A Secondary Analysis of Deaf and Hearing Young Adults’ Responses to a Health Risk Behavior Survey

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• NCDHR Research Team
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Background

- Adults who have been deaf since childhood...
  - have more difficulty communicating with clinicians
  - are less satisfied with their healthcare encounters
  - report worse health and fewer healthcare visits
  - are less knowledgeable about general health

...than the general population

- Issues warrant investigation/intervention in order to achieve national public goals/priorities
Literature Review

• **Little or no literature about**
  - Quantitative health research involving these persons
  - Baseline data, health data about these persons

• **Research with this population is challenging**
  - Linguistically heterogeneous group

• **Barriers to research include:**
  - Recruitment
  - Data collection
  - Linguistic/cultural appropriateness of English-based instruments
Primary Study

• NCDHR developed a written health risk behavior survey

• Purpose: health surveillance of deaf young adults vs. hearing young adults

• Administered survey to 778 college freshmen
Purpose

• To examine deaf young adults’ use of an English-based health survey compared to hearing young adults use of the same survey

• To explore relationships between survey response patterns and language preference, reading assessments, and hearing status

• To examine my assumption
  - Some deaf young adults will demonstrate problems taking this survey - others will not
Guiding Framework

6-step process for cross-cultural adaptation and evaluation of surveys

1. Source language → Forward translation
2. Backward translation → Independent review
3. Committee review → Translated version
4. Qualitative analysis
   - Focus groups
   - Cognitive interviews
   - Readability assessment
5. Modified translation
6. Field test & analysis
Methods

• **Deaf – Hearing comparisons**
  - Distribution of responses
  - Consistency of responses to related questions
  - Frequency of “don’t know” responses

• **Examine grade reading level of original and adapted survey items (Flesch-Kincaid)**

• **Examine relationships between other variables and:**
  - 1) consistency of responses
  - 2) “don’t know” responses
QUESTIONS?