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| **The challenges of conducting population health intervention research (PHIR) in remote Indigenous communities** |
| **Background/objectives:** In 2014-2015, over 400 social housing units were constructed in Nunavik and Nunavut, two of the four Inuit regions in Northern Canada, where the prevalence of housing needs is several times the national average. A PHIR project was designed to assess the impacts of moving to a new house on living conditions and health outcomes. From the 289 participants at baseline, 102 completed the study. This project was developed, and conducted, in collaboration with Inuit organizations. Using this project as a case study, we critically examine some of the challenges in conducting PHIR in remote Indigenous communities and formulate recommendations for conducting valid quasi-experimental research in these types of settings.  **Methods:** We performed a systematic comparison of the research project as implemented with the research project as planned after the project has been completed.  **Results:** The feasibility of having a control group is a first challenge. Having comparable intervention and control groups is complex, difficult, and costly to operationalize. Ethical issues also arise. In Nunavik and Nunavut the elevated housing needs means that the right to an adequate shelter is not enjoyed by many. The intervention, hypothesized to improve living conditions and health outcomes, could not be attributed to all nor at different levels of intensity. A second challenge concerns the effect size of the intervention. Difficulties with participants’ retention in the study, the population’s high mobility, and research fatigue in the communities can greatly influence sample sizes. Adjustments in the interpretation of the effect sizes and thresholds for determining the success of interventions may be required.A third challenge pertains to the collaborative nature of the project, which was developed and conducted with knowledge users at all steps of the research process. Whereas rallying multisectoral actors and balancing scientific standards with communities’ desire for sustainable outcomes is not an easy task, the possibility to integrate those in decision-making positions in the research process presents opportunities for knowledge mobilization.  **Conclusion:** Although research is essential to inform badly needed interventions to improve living conditions in remote Indigenous communities, various conditions challenge rigorous study implementation in these populations. A critical appraisal of these conditions is required to ensure conclusions’ validity, and the relevance of PHIR conducted in these populations.  Keywords: Population Health Intervention Research, Indigenous Populations, Housing |