

Title: Linking Social Network Assessment and National Core Indicators for Students in Inclusive Higher Education

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Poster Content:

- 1) What: Explore options for simple, valid measures of the social experiences of students with intellectual disabilities in an inclusive higher education program.
- 2) Who: Student Demographics (n=12)
 - a) Age: 18-24, average 20.5
 - b) Year in program: 7 entering; 3 first year; 2 second year
 - c) Gender: 4 female; 8 male
 - d) Race/Ethnicity: 5 Black, 4 White, 2 Hispanic, 1 Asian
 - e) High School Diploma: 5 diploma, 7 certificate
 - f) Residence: All students resided in their family home
- 3) Measures: Two individual interviews:
 - a) 44 items from the 2014-2015 National Core Indicators - Adult Consumer Survey (NCI-ACS)
 - i) Community Participation & Leisure, Friends & Family, Home, Choices, and Supports
 - ii) Primary focus on activities in last month
 - b) Locally-developed semi-structured social network interview
 - i) Activities (location, integration, purpose, frequency) and the People with whom activities are done (primary relation, length of relation, closeness, and reciprocity)
 - ii) Focus on activities and people in the last year
- 4) How
 - a) Students completed both interviews on the same day with different interviewers and in different order
 - b) Descriptive statistics
 - i) students' responses on each interview --attention to correspondence between students' responses on the NCI-ACS's Community Inclusion Subscale, Expanded Friendships, and Loneliness items and students' reported Activities on the social network interview.
 - c) Two student cases were selected to further illustrate the range of responses:
 - i) John, age 20, completing his second year and reporting many activities on the social network interview
 - ii) Kate, age 24, just prior to starting the program and reporting very few activities on the social network interview
- 5) Comparing Responses
 - a) Participation: NCI-ACS

- (1) What percentage of students reported participation in activities on the NCI-ACS Community Inclusion Subscale items? How did their responses compare to a similar age (18-34) group nationally and in the state?
 - (2) Table Data: Comparing Responses to 4 Items by Program, State, and National Groups.
 - (a) Item: Shopping
 - (i) Program 91%, n=12
 - (ii) State 100%, n=159
 - (iii) National 100%, n=9,814
 - (b) Item: Errands and Appointments
 - (i) Program 91%, n=12
 - (ii) State 87%, n=152
 - (iii) National 84%, n=9,760
 - (c) Item: Entertainment
 - (i) Program 82%, n=12
 - (ii) State 56%, n=156
 - (iii) National 73%, n=9,782
 - (d) Item: Restaurants/Coffee Shops
 - (i) Program 91%, n=12
 - (ii) State 72%, n=155
 - (iii) National 85%, n=9,791
 - ii) In response to the NCI-ACS interview, with whom did students report doing these community activities?
 - (1) All students reported doing these activities “with family and friends.” One or two students also indicated on some items that they sometimes do activities alone.
- b) Participation: Social Network Interview
- i) In response to the social network interview, what types of activities were identified by students?
 - (1) Across the 12 students, a total of n=121 activities were listed. Individual students listed 5 to 18 activities (average n=10).
 - (2) Table Data: Distribution of Activities by Purpose, Location, and Integration.
 - (a) Purpose
 - (i) Social n=82, 68%
 - (ii) Work n=25, 21%
 - (iii) Academic n=14, 12%
 - (b) Location
 - (i) Community n=62, 51%
 - (ii) University Campus n=45, 37%
 - (iii) High School n=7, 6%
 - (c) Integration
 - (i) Integrated n=80, 66%
 - (ii) Hybrid n=25, 21%
 - (iii) Specialized n=16, 13%

- ii) On the social network interview, with whom did students report doing activities and how did they characterize their relationships?
 - (1) Students identified n=181 unique individuals or groups (range 3-34, average 15) with whom they engaged across their 121 social network activities. A total of n=201 individuals or groups were mentioned in connection with activities (individuals or groups sometimes shared more than a single activity with a student).
 - (2) Table Data: Characteristics of Relationships by Type of Relation, Time Known, Reciprocity, and Closeness.
 - (a) Relation
 - (i) Peers n=60, 33%
 - (ii) Authority n=55, 30%
 - (iii) Family n=41, 23%
 - (iv) Acquaintance/Group n=25, 14%
 - (b) Time Known
 - (i) Just Met/1 year n=58, 32%
 - (ii) Longtime (greater than or equal to 5 years) n=56, 31%
 - (iii) Few Years (less than or equal to 4 years) n=49, 27%
 - (iv) Mixed Group n=18, 10%
 - (c) Reciprocity
 - (i) Equal n=108, 60%
 - (ii) Student Receives n=41, 23%
 - (iii) Group/Can't Decide n=21, 12%
 - (iv) Student Gives n=11, 6%
 - (d) Closeness
 - (i) Very Close n=87, 48%
 - (ii) Sort of/Not Close n=71, 39%
 - (iii) Group/Can't Decide n=23, 13%
- c) Agreement on NCI-ACS and Social Network Interview
 - i) Do student reports of activities on the NCI-ACS Community Inclusion Subscale items and the social network (SN) interview agree?
 - (1) There is limited agreement.
 - (2) Table Data: Number and Percentage of Respondents Who Identified Activities from the Community Inclusion Subscale and Other Community Activities on Both Interviews, Neither Interview, the NCI-ACS interview only, or the social network (SN) interview only.
 - (a) Item: Shopping
 - (i) Both n=3, 25%
 - (ii) Neither n=2, 17%
 - (iii) NCI-ACS Only n=7, 58%
 - (iv) SN Only n=0, 0%
 - (b) Item: Errands and Appointments
 - (i) Both n=0, 0%
 - (ii) Neither n=2, 17%

- (iii) NCI-ACS Only n=10, 83%
 - (iv) SN Only n=0, 0%
 - (c) Item: Entertainment
 - (i) Both n=10, 83%
 - (ii) Neither n=0, 0%
 - (iii) NCI-ACS Only n=0, 0%
 - (iv) SN Only n=2, 17%
 - (d) Item: Restaurants/Coffee Shops
 - (i) Both n=1, 8%
 - (ii) Neither n=2, 17%
 - (iii) NCI-ACS Only n=9, 75%
 - (iv) SN Only n=0, 0%
 - (e) Item: Religious Services
 - (i) Both n=6, 50%
 - (ii) Neither n=6, 50%
 - (iii) NCI-ACS Only n=0, 0%
 - (iv) SN Only n=0, 0%
 - (f) Item: Group Involvement
 - (i) Both n=10, 83%
 - (ii) Neither n=0, 0%
 - (iii) NCI-ACS Only n=0, 0%
 - (iv) SN Only n=2, 17%
 - (g) Item: Vacation
 - (i) Both n=1, 8%
 - (ii) Neither n=2, 17%
 - (iii) NCI-ACS Only n=9, 75%
 - (iv) SN Only n=0, 0%
- d) Expanded Friendships/Loneliness: NCI-ACS
 - i) What percentage of students reported having expanded friendships and what percentage reported being lonely on the Community Inclusion Subscale items of the NCI-ACS? How did their responses compare to a similar age (18-34) group in the state and nationally?
 - (1) All students had expanded friendships. 5 of 7 new students reported being lonely very often or sometimes. Of 5 students in the program, 1 in his 2nd year reported being lonely sometimes although his network of activities and people were among the largest in the sample.
 - (2) Table Data: Comparing Responses on Friendship Item by Program (n=12), State (n=140), and National Groups (n=6,496).
 - (a) Expanded Friendships
 - (i) Program 100%
 - (ii) State 72%
 - (iii) National 78%
 - (b) Staff/Family Friendships Only
 - (i) Program 0%

- (ii) State 16%
- (iii) National 14%
- (c) No Friendships
 - (i) Program 0%
 - (ii) State 11%
 - (iii) National 8%

(3) Table Data: Comparing Responses on Loneliness Item by Program (n=12), State (n=137), and National Groups (n=6,303).

- (a) Not Lonely
 - (i) Program 50%
 - (ii) State 61%
 - (iii) National 61%
- (b) Sometimes Lonely
 - (i) Program 25%
 - (ii) State 23%
 - (iii) National 14%
- (c) Often Lonely
 - (i) Program 25%
 - (ii) State 15%
 - (iii) National 10%

6) Two Case Illustrations

a) John's Social Experiences

i) Social Network Activities

- (1) 15 activities (5 more than average for the sample).
- (2) 6 activities were community-based and 9 campus-based.
- (3) 11 of the activities identified as social, 3 as work, and 1 as academic.
- (4) 1 activity was specialized, 2 were hybrid, and 12 were integrated.
- (5) 8 activities done weekly, 3 occasionally, 2 monthly, 2 annually.

ii) Social Network People

- (1) 25 unique individuals associated with social network activities (10 more individuals than average for the sample).
- (2) 13 peers, 7 authorities, 4 acquaintances/groups, and 2 family.
- (3) 10 were met within the last year, 10 were known for a few years, 5 long time or mixed group.
- (4) 16 reciprocal relationships, 4 provided help, and 2 received help.
- (5) 10 individuals were considered very close.

iii) NCI-ACS Items

- (1) Participation in shopping, errands, entertainment, dining out, community groups, and vacation.
- (2) Expanded friendships and not lonely.

b) Kate's Social Experiences

i) Social Network Activities

- (1) 5 activities (5 less than the average for the sample).
- (2) 4 activities were community-based and 1 home-based.

- (3) 3 activities identified as social, 2 as work.
 - (4) 1 activity was identified as specialized, 2 hybrid, 2 integrated.
 - (5) 2 activities done weekly, 2 occasionally, 1 monthly.
 - ii) Social Network People
 - (1) 3 unique individuals associated with her social network activities. (12 less than average for the sample.)
 - (2) 1 identified as mixed group of peers, 1 as an authority, 1 as family
 - (3) 1 known for a long time, 1 for few years, and the group was mixed length.
 - (4) 1 person provided help, 1 received help, and the group was mixed reciprocity.
 - (5) 1 individual very close.
 - iii) NCI-ACS Items
 - (1) Participation in shopping, errands, community group, and vacation, but not entertainment and dining out.
 - (2) Expanded friendships and very often lonely.
- 7) Discussion Points
- a) Two interviews capture different pictures of social experiences
 - i) Mundane community activities (e.g., errands) reported on NCI-ACS go unreported on social network interview, perhaps due to interviewer prompts or memorableness of activity.
 - ii) More detail about integration, purpose of activities, and associated people on social network interview.
 - b) Comparison groups
 - i) May not be similar populations; traditional NCI-ACS respondents may have more extensive support needs than students in college program.
 - c) Social networks and loneliness
 - i) Consider adding loneliness item to social network interviews.
 - ii) Administering both interviews highlights that extensive networks may not always be associated with lack of loneliness.
 - iii) Consider delineating between activities conducted with families and friends on NCI-ACS.