

Attrition in longitudinal studies: Who do you lose?

Author/s: Young, A. F. Powers, J. R. Bell, S. L. | **Year:** 2006 | **Publication type:** Journal article | **Peer reviewed:** | **Topic area/s:** Researching CALD, Not Specific to CALD

Reference:

Key Words:

researching CALD, large survey, women, age, attrition

Research aim:

To describe the risk factors for various types of attrition in three age cohorts of women in a longitudinal study and to discuss strategies to minimise attrition.

Results/Conclusion:

Attrition at survey 2 was highest among younger women (32%), mainly because of participants not being contactable (21%), and lower among the older (16%) and mid-age women (10%). At survey 1, the survey 2 non-respondents were more likely to report having less education, being born in a non-English-speaking country and being a current smoker, in all cohorts, and had poorer health (mid-age and older cohort) and more difficulty managing on their income (younger and mid-age).

Implications:

there were several risk factors for attrition that remained consistent. These findings are important to inform future studies on ways to lessen or prevent systematic loss of participants.

Cultural Group(s):

Not specific to CALD (results on born in non-English speaking country)

Location of study:

Australia (national)

Age group:

Three age cohorts (18-23), (45-50), 70-75)

Number included in study:

40,395

Type of participants:

Women in three age cohorts

Research approach:

Quantitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes:

Researching CALD - found born in a non-English speaking country to lead to lower rates of staying in the study for all age groups