

Peer Review

Review of: "Online Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT) for Concerned Significant Others in Rural Australia: A Randomized Controlled Trial"

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This study has a noble cause to investigate the effectiveness of an online treatment program in hopes that this will be available to underserved rural areas in Australia. It is well thought out in many aspects, and this reviewer appreciated that it followed CONSORT guidelines, which made the paper easy to follow. The sample size is impressive, even at the second follow-up. The training setup was robust and included supervision for the therapists involved. The research team demonstrated flexibility with regard to the time to completion for some of the participants.

There are some areas that would be helpful to address.

- Part of the goal of CRAFT is to engage IPs into substance use treatment; if the aim is to study the effectiveness of online practitioner delivery of CRAFT, it may also be helpful to investigate IP engagement in treatment. What were the outcomes of the functional analysis of IP substance use? Perhaps reflection on this in the limitations if there is no plan to analyze the data.
- Did the authors consider investigating CSOs' confidence in communicating with IPs?
- It would be helpful to write out the eligibility criteria in the article.
- One of the eligibility criteria is having access to the internet with video conferencing capabilities. Not knowing the internet connection in rural Australia, might this be an additional barrier, particularly for individuals with insufficient bandwidth or inadequate computer literacy?

- Did any of the demographic variables influence outcomes? Were they included in the linear mixed-effects models?
- The X-axis labels on the graphs are not consistent with the explanation in the data collection procedure.
- There is not sufficient discussion on the different types of coping. Further, in the discussion, the authors stated, “improvements in problem-focused coping could have contributed to reduced depressive symptoms, which in turn may have enhanced overall life satisfaction”; was any moderation analysis done to support this speculation?

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.