Peer Support and Homelessness Data Files

These files contain the data from three individual but related research studies on peer support and homelessness that make up a PhD thesis and related publications. Each file has been numbered in the order it was conducted and the title contains information on the methods used.

Each file contains the relevant data (available upon request with proof of ethical approval), including a description of the methods and general demographic data. Participant identifying characteristics have been redacted from these files. Published reports of this data are identified within each file. Below is a brief description of the overall research question and objectives of the research project.

Project Type: PhD thesis

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Aims & Objectives

Those who have been socially excluded face extreme consequences—various conditions and diseases, mental illness, psychological isolation, and a higher chance of premature death (Aldridge et al., 2017). Although there are existing policies and treatment available for this population, homelessness still occurs. Homelessness services employ peers to engage this population in the UK, but there is little evidence to support this practice. Further, there is a need to clearly define underlying concepts within IPS and create substantial theory for future research to build upon. It is the aim of this thesis to explore what specific components comprise IPS and if it is a feasible treatment option for work with the homeless. The thesis’ research question, therefore, is what are the processes and elements of IPS interventions for a homeless population and the feasibility of assessing outcomes related to homelessness, mental health, addiction, and physical health? In order to answer this question, the following objectives have been identified:

1. Examine the current evidence base for the effectiveness of IPS with a homeless population
2. Add to the evidence base by exploring what participants’ identify as critical elements of IPS
3. Add to the evidence base by ascertaining participants’ experiences of providing and/or receiving IPS
4. Model process and outcomes in the development of a ‘middle-range theory’ of mentorship peer interventions that transcends contexts
5. Evaluate a model of IPS with a homeless population
6. Add to knowledge on this topic by explaining relationships between identified elements of IPS
7. Describe the intervention in detail for researchers and practitioners developing or improving IPS interventions
8. Assess the feasibility of testing the effectiveness of the defined IPS intervention on outcomes through methodologically rigorous means