

Kimberly Peterson – Abstract

“Developing a Quality of Life Survey in a Trauma Informed Community”

This research project was conducted as part of a larger project called imHealthy: A Comprehensive Health Status Evaluation System developed by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh Health Information Management department. ImHealthy will develop an integrated system consisting of an electronic health record (EHR) used to collect and manage patients’ physical, behavioral, relational, socioeconomic, and spiritual information; a comprehensive health status evaluation system that will apply the data analysis results in a sophisticated evaluation algorithm and provide graphical explanations for each patient’s health status; a quality of life scale available via mobile apps to collect data relevant to the patient, their family, their block and community; and sophisticated data analysis programs used to integrate and analyze data collected from multiple sources to generate personalized interventions for the individual, family, block, and community.

The ImHealthy system is being initiated at FOCUS Pittsburgh Free Health Center (FPFHC), a free health care clinic in the Hill District of Pittsburgh providing medical and behavioral healthcare services to residents with partial to no health insurance. FPFHC has a goal of reducing community trauma within the Hill District by building micro-communities that identify and address quality of life deficiencies existing as a result of a trauma related disconnect within the individual and the Hill District community.

This dissertation focused on the development of a questionnaire called the Well-being, Relational, Stability, Competency Index (WRSC-I) which was developed to measure the quality of life constructs in five domains: physical, behavioral, relational, spiritual and socioeconomic. These constructs were identified to be of significant importance to the residents of this community to foster a quality related lifestyle. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) questionnaire, an internationally used survey used to determine childhood trauma levels in adults, was incorporated into the WRSC-I. The final survey contains 101 items dispersed within the five domains. A total of 60 items (60%) used came from 17 quality of life scales exhibiting psychometric evidence. The remaining 41 items (41%) were developed by the content experts in the study.

A descriptive pilot study using psychometric quantitative methods was conducted on a sample of people living in the Pittsburgh Hill’s district. Additionally, descriptive statistics were performed on several subdomains of the WRSC-I.

Results of this study show that the WRSC-I survey exhibits psychometric qualities and can be used to measure quality of life constructs.

The survey is one tool within the imHealthy project that will be used within the Hill District of Pittsburgh to help individuals measure the multi-dimensions of well-being as well as trauma and resilience levels and begin to restore and promote healthy lives and relationships.