



MIXED METHODS APPROACHES FOR PREVENTION RESEARCH

Pre-conference Workshop

Society for Prevention Research

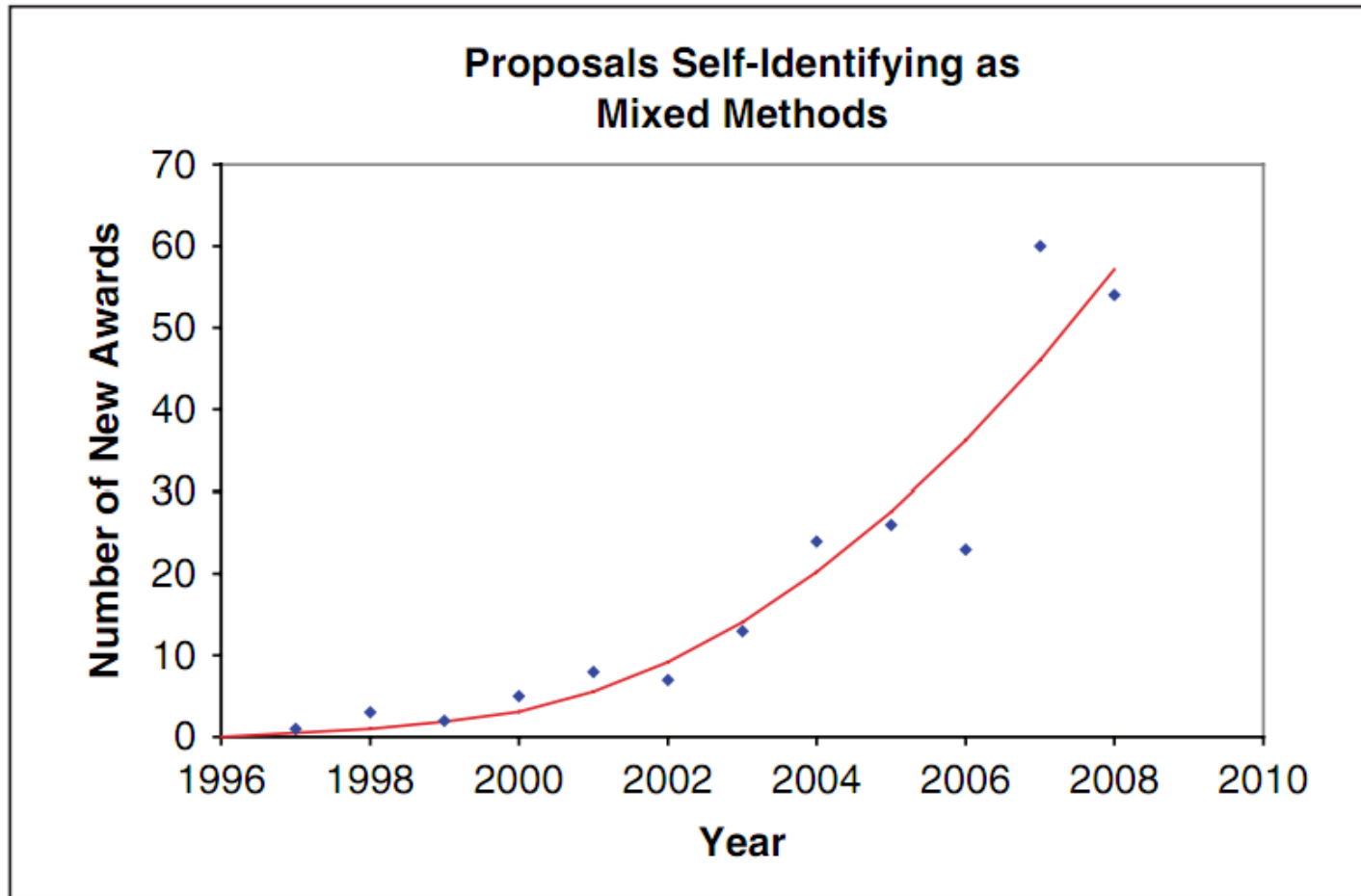
May 28, 2013

OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH



Extramural Mixed Methods Research at NIH

Use of mixed methods is increasing



Source: Plano Clark, V. L. (2010). The adoption and practice of mixed methods: U.S. trends in federally funded health-related research. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 6, 428-440.

Extramural Mixed Methods Research at NIH

Mixed Methods Research Funding by Government Agencies

Agency	1997-2008		2007-2008	
	Number of new awards in the sample ^a	% of new awards funded by the agency identified as mixed methods	Number of new awards in the sample ^b	% of new awards funded by the agency identified as mixed methods
★ National Institute of Mental Health	55 (24.3%)	0.5%	29 (25.4%)	1.5%
★ National Institute of Nursing Research	40 (17.7%)	2.3%	15 (13.2%)	4.9%
★ National Cancer Institute	24 (10.6%)	0.1%	9 (7.9%)	0.2%
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	19 (8.4%)	0.9%	9 (7.9%)	3.0%
★ National Institute on Drug Abuse	19 (8.4%)	0.3%	9 (7.9%)	0.7%
★ National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	17 (7.5%)	0.2%	11 (9.6%)	0.7%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ^c	10 (4.4%)	0.3%	7 (6.1%)	0.6%
★ National Institute on Aging	9 (4.0%)	0.1%	7 (6.1%)	0.5%
★ National Institute for Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	6 (2.7%)	0.05%	2 (1.8%)	0.1%
Other (14 different agencies)	27 (11.9%)	—	16 (14.0%)	—
Total	226 (100%)		114 (100%)	

a. The full sample includes 226 proposals that self-identified as using mixed methods from 1997 to 2008 (12 funding years).

b. This subsample includes 114 proposals that self-identified as using mixed methods from 2007 to 2008 (2 funding years).

c. The total for the CDC includes projects funded by the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

Source: Plano Clark, V. L. (2010). The adoption and practice of mixed methods: U.S. trends in federally funded health-related research. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 6, 428-440.

Best Practices for Mixed Methods Research in the Health Sciences

http://obssr.od.nih.gov/mixed_methods_research

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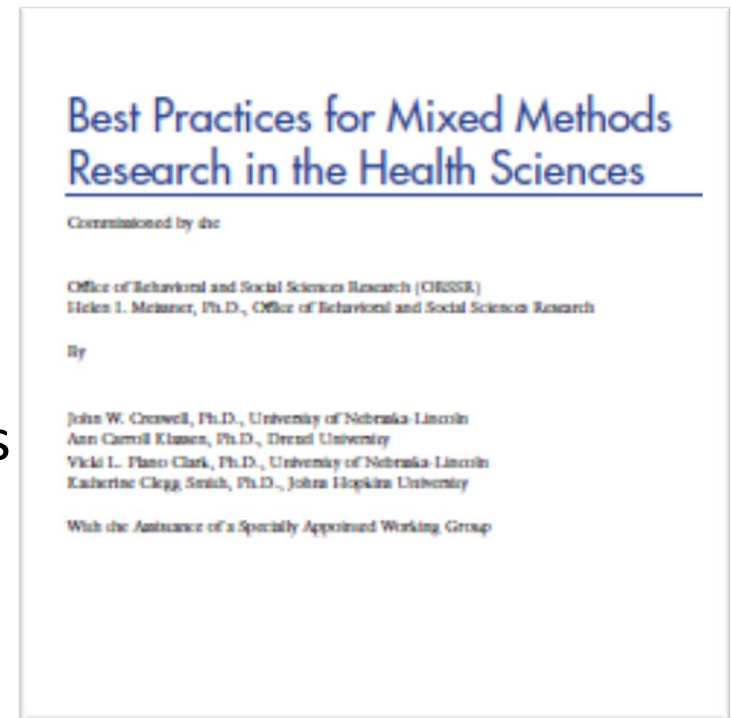


With assistance from a Specially Appointed Working Group

Best Practices for Mixed Methods Research in the Health Sciences

To serve as a resource for:

- **Investigators** using mixed methods in applications for NIH funding
- **Reviewers and staff** for NIH review panels
- **OBSSR and NIH Institutes and Centers** as they consider potential contributions of mixed methods research, select reviewers, plan new initiatives, and set priority areas



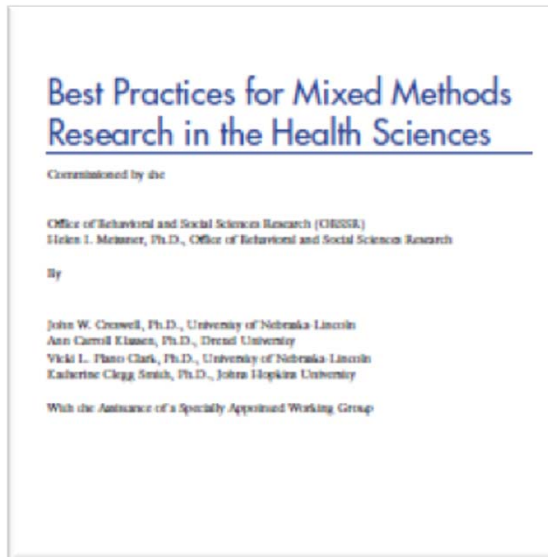
Best Practices for Mixed Methods Research in the Health Sciences



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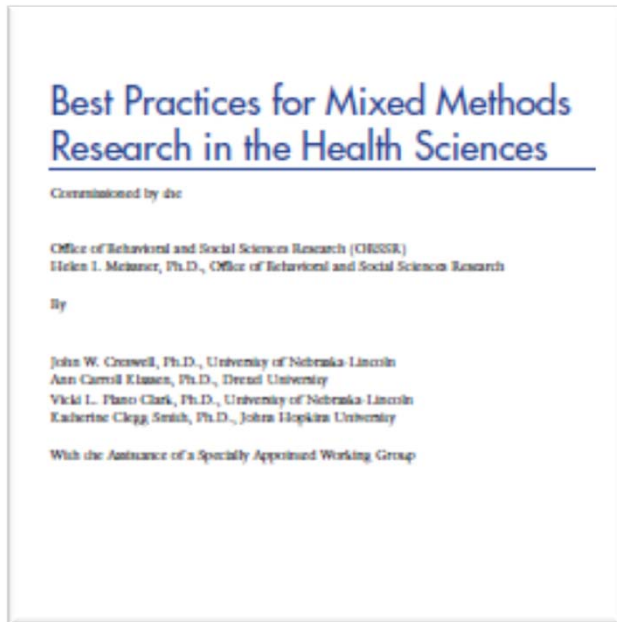
- ✓ Tips for mixed methods NIH research awards (R Series), fellowship awards (F Series), career awards (K Series), institutional training awards (T series), and research center awards (P Series) applications
- ✓ Types of mixed methods research & approaches
- ✓ Recommendations for designing mixed methods studies
- ✓ Examples of funded mixed methods studies
- ✓ Tips for forming research teams & building infrastructure

Examples of Tips for Applicants



- ✓ Provide a clear rationale for the use of mixed methods based on the study goals, questions, and aims.
- ✓ Take time to assemble a successful mixed methods team, not simply add people to fill methodological gaps. The group needs to meet regularly during the design phase and throughout the process.
- ✓ Describe the individuals on projects that hold qualitative expertise in addition to quantitative and mixed methods expertise.

Examples of Tips for Reviewers



- ✓ Look for evidence of ongoing collaboration and team process building in the biographical statements or publication records of applicants
- ✓ Be fair and constructive in comments, recognizing that mixed methods is a new, innovative methodology.
- ✓ Recognize that the application cannot educate everyone and be careful to use criteria that are appropriate for the content and methodological aspects of the application.

Mixed Methods Research Can Answer Significant Questions

- Public health problems for which neither a qualitative nor a quantitative approach by itself is sufficient.
 - ✓ Health disparities among populations, age groups, ethnicities, and cultures
 - ✓ Poor adherence to treatments
 - ✓ Behavioral factors contributing to disability and health
 - ✓ Translation of research to practice

Current Funding Opportunities

RFA-OD-13-009: **Short Courses on Innovative Methodologies in the Behavioral and Social Sciences** (R25) Due July 3, 2013

PAR-13-130/131/132: **Understanding and Promoting Health Literacy** (R01, R03, R21) Due Standard Dates; Expires May 2016

PAR-13-055/056/054: **Dissemination and Implementation Research In Health** (R01, R03, R21) Due Standard Dates; Expires January 2016

PA-12-024: **Practical Interventions to Address Multiple Chronic Health Conditions in Primary Care** (R01) Due Standard Dates; Expires January 2014

PA-12-022/023: **Practical Interventions to Improve Medication Adherence in Primary Care** (R01, R21) Due Standard Dates; Expires January 2014

PAR-11-314/315: **Systems Science and Health in the Behavioral and Social Sciences** (R01, R21) Due Standard Dates; Expires September 2014

Best Practices for Mixed Methods Research:

http://obssr.od.nih.gov/mixed_methods_research

Join the listserv

OBSSR announces NIH funding opportunities

Send an e-mail message to:

listserv@list.nih.gov

**The message should read SUBscribe BSSR-Guide-L
[your full name]**



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Panel: Tips for writing mixed methods grants