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Critical Analysis of Quantitative Research
Feb. 14, 2021

The study “Age Differences in COVID-19 Risk Perceptions and Mental Health” by Dr. Bruine de Bruin shows emotions from people of all ages at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The reason for this study is to find out early on how people are responding to the recent news of the COVID-19 pandemic. The study wants to find the correlations between age and a person’s idea of risks and their mental health in the pandemic. This was one of the first studies to be done about how people were dealing with the risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. The study was taken from March 10-31. This was the first month that the pandemic made itself present in the United States. It is when many schools and establishments had to shut down.

This study is important because it shows the very beginning of people's feelings towards a potentially life-threatening disease. The United States has not endured a disease of COVID-19s nature and was extremely underprepared. This study shows the crucial beginning of the pandemic and can be used as a guide for many other studies to come. The sample size of the experiment was 6,666 this gave the researchers the ability to talk to a plethora of people from many different backgrounds and all different ages. With COVID-19 being so new to the public at the time of the study this study it is interesting to see how each of the participants answer.

The participants were all members of the University of Southern California’s understanding America Study. They were aged 18-100 with a median of about 48. They were all selected from random addresses to obtain a truly national representation. For the study, the researchers asked the participants for their age, gender, education, and race/ethnicity. For their controlled variables in the study, the researchers wanted to know about the participant's demographics. These demographics would then be able to determine the averages of people in the United States. These demographics included whether they were male or female, the participants marital status, if the participant is of non-Hispanic white race/ethnicity, if the participant has a college education, if they are below-median in income, and if they live in states that were the worst-hit by COVID-19 at the time of the survey. These states included California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Washington. The group of participants was also split into half because half of the participants answered the study between March 10-12, 2020, and the other half March 13-31, 2020.

This article wants to show how the pandemic has affected the mental health of different age groups. However, because of the timing of the study, COVID-19 was still relatively new to

the public in the United States. This made many people unaware of what they were getting themselves into. Not many people believed that the pandemic would last this long. It is clear in the article that the participants in the study are not completely aware of COVID-19. A reader can tell this by seeing how those who are considered more elderly who participated in the survey answered their questions. They did not seem to view COVID-19 as a threat even though it targets those with weaker immune systems, such as the elderly.

The survey asked two types of questions. One group of questions was on the risk perceptions related to COVID-19 such as getting COVID-19, dying of COVID-19. Others include having to quarantine meaning that a participant may not have COVID-19 but was exposed to it in one way or another and has to isolate themselves for 14 days to make sure that they did not contract COVID-19. The other questions include losing your job due to the pandemic and running out of money due to the pandemic. The other group of questions was related to mental health. The depression and anxiety score with the subcategories of depression score and anxiety score. Also warning signs of depression and anxiety with the subcategories of warning signs of depression and warning signs of anxiety. By using the term warning signs the researchers mean

The overall hypothesis for the risk perception questions was that the elderly participants would feel less risk related to getting COVID, quarantining, losing their jobs, or running out of money. However, they would worry about dying from COVID-19. For the questions related to the mental health of the research participants, it was also hypothesized that many of the elderly would not be as prone to depression and anxiety due to COVID-19 or before the COVID-19 pandemic.

These hypotheses fit well this the research found in the article. It is clear throughout the article that the researchers worked to find research to support their study. The participants were all able to help further along with the information needed in the study. each participant gave clear responses that answered the researcher's questions. The researchers asked easy-to-understand questions and made it easy for the participants to include themselves in the study. along with that the hypothesis for each question was well thought out and researched. The researchers knew that the older adult participants would be more likely to feel as though they would die of COVID-19 if they were to contract it however, on the other hand, they would also show fewer signs of depression and anxiety because they have moved past major life events that

the everyday person finds stressful. These hypotheses could be found in other studies relating to mental health and age. However, this study is different because there were not any other studies about COVID-19's effect on people in the United States at the time of the study.

The sources that the researchers used were other studies on mental health specifically related to those who are older adults. These studies showed signs of how mental health affects people at different ages of life. These studies also show a wide array of backgrounds within their participants however none were exactly like Dr. Bruine de Bruin's study. One study that Dr. Bruine de Bruin used towards the end of the study talked about the ways that China was affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. This study talked about how China's older adult population reacted to being almost targeted by the disease. The study showed that even though the older adult population was able to help their mental health and not get sick from the virus by using online and through voice-over-internet counseling. This helped ease people's minds during a hard time. This study also helped Dr. Bruine de Bruin use it as an example to explain how older adults react to long-standing stressors in their life such as the pandemic.

Other studies that are used in this study helped identify that Dr. Bruine de Bruin's study would need to be redone over time as more developments on COVID-19 gather in the United States. These other studies show that also all agreed and played into this study. they all made it clear that this information was not new however, the situations that this information was being put into were new. Each concept from this study and the ones used as examples and research throughout it is clearly defined and understandable. The overall study is easy to read and understand.