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RESEARCH PARTICIPATION AMONG PEOPLE WITH SMI

Reasons for engaging in research among people with serious mental illnesses

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Highlights

- People with SMI gave reasons for engaging in research similar to those of the general population
- “Improving housing” was an additional reason unique to this population
- Individual characteristics were not significantly associated with reasons for participation
- 29% of participants reported making changes to housing or well-being since study participation

Abstract

People generally participate in research for three primary reasons: financial, altruistic/social, and personal/psychological. While we would expect individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) to share these reasons, this assumption has not been investigated. Ninety-two adults with SMI living in supportive housing were interviewed about their reasons for participating in a study examining their housing, well-being, and community experiences. Associations between participant characteristics and reasons for research participation were explored. Primary reasons for participation included “contributing to science/research” (37%, n=34), “money” (33%, n=30), “improving housing” (22%, n=20), “having someone to talk to” (2%, n=2) and other (6%, n=6). Secondary reasons were “money” (38%, n=31), “contributing to science/research” (24%, n=20), “improving housing” (24%, n=20), “having someone to talk to” (2%, n=2) and other (11%, n=9). Additionally, 29% (n=27) reported making housing or well-being changes since participating. Individual characteristics were not significantly associated with reasons for research participation. Participants’ reasons for research participation mirrored the general population, with “improving housing” being a unique motivating factor. Participation

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