

Request #: 450 - HDFS - Thesis

The effect of an active learning intervention on increasing parental self-efficacy regarding sexual communication with toddlers and young children

Melissa Fergusn [A01627750] - Masters Student (w/Aryn Dotterer)

February 24, 2020

Background

This study is a pretest/post-test design with an intervention. This is a RCT where parents of children aged 1-5 who expressed interest in learning more about how and when to talk to their children about sex and sexuality and provided an email address were randomly assigned to one of three groups: a control group, a fact sheet group, or an interactive online presentation group. The three research questions are 1. Is general parental communication self-efficacy positively correlated with parental efficacy regarding sexual communication?; 2. What personal and contextual factors are associated with higher parental efficacy regarding sexual communication?; 3. Does parental efficacy regarding sexual communication and frequency of sexual communication increase following a parent sexual efficacy intervention?

Sample

I would love to get a sample of 300, 100 participants for each of the conditions. However, I plan to have about 180 complete cases (60 per group) in order to detect moderate effect sizes. I currently have data for 138 pretests and 61 participants pending post-test data. Recruitment is ongoing.

Hypothesis

RESEARCH QUESTIONS: 1. Is general parental communication self-efficacy positively correlated with parental efficacy regarding sexual communication? 2. What personal and contextual factors are associated with higher parental efficacy regarding sexual communication? 2a. Is the state of residence associated with higher parental efficacy regarding sexual communication? 2b. Is current religiosity negatively correlated with parental efficacy regarding sexual communication? Is there a difference in the correlation of current religiosity and religiosity of the family of origin when it comes to parental efficacy regarding sexual communication? 2c. Is the age of the parent negatively correlated with parental efficacy regarding sexual communication? Is the age of the child positively correlated with parental efficacy regarding sexual communication? 2d. Does having more than one child influence parental efficacy regarding sexual communication? 2e. Does the experience of past trauma influence parental efficacy regarding sexual communication? 2f. Do mothers have higher parental efficacy regarding sexual communication than fathers? Are parents more efficacious in sexual communication with daughters or sons? 2g. Is maternal education positively correlated with parental efficacy regarding sexual communication? 3. Does parental efficacy regarding sexual communication and frequency of sexual communication increase following a parent sexual efficacy intervention? 3a. Is an active learning approach to provide sexual information to parents more effective at promoting parental efficacy regarding sexual communication than a fact sheet alone, when compared to a control group which receives no information?

HYPOTHESES: 1. Higher parental communication self-efficacy will be positively correlated with higher parental efficacy regarding sexual communication. 2. Certain personal and contextual factors will be associated with higher parental efficacy regarding sexual communication. 2a. Residence in states with comprehensive sex education in the school setting will be associated with higher parental efficacy regarding sexual

communication. 2b. Current religiosity will be negatively correlated with parental efficacy regarding sexual communication. Religiosity in family of origin will be negatively correlated with parental efficacy regarding sexual communication. 2c. Parental age will be negatively correlated with parental efficacy regarding sexual communication. Child age will be positively correlated with parental efficacy regarding sexual communication. 2d. Having more than one child between the ages of one and five years old will be associated with higher parental efficacy regarding sexual communication. 2e. The experience of past trauma will influence parental efficacy regarding sexual communication. 2f. Mothers will have higher parental efficacy regarding sexual communication when compared to fathers. Parents will have higher self-efficacy regarding sexual communication with daughters compared to sons. 2g. Maternal education will be positively correlated with parental efficacy regarding sexual communication. 3. The frequency of parent-child sexual communication will be highest in the active learning approach intervention group, followed by the fact sheet intervention group, with the control group having the lowest frequency of parent-child sexual communication.

Progress

Attempted data cleaning, some frequency tables, attempted correlation table.

Request

Coding and understanding which statistical test to run.

Timeline

Abstracts/Proposals due to conferences on March 2nd-March 13th