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Phonetic spelling of your (full) name

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Research Category

Community Health / Policy

Abstract Title

Honouring Indigenous Voices: Exploring Engagement Through the PEIRS-22

Authors

Name	Role	Profession
Easton Vermeulen	Presenting Author	

Will they participate in the poster presentation at CHRD?

Yes

What is their name?

Easton Vermeulen

Background

Limited quantitative research has measured engagement within Indigenous contexts, yet meaningful engagement is crucial to holistic, community-based research with Indigenous participants. The Patient Engagement In Research Scale (PEIRS-22) measures perceived engagement across seven domains.

Objective

This study examined engagement among Indigenous community members and investigated whether engagement differed by participant role, prior BEAM experience, and Indigenous identity.

Methods

Participants were Indigenous Elders, community members, and service providers who attended the first BEAM Indigenous knowledge exchange event. Seventeen participants completed the PEIRS-22, with REDCap and SPSS used to manage and analyze the quantitative data. Descriptive statistics and internal consistency were assessed, along with regression and correlational analyses, to investigate associations between engagement and participant demographics.

Results

The PEIRS-22 displayed strong internal consistency (Cronbach's $\alpha = .896$; standardized $\alpha = .908$). Overall perceived engagement was high ($M = 86.97$, $SD = 8.49$; $Mdn = 84.09$), exceeding the established threshold for very meaningful engagement. Across domains, contributions demonstrated the highest standardized mean ($M = 89.22$), while team environment demonstrated the lowest mean ($M = 83.32$). Service providers reported the highest engagement ($M = 91.10$), followed by Elders ($M = 88.26$) and

community members ($M = 81.25$). Participants with prior BEAM experience reported higher engagement ($M = 91.48$) than those without prior BEAM experience (84.26). The regression model was not statistically significant, $F(3,13) = 2.317$, $p = .123$, although it explained 34.8% of variance in engagement ($R^2 = .348$), with community role showing the strongest association ($\beta = .460$, $p = .070$).

Conclusion

Participants reported meaningfully high engagement during the first knowledge exchange event, supporting continued community-engaged development of the BEAM Indigenous adaptation. Preliminary differences by community role and engagement domain highlight potential areas for strengthening relational aspects of collaboration. Larger samples and replication are necessary to determine whether these patterns are consistent across future samples.