

Chapter 6.5 Doing Health EDRM research in the field

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Further reading

1. Hilhorst DJM, Hodgson L, Jansen BJ, Mena Fluhmann RA. Security guidelines for field research in complex, remote and hazardous places. 2016.

Summary of this document: Conducting Health EDRM research in the field presents safety and security risks not only for subjects but also for researchers. Understanding the diverse nature of risks facing field researchers can ensure the success of a research project and safety of researchers.

In this manual, the authors provide research guidance on risk management for fieldwork. It emphasizes that conditions in a research location can vary, ranging from sustained conflicts to seemingly stable conditions that rapidly deteriorate. The manual describes security concerns presented by fieldwork along with ethical guidelines for addressing them. It then outlines planning and risk management initiatives that researchers can undertake. Finally, the authors provide a series of checklists for researchers to use to ensure their safety in the field. The authors conclude that due to the unpredictability of security risks, proactive planning and thorough training are important in protecting researchers.

2. Liamputtong P. Researching the vulnerable: a guide to sensitive research methods. London, United Kingdom: SAGE Publications. 2007.

Summary of this document: Working with vulnerable populations raises important methodological and social issues to which researchers must be able to respond.

In this book, the author introduces a guide to approaching vulnerable groups in a methodologically rigorous and socially conscious manner. The book discusses important considerations including access to vulnerable groups, ethical concerns, and equitable representation. It explores emerging forms of data collection, including the use of art and technology. It also emphasizes the importance of reflection and planning when working with vulnerable groups. The book concludes that a “sensitive researcher” has both a scientific outlook and strong morals, and that they use their work to amplify the voices of underrepresented and marginalized people.

3. Ulin PR, Robinson ET, Tolley EE. Qualitative methods in public health: A field guide for applied research. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass. 2005.

Summary of this document: In this textbook, the authors provide a comprehensive overview of the planning and execution of qualitative studies in public health. It introduces the principles of qualitative research and study design, along with data collection, analysis, and dissemination. The appendices of the book provide samples of documents frequently encountered in qualitative research along with tips on publishing research. This textbook also makes extensive use of case studies, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health.

