Researching with young people as participants: issues in recruitment

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The research

“Telling it like it is: the lived experience of young people with type 1 diabetes”

- Adolescents/young people aged 16-24 years
- Type 1 diabetes
- Gippsland region ➔ rural Victoria
- Phenomenology, lived experience and artwork
The recipe for success

- Researchers
- Area of interest
- Motivation
- Time
- Skills
- Knowledge
- Ethics approval
- Participants
Advertising the research

Initially 11 organisations;
- Presence of a diabetic educator and/or paediatrician
- Email introductions & documentation
- Often forwarded to higher management for approval

Expanded to 27 organisations;
- A regional tertiary institution
- A government department
- Additional medical clinics
- Diabetes Victoria
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- A number of social networking sites
700 million active daily users on average & over 80% of users residing outside the USA & Canada (Facebook, 2013)

92% of users were connected by only four degrees of separation … any two people were separated by no more than four intermediate connections (Wilson, Gosling & Graham, 2012)

Bolton et al., (2013) - social media interactions with friends & family more likely to be preferred method by 18-34 year olds (digital natives) compared to older age groups

Fenner et al., (2012) and Ramo & Prochaska, (2012) – the Internet is a useful, potentially fast, affordable recruitment method (c/w traditional methods)
Broadening the horizons

- Posting a ‘Help Wanted’ on Facebook pages
  - My own page for my friends to ‘like’ and ‘share’
  - MyD Facebook group page for 16-24 year olds
  - Diabetes Australia (including Victoria) page
  - Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation page
  - Oz Diabetes online community

- Amending ethics to rural ‘Victoria’ and recruitment via online social network i.e. Facebook
Facebook can be a researchers friend

Where did the participants come from?

- Facebook: 46%
- 3rd party referral: 8%
- Face to face: 15%
- Flyer/poster: 31%
- Newsletter: 0%
- Organisation referral: 0%
The participants

- 10 participants interviewed (plus 3 to be confirmed)
  - 12 female
  - 1 male

- Aged between 17–24 years

- Interviews completed & transcribed

- Artwork submitted
  - 6 Photographs
  - 2 Drawings
  - 2 Collages
Recommendations

- Know your participant
  - Tech savvy, digital natives

- A traditional poster or flyer is still relevant & useful
  - Don’t rely on solely

- Think about the benefits to the young person and why they would want to contact a stranger
  - Potential to make a difference to others
References


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