

## USING HOME RECRUITMENT TO INCREASE REPRESENTATIVENESS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA RESEARCH

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**Introduction:** The participation rates in epidemiologic studies have declined in recent decades. Missing data reduce sample size, statistical power, and scientific quality. **Objective:** To study use of home interviews in recruiting individuals with a psychosis.

**Aims:** To evaluate effect of home-recruitment on non-response bias.

**Methods:** In the Northern Finland 1966 Birth Cohort, field surveys on psychosis were conducted in 1999-2001 and 2008-2010. In order to increase participation in the follow-up sample, cases were offered to be interviewed at home. We studied symptoms, illness severity, functioning, cognition, antipsychotics use, and grey matter (GM) volume between home-recruited and regular participants (RP), and non-participants (NP). Effect sizes (d) were calculated to compare the differences.

**Results:** Altogether 18 (33%) out of the follow-up sample (n=54) were home-recruited, 27 did not participate. Home-recruited had more symptoms, lower functioning, cognition and GM volume, and they had used more antipsychotics compared to RP and NP in baseline. NP did not differ from RP. The same differences occurred when home-recruited were compared with RP in the follow-up study.

	Home-recruited participants	Regular participants	Non-participants	ANOVA		
	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	P	d1	d2
PANSS, negative	19 (11)	12 (6)	14 (10)	0.028	0.89	0.48
PANSS, disorganization	21 (9)	15 (7)	16 (9)	0.033	0.81	0.60
PANSS, excitement	13 (5)	10 (2)	12 (5)	0.025	0.91	0.38
SOFAS	40 (19)	57 (15)	54 (15)	0.002	-1.04	-0.85
CVLT, total recall	39 (14)	51 (13)	44 (16)	0.032	-0.89	-0.30
Dose years	44 (47)	15 (18)	12 (13)	0.002	0.92	1.00
Grey matter volume	593 (60)	642 (64)	623 (61)	0.039	-0.77	-0.49

[Selected information from baseline study]

**Conclusion:** Owing to the home-recruitment we were able to collect data that may be reasonably non-biased in terms of non-response bias, which will yield valid estimates in our future studies on change over time in brain and cognitive ability, prevalence and severity of psychotic illnesses, outcome, medication use, and other issues of interest.