learning: Human service practitioners' perceptions of evaluation.

Authors:
Herbert, J.L. james.herbert@unisa.edu.au

Source:

Peer Reviewed:
Yes

SWAB Print Version:
52 (3) No. 681 2016

Abstract:
While human service practice improvement is acknowledged as an important outcome of program evaluation, much evaluation is narrowly focused on accountability requirements. This type of evaluation often has limited use and relevance to human service practitioners. In exploring forms of evaluation that do have practice relevance, this article presents the experiences and perceptions of human service practitioners subject to evaluations that set out to foster learning. Across the cases participants expressed concerns about data quality and credibility, the relevance of evaluation data to the program context, the invasiveness of the evaluation, management of the process (particularly limited consultation with practitioners), and the lack of effective dissemination. These cases illustrate the challenges for evaluation to be useful to practice, and to foster meaningful improvements to services. (Journal abstract)

Classification:
2305 - Administration/Management
2315 - Clinical Practice/Psychotherapy
1335 - Human Resources Issues
2335 - Research

Subjects:
Program evaluation
Human services
Accountability

ISSN: 0312-407X
DOI: 10.1080/0312407X.2014.946067

Document Type: Article
Title: Participatory and inclusive approaches to disability program evaluation.

Authors:
Robinson, S. sally.robinson@scu.edu.au
Fisher, K.R.
Strike, R.

Source:

Peer Reviewed:
Yes

SWAB Print Version:
52 (1) No. 136 2016

Abstract:
Some evaluations of disability programs now apply participatory methods to include people with cognitive disability more fully in the decisions about the evaluation remain rare. The authors examined why this may be the case, using Weaver and Cousin's criteria for inclusive evaluation to measure the depth of inclusion of our methods in an evaluation that the authors did that included people with cognitive disability. The authors found that the participatory methods in the design supported some of the dimensions of inclusive evaluation-diversity, depth of participation, power relations, and manageability. Relying on the people to represent the interests of people with cognitive disability in the governance, data collection, and dissemination compromised the control dimension of inclusion. Resources and commitment to build the capacity of people with cognitive disability as team members, mentors, advisers, and direct participants is required to make inclusion feasible and an expectation in disability program evaluations. (Journal abstract)

Classification:
3325 - Physical/Intellectual Disabilities
2310 - Case Management and Casework
2340 - Theories/Conceptual Frameworks
2335 - Research

Subjects:
Assessment
Social policy
Research

ISSN: 0312-407X

DOI: 10.1080/0312407X.2014.902979

Document Type: Article
Camp hope as an intervention for children exposed to domestic violence: A program evaluation of hope, and strength of character.

**Hellman, Chan M.; Gwinn, Casey**


**Abstract**

Children exposed to domestic violence are at-risk for physical, mental, and social difficulties that have received an increased focus among researchers and policy makers. Using Snyder’s (2000) theory of Hope as a conceptual framework, Camp HOPE America is a summer camp program targeting school-aged children exposed to domestic violence. The purpose of this study is to present the changes in child hope before and after camp and correlate child hope to positive character strengths as rated by camp counselors. This study used a matched pretest posttest design to examine the change in hope, and strength of character among 229 school-aged children participating in Camp HOPE America. Results showed that hope, and psychological strengths improved from pre-test to post-test assessments. Additionally, children’s scores on hope were positively associated with the character strengths of zest, grit, self-control, optimism, gratitude, social intelligence, and curiosity obtained from counselor observations. These findings highlight hope as a coping resource for children exposed to domestic violence and provides preliminary support Camp HOPE America as an intervention within the established Family Justice Center system in the US. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

**ISSN:** 1573-2797 (Electronic); 0738-0151 (Print)

**Publisher:** Germany: Springer

**Publication Type:** Journal; Peer Reviewed Journal; First Posting

**Digital Object Identifier:** [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10560-016-0460-6](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10560-016-0460-6)

**Keywords:** Children exposed to domestic violence; Hope; Character strength; Camp HOPE

**Index Terms:** No terms assigned

**PsycINFO Classification:** [3300 Health & Mental Health Treatment & Prevention](https://psycinfo.apa.org/)

**Copyright Holder:** Springer Science+Business Media New York

**Year:** 2016

**Release Date:** 20160922 (PsycINFO)
Title: Mentoring children of prisoners: Program evaluation.

Authors:
Bruster, B.E. bbruster@fgcu.edu
Foreman, K.


Peer Reviewed: Yes

SWAB Print Version: 48 (4) No. 1543 2012

Abstract:
This program evaluation explores Seton Youth Shelters, Mentoring Children's Prisoners (MCP) Program. The following questions were research: (a) Where are the children residing, (b) Are mentoring services effective, (c) How are the children faring emotionally and psychologically, and (d) How often and what form of communication do they use. The findings reveal that youth participating in MCP have an increased interest in school, better relationships with their family, and find speaking to someone about everyday issues or problems helpful. Family members report a positive change in the youth attitude, increase interest in school, completion of homework, and greater interest in their well-being. (Journal abstract)

Classification:
3315 - Children and Families/Child and Family Welfare
4340 - Special Populations

Subjects:
Youths
Mentors
Prisoners

ISSN: 1937-1918

DOI: 10.1080/19371918.2012.629955

Document Type: Article
Title: Longitudinal program evaluation of "parenting apart: Effective co-parenting".

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Abstract:
A program evaluation was conducted of a parent education program for divorcing parents of minor children. Using a retrospective post-then-pre design, 139 participants reported their knowledge before and after the program and their behaviors in the month prior to the program. Two-month follow-up interviews were used to assess behavior change. Results indicated that participants reported both knowledge gain and behavior change. Change in triangulation avoidance behavior (behaviors to keep children out of the middle of conflict) varied as a function of parenting stage. Knowledge gain regarding the impact of divorce and triangulation on children predicted behavior change in triangulation avoidance. Results are discussed, including recommendations for the program evaluated as well as suggestions for other parenting education programs for divorcing parents. (Journal abstract)

Classification:
2325 - Family and Couples Therapy
3315 - Children and Families/Child and Family Welfare
3340 - Mental Health/Mental Illness
2335 - Research

Subjects:
Parenting
Assessment
Divorce

ISSN: 1050-2556

DOI: 10.1080/10502556.2014.996044

Document Type: Article
Title: "Keeping it real": An evaluation audit of five years of youth-led program evaluation.

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Peer Reviewed: Yes

SWAB Print Version: 50 (1) No. 41 2014

Abstract:

Youth are increasingly seen as competent in participating in research and program evaluation, two activities previously reserved for adults. This article is a report of the findings from an evaluation audit of Stand Up! Help Out!, a participatory action after-school youth leadership development program for disadvantaged urban youth that utilized youth evaluations to develop a best practices service model. The youths' feedback assisted providers in improving services so that youth engagement in the program was 99% (by comparison with national highs of 79%). Here, the authors describe an important aspect of the process of youth-led program evaluation leading to such high youth engagement: how youth interviewed each other so as to optimize the authenticity of their program evaluations and contributions to program design. Drawing from over 5 years of program evaluation data collected by youth, the authors report on the youths' experiences as informants and co-researchers, consider strategies used to help youth best describe their experiences in the program, and describe implications for other settings looking to incorporate youth-led program evaluation. Youth-led program evaluation has considerable promise for helping service providers make programs more meaningful for disadvantaged youth. (Journal abstract)

Classification:

2315 - Clinical Practice/Psychotherapy
2340 - Theories/Conceptual Frameworks
2335 - Research

Subjects:

Program evaluation
Youths
Program effectiveness

ISSN: 0037-7317

DOI: 10.1080/00377317.2013.802936

Document Type: Article

Chan C¹.

Abstract

The trend of using social media in social work is increasing, but research which systematically reviews and evaluates their uses in actual practice is limited. This article reviews the social work literature to identify the uses, benefits, and limitations of social media in social work practice, and identifies current gaps in the literature to provide recommendations for future social work research. Articles in 64 social work journals published between 2000 and 2014 were screened and analyzed. The included articles (n = 20) were analyzed with particular reference to their level of evidence and ways of social media use. The methodological quality of the studies in this review was low, and this was consistent with the findings of recent systematic reviews of social media use in medical healthcare. The findings initially suggested that social media can potentially contribute to various social work processes, including: service user engagement, need assessment, intervention, and program evaluation. Limitations include lack of quality control, reliability, confidentiality, and privacy. In social work, the dominant research concern in social media is more about professional ethics than their application in intervention. Implications for research and practice are discussed.

KEYWORDS:

Social media; review; social work practice

PMID:

26176999

DOI:

10.1080/23761407.2015.1052908

[PubMed - in process]
Evaluation capacity building: Can a classroom-based course make a difference?

Kaye-Tzadok, Avital; Spiro, Shimon E.


Abstract

Purpose: Growing emphasis on program and practice evaluation in social work education coalesces with a growing interest in evaluation capacity building (ECB) within the interdisciplinary field of evaluation. However, the literature on ECB, while recognizing the importance of imparting knowledge and skills to individuals, largely ignores the potential contribution of courses that are offered as part of academic degree-granting programs. Methods: This article describes a seminar on program evaluation within a postgraduate course leading to a master of social work degree attended by currently employed social workers. The students were required to plan the evaluation of a program conducted by their respective agencies and carry out the evaluation, if possible. A survey was conducted among the graduates. Results: Almost all respondents reported that the seminar had improved their own evaluation capacity, and about a third reported enhanced evaluation capacity of their respective agencies. The ECB effect was strongest when stakeholders were involved in the evaluation. Discussion: An academic seminar can contribute to ECB, this contribution could be enhanced by designing the seminar with this purpose in mind. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Publication Type: Journal; Peer Reviewed Journal

Document Type: Journal Article

Digital Object Identifier: http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1049731514559521

Keywords: evaluation capacity building; social work education; evaluation training; stakeholder involvement

Index Terms: *Classrooms; *Postgraduate Training; *School Based Intervention; *Social Work Education; *Training;Program Evaluation; Stakeholder

PsycINFO Classification: 3410 Professional Education & Training

Population Group: Human; Male; Female

Age Group: Adulthood (18 yrs & older)

Location: Israel

Methodology: Empirical Study; Quantitative Study

Copyright Holder: The Author(s)

Year: 2014

Release Date: 20160829 (PsycINFO)
The Father Friendly Initiative within Families: Using a logic model to develop program theory for a father support program.

Gervais C¹, de Montigny F², Lacharité C³, Dubeau D⁴.

Author information

Abstract

The transition to fatherhood, with its numerous challenges, has been well documented. Likewise, fathers' relationships with health and social services have also begun to be explored. Yet despite the problems fathers experience in interactions with healthcare services, few programs have been developed for them. To explain this, some authors point to the difficulty practitioners encounter in developing and structuring the theory of programs they are trying to create to promote and support father involvement (Savaya, R., & Waysman, M. (2005). Administration in Social Work, 29(2), 85), even when such theory is key to a program's effectiveness (Chen, H.-T. (2005). Practical program evaluation. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications). The objective of the present paper is to present a tool, the logic model, to bridge this gap and to equip practitioners for structuring program theory. This paper addresses two questions: (1) What would be a useful instrument for structuring the development of program theory in interventions for fathers? (2) How would the concepts of a father involvement program best be organized? The case of the Father Friendly Initiative within Families (FFIF) program is used to present and illustrate six simple steps for developing a logic model that are based on program theory and demonstrate its relevance.

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KEYWORDS:
Father involvement; Logic model; Program development; Program theory

PMID:

26036612

DOI:

10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2015.04.006

[PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
The building bridges initiative: learning with, from and about to create an interprofessional end-of-life program.

Gordon E\textsuperscript{1}, Ridley B, Boston J, Dahl E.

Author information

Abstract

In this paper, the authors outline the rationale, planning, delivery, results, evaluation and knowledge transfer strategies employed in offering an eight-hour education day offered 12 times in 2010, to a total of 200 staff in three Toronto General Hospital (TGH) intensive care units (ICU) at the University Health Network (UHN). The integration of members from the point-of-care staff teams into the planning, development, presentation and attendance was a critical success factor for this initiative. Organizers and participants had the opportunity to build bridges with each other and across teams and programs by engaging in interprofessional learning, sharing narratives and consolidating increasing awareness of resources with facilitation from staff from nursing, medicine, palliative care, bioethics, social work, physiotherapy, respiratory therapy, wellness and spiritual care. The format, which will be outlined with examples and stories of engagement, included an opportunity to explore common elements of ICU work including moral distress, demonstrated wellness and team communication strategies, as well as the introduction of an interprofessional patient/family meeting checklist reviewed and evaluated by participants. An assessment of quality of life in an ICU was explored using a panel, case study and discussion. The results of the evaluation, which included a qualitative reflection on collaborative themes, a program evaluation and an individual learning assessment, will be discussed, as well as sustainability and transferability possibilities specific to interprofessional programming and team development.

PMID:

23342937

[PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
BACKGROUND:
This article introduces a comprehensive health and wellness program that serves young women, ages 14 to 21, with physical disabilities. The program is a component of the Initiative for Women with Disabilities (IWD), a hospital-based center serving women with physical disabilities/conditions that offers accessible gynecology, primary care, physical therapy, nutrition consultations, exercise and fitness classes, and wellness and social work services. Recent literature has shown that young women with physical disabilities often face physical and emotional barriers to their own health and wellness. This group of adolescents often has difficulty developing a healthy image of their bodies, especially compared with their able-bodied peers. Unhealthy attitudes regarding the body image and sexuality of those with physical differences are often perpetuated by the media, peers, and parents. People with disabilities have become increasingly able to live fulfilling lives in recent decades. This is due largely to studies that have confirmed that once barriers are addressed and minimized, young women with physical disabilities lead active and productive lives and have much to contribute to society.

METHODS:
The goal of the Young Women's Program (YWP), established in 2006, is to help young women adopt healthy lifestyles by exposing them to a carefully planned curriculum. The program provides a variety of classes and workshops, expert instruction, and access to resources and a network of peers and mentors. The ultimate goal is for the participants to apply the concepts learned in the group sessions to identify and evaluate their personal goals and develop health and wellness plans for achieving these goals.

RESULTS:
Data were obtained from several sources: a self-administered program evaluation, program recruitment and retention statistics, and an assessment of whether individual health and wellness goals were achieved. All of these measures indicate a favorable response to the program structure and content. Participants are able to integrate and apply the learned concepts to alter aspects of their daily lifestyles and improve their self-confidence, self-worth, and self-competence.

CONCLUSIONS:
The results to date suggest that the YWP addresses the transitional challenges cited in the literature that young women with physical disabilities face from adolescence to adulthood. The structure of the program, which combines individual and group sessions, and the focused content appear to have a positive impact on the participants' lives by exposing them to experiences that promote self-determination and self-competence. By providing opportunities for socialization with peers and mentors and exposure to community resources, and by helping participants to develop self-care skills and to set goals for a healthy lifestyle, the program facilitates leading an independent life. The efficacy of the YWP will be determined by annual follow-up studies as participants enter adulthood.

PMID: 21122778 DOI: 10.1016/j.dhjo.2009.08.001