I. Review of Ethical Issues

II. Overview of Research Process

III. Identifying Problems and Formulating Research Questions

IV. Article Databases for Social Work
I. Review of Ethical Issues

- Voluntary Participation
- Informed Consent
  * No Harm/Distress to Participants
  * Protect Subject’s Privacy
  * No Deception
  * No Scientific Fraud or Misconduct
  * Avoid Bias and Insensitivity
II. Overview: Research Process

1. Problem formulation
   (including research questions, lit review)

2. Methodology
   - Operationalization and measurement
   - Study population and sampling
   - Research design & data collection
   - Data analysis plan

3. Implementation – Data collection

4. Data analysis

5. Dissemination
III. IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS & FORMULATING RESEARCH QUESTIONS
III. Problem Formulation

1. Selecting a research problem

   a) Personal interest/experience
      • Must demonstrate the scientific worth

   b) Social Problems

   c) Testing theory
Stress-Process Model (Pearlin et al.)

**BACKGROUND/CONTEXT**
- SES characteristics
- Family & network composition
- Program availability

**PRIMARY STRESSORS**
- Objective Status
  - Problematic behavior
  - ADL, IADL dependencies
- Subjective Indicators
  - Overload
  - Relational deprivation

**SECONDARY ROLE STRAINS**
- Family conflict
- Job-caregiving conflict
- Economic problem
- Construction of Social life

**SECONDARY INTRAPSYCHIC STRAINS**
- Global
  - Self-esteem
  - Matery
  - Situational
    - Loss of self
    - Role capacity
    - Competence
    - Gain

**OUTCOME**
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Irascibility
- Cognitive disturbance
- Physical health
- Yielding role

**MEDIATORS**
- Coping
- Social support
  - Spirituality/religiosity
  - Formal service utilization
III. Problem Formulation

1. Selecting a research problem

d) Prior research
   • Lit review is critical

e) Program evaluation

f) Human service practice
   • Behaviors of clients
   • Mode and process of practice
III. Problem Formulation

1. Selecting a research problem

   g) Political considerations
   • Political efficacy
   • Targeted funding
   • Power and minority status
II. Problem Formulation

2. Shaping/Refining the Problem

a) Conceptual development
   • Narrow the focus of the concept
2. Shaping/Refining the Problem

b) Review of literature

- Familiarize with the current status of knowledge
- Learn how others have done on similar problems
- Need basic library utilization skills
III. Problem Formulation

2. Shaping/Refining the Problem

c) Unit of analysis

- Individual
- Group
- Organization
- Program
III. Problem Formulation

3. Feasibility

a) Time constraints

b) Financial considerations
A good research question...

• is stated in the form of a question
• should express a relation between or among variables (clear independent and dependent variables)
• should be specific, rather than vague and general
• should be relevant to social work practice, theory and/or policy
• should be objective, unbiased, non-judgmental
Examples of Research Questions

* What is the relationship between the level of emotional distress experienced by child sexual abuse victims and various characteristics of the abuse experience?

* Is sex-role orientation a predictor of contraceptive behavior among adolescent females?

* How do spousal differences in proximity to the immigration experience and different levels of acculturation affect marital satisfaction in Mexican American married couples?
IV. Article Databases for Social Work

- Article Databases
- Online tutorials
NEXT TWO WEEKS:

HOW TO REVIEW LITERATURE

OTHER FACTORS INFLUENCING RESEARCH PROCESS

IMPORTANT TERMS