

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

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ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Influence of COVID-19 on the preventive health behaviours of Indigenous Peoples of Australia residing in New South Wales: A mixed method study protocol
AUTHORS	Usher, Kim; Bhullar, Navjot; Sibbritt, David; Anubha Amarasena, Suruchi (Sue); Peng, Wenbo; Durkin, Joanne; Smallwood, Reakeeta; Power, Tamara; Porter, Cheryl; McCowen, Debbie; Jackson, Debra

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Kasemy, Zeinab Menoufia University Faculty of Medicine, Public Health and Community Medicine
REVIEW RETURNED	04-Feb-2021

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>Study Protocol to Assess the Impact of COVID-19 on Preventive Health Behaviours among Indigenous Peoples in Australia Thanks for your efforts. It is an interesting subject but may I have some comments if you please:</p> <p>Abstract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim: is so confusing and not well written. You may try “This study aims at exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on current preventive health behaviours and its associated engaging barriers and enablers and hence to formulate a targeted intervention strategy” - Methods: is long and not arranged. You may try “A bi-designed study (quantitative and qualitative aspects) will be employed. Descriptive analysis of MBS data about the characteristics of Indigenous Peoples of Australia claiming health assessment services will be performed. Generalized Estimating Equation (GEE) regression models will be used to examine the use of health assessment services over time. Thematic approach guided by the principles of Indigenist praxis, storytelling and collaborative research will be used to analyze the Interview data. An ethics application has been submitted to the ethics committee requesting access to the MBS data. For the interviews, the project has approval from the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales (AH&MRC of NSW). Findings will be disseminated via peer-reviewed journal articles, conferences, government and relevant stakeholder reports, and infographics. <p>Background:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sometimes you mentioned “people” others “Peoples or populations” please choose one as peoples word is used for specific ethnic group while people word is used generally - Too long sentence “Indigenous populations experience exclusion and marginalisation from mainstream Western bio-medical models of healthcare and previous research has identified barriers to
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	<p>regular treatment and follow-up through primary care services including racial discrimination, poor communication, distance and travel issues (accessibility), and financial concerns [4, 5], leading to the development and delivery of Indigenous primary health care through specialized community-controlled health services.” You may try “Indigenous populations experience exclusion or marginalization from mainstream Western bio-medical models of healthcare. Previous research has identified barriers to regular treatment and follow-up through primary care services including racial discrimination, poor communication, distance and travel issues (accessibility), and financial concerns [4, 5].” Try to divide the sentence to have a good meaning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entire introduction could be shortened to ¾ pages, not more. Please be specific, write targeted sentences. <p>The aim of the work: This study aims at exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on current preventive health behaviours and its associated engaging barriers and enablers and hence to formulate a targeted intervention strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research question: you have just pre and during, we have not finished of COVID-19 yet. <p>Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study design and procedure : needs to be rewritten as we have not finished of COVID-19 yet - Sampling: For Phase 2, 15 to 20 qualitative interviews will be conducted at each participating site (n=80) using purposive sampling. On what base you choose these numbers 15-20 or 80 - Ethical consideration: please rewrite in a more clearly short way. - Data analysis: on what base you determined “Student’s t-test, analysis of variance (ANOVA)” be more generalized stats is an ocean you may change your tests according to your results in addition you examine trend so Student’s t-test, analysis of variance (ANOVA) are not suitable at all. <p>DISCUSSION: just write it will be managed accordingly and don't repeat yourself</p> <p>Language editing : is strongly and deeply recommended</p>
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REVIEWER	Fischer, Ilan University of Haifa, Psychology
REVIEW RETURNED	24-Feb-2021

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>The proposed study protocol aims to assess the impact of COVID-19 on health behaviours of Indigenous people in Australia</p> <p>The proposed study comprises two stages: (1) descriptive analyses of the characteristics of indigenous peoples of Australia claiming health assessment services; (2) interviews based on indigenous praxis of storytelling and yarning.</p> <p>The study’s goal is important, and so its expected insights and conclusions. Nevertheless, it is difficult to assess a study lacking any declared hypotheses, or structured sampling methodology. Given the exploratory nature of the proposed protocol, it may be better to separate the exploration stage from a somewhat more robust testing. For example, after surveying the MBS data, the researchers may want to ask themselves what the purpose of the next phase should be. Following the definition of meaningful hypotheses, an a priori sampling criterion should be defined.</p>
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	In a similar manner, the interview and yarning stage, may be stopped after a subset of participants has been surveyed. Then, based on the qualitative and quantitative analyses of these participants, a more focused set of hypothesis should be formed. This will allow compiling structured interviews, questionnaires or even more advanced empirical methods, such as simple games with implicit measures.
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer 1	<p>Dr. Zeinab Kasemy, Menoufia University Faculty of Medicine Comments to the Author:</p> <p>Study Protocol to Assess the Impact of COVID-19 on Preventive Health Behaviours among Indigenous Peoples in Australia Thanks for your efforts. It is an interesting subject but may I have some comments if you please:</p>	Thank you. We have revised the paper and responded to all of the comments.
Reviewer 1	<p>Aim: is so confusing and not well written. You may try “This study aims at exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on current preventive health behaviours and its associated engaging barriers and enablers and hence to formulate a targeted intervention strategy”</p>	Thank you. The aim has been amended in the paper and the abstract in line with your suggestion.
Reviewer 1	<p>Methods: is long and not arranged. You may try</p> <p>“A bi-designed study (quantitative and qualitative aspects) will be employed. Descriptive analysis of MBS data about the characteristics of Indigenous Peoples of Australia claiming health assessment services will be performed. Generalized Estimating Equation (GEE) regression models will be used to examine the use of health assessment services over time. Thematic approach guided by the principles of Indigenist praxis, storytelling and collaborative research will be used to analyze the Interview data.</p> <p>For the interviews, the project has approval from the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales (AH&MRC of NSW). Findings will be disseminated via peer-reviewed journal articles, conferences, government and</p>	<p>Thank you for this comment, we have written more clearly and significantly reduced in size as requested.</p> <p>Thank you for this comment, we have written more clearly and reduced in size as requested.</p>

	relevant stakeholder reports, and infographics.	
Reviewer 1	<p>Sometimes you mentioned “people” others “Peoples or populations” please choose one as peoples word is used for specific ethnic group while people word is used generally</p> <p>- Too long sentence “Indigenous populations experience exclusion and marginalisation from mainstream Western bio-medical models of healthcare and previous research has identified barriers to regular treatment and follow-up through primary care services including racial discrimination, poor communication, distance and travel issues (accessibility), and financial concerns [4, 5], leading to the development and delivery of Indigenous primary health care through specialized community-controlled health services.” You may try “Indigenous populations experience exclusion or marginalization from mainstream Western bio-medical models of healthcare. Previous research has identified barriers to regular treatment and follow-up through primary care services including racial discrimination, poor communication, distance and travel issues (accessibility), and financial concerns [4, 5],.” Try to divide the sentence to have a good meaning.</p>	<p>Thank you. We have been through the document and ensured consistency in language.</p> <p>Thank you. This language has been modified and all sentence are appropriate in length.</p>
Reviewer 1	The entire introduction could be shortened to ¾ pages, not more. Please be specific, write targeted sentences.	Thank you for this comment. We have shortened the material as requested.
	<p>The aim of the work: This study aims at exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on current preventive health behaviours and its associated engaging barriers and enablers and hence to formulate a targeted intervention strategy</p> <p>- Research question: you have just pre and during, we have not finished of COVID-19 yet.</p>	<p>Thank you for this comment. We have revised the aim.</p> <p>Thank you. The reference to post- has been removed.</p>
Reviewer 1	<p>Methods:</p> <p>- Study design and procedure : needs to be rewritten as we have not finished of COVID-19 yet</p>	Thank you. This section has been rewritten in line with the comments.

	<p>- Sampling: For Phase 2, 15 to 20 qualitative interviews will be conducted at each participating site (n=80) using purposive sampling. On what base you choose these numbers 15-20 or 80</p> <p>- Ethical consideration: please rewrite in a more clearly short way.</p> <p>- Data analysis: on what base you determined “Student’s t-test, analysis of variance (ANOVA)” be more generalized stats is an ocean you may change your tests according to your results in addition you examine trend so Student’s t-test, analysis of variance (ANOVA) are not suitable at all.</p>	<p>Thank you. Clarity around sample size has been provided. We anticipate this will be around 20 per site based on previous similar work we have conducted (now cited) and advice from the cultural advisory committee.</p> <p>This section has now been amended.</p> <p>Thank you this has been amended. The group difference tests for descriptive cross-sectional data (e.g., t-tests, ANOVAs) are noted to examine the group differences for key demographic variables in the outcome variables. Thank you this has been amended. GEE regression models and statistical cohort charts will be used to investigate the use of health assessment services over time using the MBS data.</p>
Reviewer 1	<p>DISCUSSION: just write it will be managed accordingly and don’t repeat yourself Language editing : is strongly and deeply recommended</p>	<p>Thank you. The discussion has been rewritten and shortened to avoid the repetition.</p>
Reviewer 2	<p>Dr. Ilan Fischer, University of Haifa Comments to the Author: The proposed study protocol aims to assess the impact of COVID-19 on health behaviours of Indigenous people in Australia</p> <p>The proposed study comprises two stages: (1) descriptive analyses of the characteristics of indigenous peoples of Australia claiming health assessment services; (2) interviews based on indigenous praxis of storytelling and yarning.</p>	
Reviewer 2	<p>The study’s goal is important, and so its expected insights and conclusions. Nevertheless, it is difficult to assess a study lacking any declared hypotheses, or structured sampling methodology.</p>	<p>Please note that the goal of the proposed study is not hypothesis generation however, we have amended to explain that it may be possible that as</p>

	<p>Given the exploratory nature of the proposed protocol, it may be better to separate the exploration stage from a somewhat more robust testing. For example, after surveying the MBS data, the researchers may want to ask themselves what the purpose of the next phase should be. Following the definition of meaningful hypotheses, an a priori sampling criterion should be defined.</p>	<p>a result of this study, hypotheses may be formed that could inform future research.</p> <p>The key aim of the present exploratory study is to use a concurrent mixed-methods design to:</p> <p>(i) examine the preventive health service utilisation by Indigenous Australians (residing in NSW) using the National MBS database – this will be achieved by conducting appropriate descriptive and multivariate statistical analyses used in this type of research, and</p> <p>(ii) explore barriers to, and enablers of, preventive health service utilisation - this will be achieved by conducting qualitative interviews.</p>
Reviewer 2	<p>In a similar manner, the interview and yarning stage, may be stopped after a subset of participants has been surveyed. Then, based on the qualitative and quantitative analyses of these participants, a more focused set of hypothesis should be formed. This will allow compiling structured interviews, questionnaires or even more advanced empirical methods, such as simple games with implicit measures.</p>	<p>Thank you. We have addressed this comment.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Following analysis, findings will be taken back to the community for the purpose of developing strategies for improvement in the future and the development of potential further study hypotheses.</p>

VERSION 2 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Kasemy, Zeinab Menoufia University Faculty of Medicine, Public Health and Community Medicine
REVIEW RETURNED	02-Jun-2021
GENERAL COMMENTS	Thanks but please use accurate and right statistical tests

Correction: *Influence of COVID-19 on the preventive health behaviours of indigenous peoples of Australia residing in new south Wales: a mixed-method study protocol*

Usher K, Bhullar N, Sibbritt D, *et al.* Influence of COVID-19 on the preventive health behaviours of indigenous peoples of Australia residing in New South Wales: a mixed-method study protocol. *BMJ Open* 2021;11:e047404. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-047404.

This article was previously published with an error.

- ▶ Indigenous People has been capitalised throughout the paper.
- ▶ Orcid ids of authors have been added.
- ▶ Contributors and Patient and public involvement statements in the endnotes have been updated.

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