

BSc Mental Health
ECAP4006: Research Methods: An Introduction

Report 2 guidance

Both research report assessments must adhere to APA style of research report structure and APA 7th ed referencing style.

Title

Short title that is placed on a single page at the beginning of the report (there should be nothing other than the title on this page) – e.g., Exploring the difference in depression levels between males and females.

Abstract

Starting on page 2, the abstract is a summary of the research report in no more than 150 words. The abstract should contain the key/important information from each of the four main sections: introduction (background research), method, results (main findings) and discussion.

Introduction

Starting on page 3, start to introduce the literature/research that you have read that gives an overall idea of the topic you are exploring in the study – i.e., the prevalence of depression in males and females.

There are several articles available on Moodle to get you started on this and you should aim to combine these articles with articles that you have retrieved yourselves to provide a strong rationale for the study. At the end of this section, you should offer a specific hypothesis (a statement that will be tested through the independent samples t-test analysis). E.g., it is hypothesised that females will present with higher levels of depression than males (remember that this **must** be based upon the literature you have included up until this point).

Method

Participants

Participants were a sample of undergraduate students recruited via email invitation, and so the recruitment method was volunteer sampling.

Report the number of participants that took part in the study (plus any information about how many were males/females). Range of ages of participants and the mean and SD of age.

Demographic information of participants for your report:

Thirty participants in total; 18 males and 12 females

Range of ages 18-45. $M = 28.80$, $SD = 8.08$

All participants self-declared that they did not have a current or previous clinical diagnosis of depression.

Design

The design = between-subjects; participants were categorised into two groups based upon their gender.

The independent variable was gender (male or female) and the dependent variable was the level of depression reported by participants on the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Short Depression Scale (CES-D-R 10).

The test used to analyse data will be the independent samples t-test.

Materials

Consider the following in completing this section and write the materials section overall in paragraph format. For guidance, participants were instructed to complete the CES-D-R-10 (Bjorgvinsson et al., 2013) online via the survey administration tool Qualtrics.

- How many questions are contained within the CES-D-R-10?
- Were there any specific instructions at the beginning of the questionnaire?
- What was the scoring mechanism for each question?
- Provide an example of a question.
- What was the possible range of total scores (possible lowest to possible highest)?
- What do higher scores represent?
- Were there any 'cut-offs'? (e.g., a score of over X is considered depressed – see questionnaire).

Procedure

Volunteer sample of undergraduate students → study completed using Qualtrics → informed consent provided online → demographics questionnaire → CES-D-R-10 completed → debrief and thanked for participation.

Results

An independent samples t-test was conducted to explore the difference in levels of depression in males and females.

The mean scores and SD's must be reported for each condition, and the t-test formula must be included in the correct format (see example results sections on Moodle).

Relate findings to hypothesis (is the experimental hypothesis supported or must the null hypothesis be accepted?)

Discussion

Reiterate main findings. How do these findings relate to previous research findings (the literature/references you have included in your introduction to this report?) Why do you think the findings were as they were? What other factors could be discussed in relation to this topic? Are there any areas that could be expanded upon for future research? Discuss, critique and support your claims with literature to make this section stronger.

References

Start your reference list on a brand-new page.

Remember that your references must be in APA 7th ed style and in alphabetical order.

Do not bullet point or number references.

Appendices

To be included (all on Moodle)

- Consent form
- Debrief form
- Copy of CES-D-R-10 questionnaire (screenshot or use snipping tool to include as a picture – no word doc version available)
- SPSS output