

WEEK5

Epidemiologic Research Design and Evidence

Although we will focus on studying quantitative and qualitative research design, you should also know a bit about epidemiologic research design. This type of research focuses on the origin or foundation of diseases. Epidemiologic research is quite useful in evidence-based practice allows nurses to find ways to improve health outcomes.

Once you have developed your research questions, identified your variables, and determined your study type (quantitative, qualitative, or epidemiologic), it is time to start collecting evidence. The data collection in your study is just as important as creating good research questions. A successful study should have a good plan in place for data collection and analysis. There are many things to keep in mind when collecting data: feasibility, validity, and ethical considerations, just to name a few. This week, you will work toward understanding the different ways of collecting data for your research and the appropriateness of each method based on your specific study. In addition, you will learn about the suitability of the sample size for your study as well as how to recruit and retain subjects.

Agenda

1. Read chapter 8 sections: 8.1, 8.5–8.9
2. Read chapters 10–11
3. Discussion Prompt
4. Research Critique due

Week 5 Discussion:

Which characteristics should be appraised when evaluating qualitative and quantitative research design? Which characteristics are the most important and why?

Week 5 Critique of Research Article:

A research critique demonstrates your ability to critically read an investigative study. For this assignment, choose a research article related to nursing to critique. Your critique should include the following:

Research Problem/Purpose

- State the problem clearly as it is presented in the report.

- Have the investigators placed the study problem within the context of existing knowledge?
- Will the study solve a problem relevant to nursing?
- State the purpose of the research.

Review of the Literature

- Identify the concepts explored in the literature review.
- Were the references current? If not, what do you think the reasons are?

Theoretical Framework

- Are the theoretical concepts defined and related to the research?
- Does the research draw solely on nursing theory or does it draw on theory from other disciplines?
- Is a theoretical framework stated in this research piece?
- If not, suggest one that might be suitable for the study.

Variables/Hypotheses/Questions/Assumptions

- What are the independent and dependent variables in this study?
- Are the operational definitions of the variables given? If so, are they concrete and measurable?
- Is the research question or the hypothesis stated? What is it?

Methodology

- What type of design (quantitative, qualitative, and type) was used in this study?
- Was inductive or deductive reasoning used in this study?
- State the sample size and study population, sampling method, and study setting.
- Did the investigator choose a probability or non-probability sample?
- State the type of reliability and the validity of the measurement tools.
- Were ethical considerations addressed?

Data Analysis

- What data analysis tool was used?
- How were the results presented in the study?
- Identify at least one (1) finding.

Summary/Conclusions, Implications, and Recommendations

- What are the strengths and limitations of the study?
- In terms of the findings, can the researcher generalize to other populations? Explain.
- Evaluate the findings and conclusions as to their significance for nursing.

The body of your paper should be 4–6 double-spaced pages plus a cover page and a reference page.
The critique must be attached to the article and follow APA guidelines.