Introduction
There are multiple approaches to conducting research. Quantitative and qualitative research inform nursing practice, but quantitative research tends to be emphasized. At AAH, most nursing research studies (in excess of 90%) are quantitative in nature even when the research question focuses on the meaning of a phenomenon or experience of a research subject. Meaning and experiences are best elicited using qualitative methods. Using one method to answer a research question is sometimes not enough.

Purpose
This presentation will address the use of mixed methods – involving quantitative and qualitative data – to add value to a study and better answer the research question. Knowledge of the mixed methods approach to research may assist some nurses struggling with an appropriate research design.

Key Decision Points in Mixed Methods Designs
1) Choose a core mixed methods design
   1) Convergent design
   2) Explanatory sequential design
   3) Exploratory sequential design
2) Sampling
   1) Select sites and participants for quantitative component
   2) Select sites and participants for qualitative component
   3) combine or connect samples within a mixed methods design
3) Data integration plan
4) Metainferences

Create an integrated diagram for the study

- Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis
- Quantitative Data Collection and Analysis
- Mingle
- Combine with theme and inference

Interpretation of Joint Display
- Inferences are interpretations of what was learned by comparing the quantitative data to the qualitative data horizontally and vertically.
- The example above is an adaptation of a joint display of data in convergent mixed methods design. In this case, the qualitative subjects were not linked to their quantitative data. The joint display still allowed inferences to be made.

Table 1. Joint display plan for convergent mixed methods design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme 1</th>
<th>Theme 2</th>
<th>Theme 3</th>
<th>Theme 4</th>
<th>Inferences</th>
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Table 2. Example of adapted joint display table from Psychological Impact of Type II Violence on Nurses During the Pandemic study.

Implications for Practice
- Effective use of a mixed methods approach to research provides an option for nurses with complex research questions.
- Mixed methods more fully describe study findings.
- Study data needs to be in an appropriate format to allow readers to connect the study design, specific findings, and overall learning from the study.

References

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