

Making Large Studies Work

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The Study: The Nature of Nursing Practice in Rural and Remote Canada

Aim:

- to examine and articulate the nature of registered nursing practice in primary care, acute care, community health, continuing care (home care) and long term care settings within rural and remote Canada



The Study Components

- Survey
- Registered Nurses Data Base (RNDB)
- Narrative Study
- Documentary Analysis



Principal Investigators and Decision-maker

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Funding Partners

- **Canadian Health Services Research Foundation**
- **Canadian Institutes of Health Research**
- **Nursing Research Fund**
- **Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care**
- **Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research**
- **Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research**
- **Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation**
- **British Columbia Rural and Remote Health Research Institute**
- **Saskatchewan Economic and Cooperative Development**
- **Provincial and Territorial Nurses Associations**
- **Government of Nunavut**
- **Canadian Institute for Health Information**



Project Germination

August 1999	“a casual comment”
October 1999	Saskatoon, Prince George
Applications	
November 1999	CHSRF Open Grants Competition: Submission of LOI
March 2000	Submission of full application
June 2000	CHSRF-Conditional approval
Summer 2000	CHSRF-Request for additional information/clarification
December 2000	Resubmission of full application
April 2001	Official grant approval
May 2001	Project underway
August 2001	All sub-contracts signed



Project Implementation

February 2002

RNDB: CIHI publishes Supply & Distribution of Registered Nurses in Rural and Small Town Canada

June 2002

Documentary Analysis: Health Policy Development: Connections to Nursing - An Annotated Bibliography

July 2002

Documentary Analysis: Interim report

November 2002

Survey - data collection complete

Narratives - data collection almost complete

What is needed to make a large
study work?

Infrastructure, funding and time

- Funding for project development
- Don't underestimate infrastructure or time needed

Building a team: Building trust

- Developing a well-working, trusting core group
- Developing and recognizing the team
- Making the most of various talents
- Communicate, communicate, communicate

Doing the work; Reporting the findings

- Keeping the momentum going over time and across sites
- Working through different perspectives
- Keeping mindful of new technologies and knowledge translation strategies

Keeping the long range in sight

- Including front-line rural nurses as advisors and co-investigators
- Mobilizing research training opportunities
- Developing new kinds of links between larger and smaller universities
- Building on the researcher-decision maker relationships

The Nature of Nursing Practice

Capturing opportunities:

- Answering the research, policy and practice questions
- Developing new, related lines of inquiry
- Building rural nursing research capacity and infrastructure