



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**



Cochrane
Methodology Reviews

Research Design and Methodology

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Some things to think about

- What is the problem you want to address?
- What is your research question?
- Why do you want to answer this?
- Who will use your answer and what impact will it have?
- What study design will you use?
- Who are you going to study?
- What are you going to do with them?
- How long will your study (and its impact) take?
- Do you have funding partners?
- Why will your study succeed?

Is your study a good fit for the NICHS?

Try to break your study
while preparing the
application, so that **you** can
put it back together
stronger, making it less
likely that someone else will
break it after you submit it

**Getting the
research
question right**

Defining the research question is a vital first step, because ...

It (ie everything else you will do) depends on that question.

- Is a vegetarian diet good?
- Does drinking a cup of coffee make people happy?

Is a vegetarian diet good?

- What is a vegetarian diet?

Is a vegetarian diet good?

- What does 'good' mean?

Is a vegetarian diet good?

- Good for whom?

Is a vegetarian diet good?

- Compared to what?

Is a vegetarian diet good?

- What is a vegetarian diet?
- What does 'good' mean?
- Good for whom?
- Compared to what?

Does drinking a cup of coffee make people happy?

- What is a cup of coffee?

Does drinking a cup of coffee make people happy?

- What people?

Does drinking a cup of coffee make people happy?

- What does 'happy' mean?

Does drinking a cup of coffee make people happy?

- Compared to what?

Does drinking a cup of coffee make people happy?

- What is a cup of coffee?
- What people?
- What does 'happy' mean?
- Compared to what?

Defining the research question is a vital first step, because ...

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Formulating a research question

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Choosing the study design

What design?

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Your design needs to match your question

- Comparing the effects of interventions
 - ➡ randomised trial
- Identifying risk factors
 - ➡ case control or cohort study
- Estimating the size of the problem
 - ➡ survey
- Better understanding of people
 - ➡ qualitative research

**Why should
NICHHS invest in
your study?**

Justify your study

NICHHS

- How well does your study fit with the NICHHS strategy and their priorities for the services they provide?
- Why should a Northern Ireland charity fund you?
- When will your study deliver impact (<5 years)?

PPI

- What personal, patient and public involvement have you had?
- If you are developing or evaluating an intervention, is it co-produced?

Research

- How will you avoid research waste?
- Is there a systematic review to justify your new study?
- How did you decide what outcomes to collect?
- Will your study contribute to helping Northern Ireland's health and social care research to become more resilient and grow?

How much would you pay for the answer to your research question?

More help and advice

Northern Ireland Implementation Plan for Clinical Research Recovery, Resilience and Growth

www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-implementation-plan-clinical-research-recovery-resilience-and-growth

tinyurl.com/f76w7u57



HSC Statistical and Methodological Support Service

research.hscni.net/hsc-statistical-and-methodological-support

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