

The False Promise of Technology Use in Assisting People Experiencing Homelessness

Abe Oudshoorn

Western University, School of Nursing

aoudsho@uwo.ca, @abeoudshoorn

Introduction

- Health outcomes and people experiencing homelessness
- The digital divide
- Technology as intervention

Methods

- Cross-sectional survey
- 210 participants
- Multiple linear regression
- Relationship between internet use and wellbeing

Results

- No relationship between internet use and wellbeing in the context of homelessness
- Internet use related to age
- Wellbeing related to mental health and social support

Conclusions

- Breaking down the digital divide is not sufficient to anticipate changes in wellbeing
 - Need to understand confounding variables
 - Need to better refine out interventions