



Rural children and their communities leading the way toward the enhancement of sports and recreation: The findings

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Background

- Community partnership  ↔ 
- Funding: SSHRC → Sport Participation Research Initiative (SPRI)
- Rural perspective
 - Social benefits of sport participation
 - Sport participation
- Children and their communities as partners

Purpose/Objectives

Purpose: To engage rural preadolescent children in the development of research questions that are relevant and meaningful to exploring their participation and commitment to sport and other recreational activities

Objectives:

- 1) To understand the children's experience and engagement in the participation of sport and recreational activities
- 2) To discover from the children's perspective, those factors that should be incorporated into future research aimed at exploring sport in children
- 3) To discover the most appropriate methodological approaches for engaging children in research processes

Methods

All data collected through focus group interviews

Interview 1

A group of children for the purposes of developing research questions, methods of recruitment, approaches to knowledge dissemination

Meet with SK Sport

Interview 2

Groups of 6-8 children for the purposes of gaining an understanding of children's experience in sport

Interview 3

Following analysis of data, confirmation of findings with the group of 6-8 children

Meet with SK Sport

Findings

Interview 1 - Question development phase

Four areas were identified:

- 1) Motivation
- 2) Feelings
- 3) Balance
- 4) Pathway to Participation

Interview 2 – Understanding children’s experience



Potential strategies:

- Cost of activities
- Demands of activities
- Competition vs recreational activities
- Opportunities to 'try it'
- Recruitment materials – for children by children

Limitations

- Small sample size
- Rural setting only
- Self selection of participants

Conclusions

- Children are active productive participants in the research process
- The four factors of influence in participation are ***motivation, feelings, balance in activities, and pathway to participation***
- Engage the community, including children, in exploring strategies that enhance children's experience and engagement in sport