Research in remote Indigenous communities: a study design to collect information on sensitive themes

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Study Objective

To identify in one remote Indigenous community people's knowledge about the transmission mechanisms of common childhood infections, and their attitudes towards the hygiene behaviours needed to reduce the transmission of these infections.

Study Design

- Qualitative study
- Purposive sampling
- Three data collection methodologies
- Thematic data analysis
- Triangulation of methodologies

Focus group sessions using the 3 pile-sorting method.

GOOD | NOT SURE | NOT GOOD

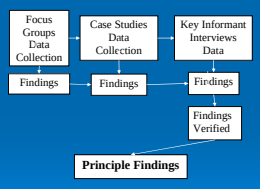
Case Studies

- In-depth interviews with mothers
- Interview with maternal and child health nurse
- Review of health centre records
- Housing survey data
- Review growth after 12 months
- Review growth of siblings

Key Informant Interviews

- Informed Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons
- Unstructured interviews
- Repeated conversations

Data Analysis



Key Points:

- Choose/mix methodologies to suit your topic and the population
- Be well prepared
- Take time to explain and establish rapport
- Participants need to feel at ease

- Keep the atmosphere light and non threatening
- Avoid direct questioning wherever possible
- Stimulate discussion by using indirect means
- Ensure the most disadvantaged people in a community are included

- Allow participants to speak in their own time
- Do not try to force discussion
- Listen and observe what is happening around you

Further information:

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