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Evaluation During a Pandemic

Melinda Davis and Beatrice Krauss

University of Arizona

As methodologists and data analysts, we have collective expertise that can be used to address crucial evaluation and research issues related to a pandemic. Our toolboxes are full of methods and approaches that we can use to address the sequelae of the coronavirus, and the losses that are left in its wake.

As a pandemic proceeds across space and time, the focus of evaluation has moved as well, from understanding transmission, identifying cases, testing interventions, safe and equitable distribution of vaccines, to the inevitable assessment of human outcomes.

A pandemic, moving as it does through geographic, social/familial, and daily activity networks, has many effects on quality of life beyond the immediate illness. Among them are social isolation. It will be important to document the psychosocial effects in those who chose community or conjugate living, persons who became widows or widowers, fatherless or motherless, both prior to the epidemic and during it, and for youth whose maturational milestones include learning to socialize with others, forming peer networks, finding romantic and life partners and embarking on careers. As well as documenting challenges provided by the pandemic, it is equally important to develop a positive psychology, learning from those who met these challenges successfully. The Journal welcomes submissions that respond to evaluation design, analysis, or outcomes that are relevant to our time and a pandemic.