



# RAPID QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

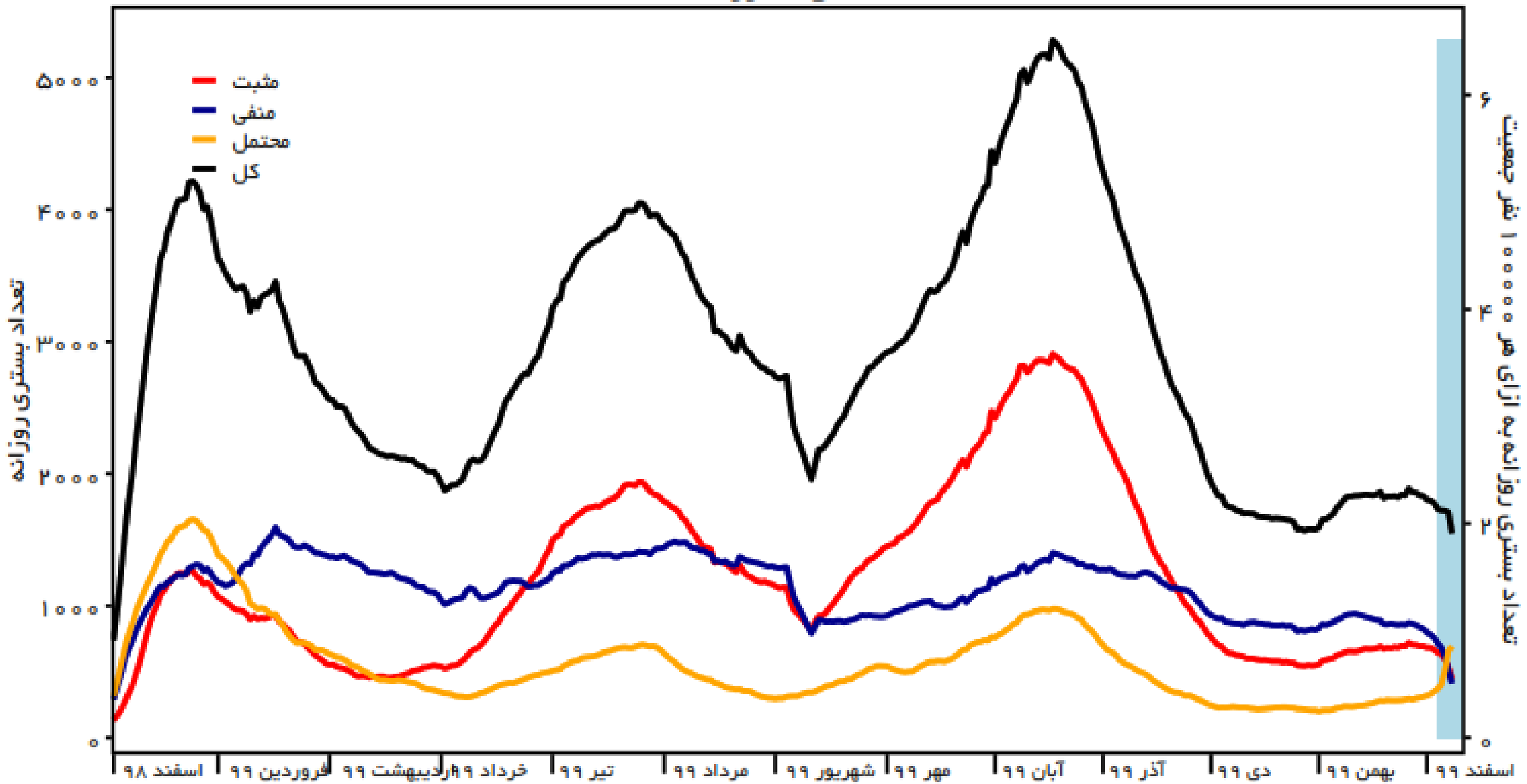
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# *Rapid Qualitative Research during pandemics and emergencies*






# کل کشور





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- Disease perception
  - Social practices that might be linked to spread
  - Health-seeking behaviors
  - Health care delivery models
  - Barriers to care
  - Social stigma
  - Prevention and control policies



# *RQR workshop*

- Qualitative research at a glance
- Theories and principles of RQR
- **Introducing sample RQR**
- Types of triangulation

Dr. Abbaszadeh




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Research Article

# Carrying Out Rapid Qualitative Research During a Pandemic: Emerging Lessons From COVID-19


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- The authors form part of the Rapid Research Evaluation and Appraisal Lab (RREAL), a research team focused on the design and implementation of rapid qualitative research on health-related topics.





- Timeliness in forming research teams with the required expertise to collect data on the **social determinants of disease** is shaped by the stage when social scientists and community medicine specialists are offered a “seat at the table”



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- For infectious epidemics and other types of complex health emergencies, qualitative research might not be allowed:
  - Time and complexity

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- Patients, health care workers (HCWs), public health authorities, or members of the public who are already struggling with the impact of the disease and delivery of health care response might not be able to assist with data collection or take part in studies.

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- Carrying out fieldwork during epidemics, where researchers often need to be in close contact with affected communities or health care facilities, exposes them to infection.

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- Rapid qualitative research is carried out to identify:
  - Causes of the outbreak
  - Assess the infrastructure
  - Control strategies
  - Health needs
  - Health facility use
  - Views about disease and risk perception






## *Characteristics of RQR*

- The study is conducted over a **short timeframe** (weeks or months)
- The study design tends to be **participatory**
- The studies combine **multiple research methods** and triangulate data during data analysis
- **Data collection and analysis** tends to be carried out in **parallel** and emerging findings shape the data collection process



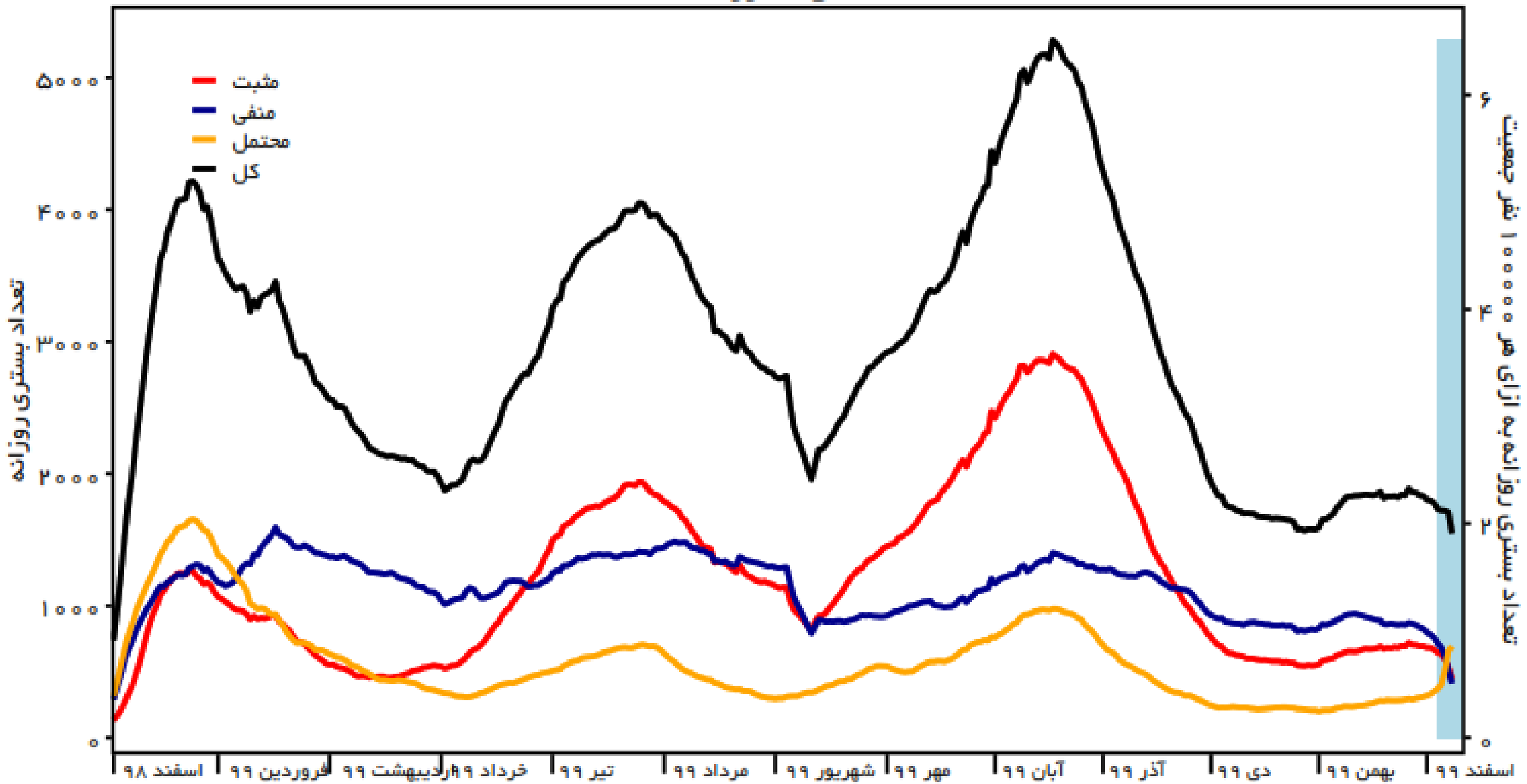
## *What is meant by “rapid”*


- 4 to 8 weeks (Scrimshaw & Hurtado, 1987)
- 90 days (Handwerker, 2001)
- From a few days to 6 months (Vindrola-Padros & Vindrola-Padros, 2018)

- 
- A decorative vertical strip on the left side of the slide, composed of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of green, yellow, red, and grey.
- Importance of qualitative research in COVID-19:
  - This approach can provide insight into aspects of **behavior and perceptions** often missed in epidemiological and clinical research as it allows us to “focus not just on ‘what’ but on ‘how’”

(Teti et al., 2020)


# کل کشور



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- A decorative vertical strip on the left side of the slide, composed of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of green, yellow, red, and grey.
- Qualitative research carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic can ask and answer questions which **complement epidemiological data** by providing insight into people's **lived experiences** of disease, care, and epidemic response efforts

(Teti et al., 2020)



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- A decorative vertical strip on the left side of the slide, composed of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of green, yellow, red, and grey.
- Social, health, and economic inequalities
  - Health care reorganization to address demands created by the pandemic
  - The role and impact of different types of leadership at national and local levels

(Shah, 2020; Van Bavel et al., 2020).

- 
- Rapid Research Evaluation and Appraisal Lab  
(RREAL)




## *To Research or Not to Research?*


- As with any type of study, the first question we asked ourselves when designing each study was, **should we be carrying out research at this time?** Would our research be burdening HCWs, public health authorities, or other members of staff who are already under immense pressure?
- Could our studies produce more harm than benefit?





- to inform changes in policy and practice:
- Collaborations with stakeholders to understand their evidence needs and timelines early on the process of designing the studies

- 
- If not to carry out the studies during the pandemic:
  - missing relevant, immediate, and actionable information that could be used to inform local and global response efforts as well as preparedness strategies for future pandemics.



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- **Study 1:** A Rapid Appraisal of HCWs' Perceptions and Experiences With COVID-19 in the United Kingdom and “Mirror Studies,” at a Global Scale

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- HCWs:
  - Understanding their personal experiences in providing care during periods of extreme crises, uncertainty, and where patient deaths are anticipated

- 
- This rapid appraisal of frontline HCWs' perceptions and experiences with COVID-19 comprises three streams:
  - Policy review
  - Media analysis
  - Telephone interviews



## *Policy review*

- The policy review focused on health care policies to understand changes made to health care delivery in response to COVID-19 in the United Kingdom following the rapid evidence synthesis framework proposed
- Government policies were searched for, using the search strategy, databases, and inclusion criteria



## *Media analysis*

- A rapid media analysis was developed to capture perceptions and experiences of HCWs reported by them or third parties.
- Published newspaper articles were reviewed by running a series of searches on the Nexis database
- The social media analysis focused on Twitter but included relevant content from Reddit and publicly available groups and accounts on Facebook and Instagram which was posted from December 1, 2019





## *Interviews*

- Interviews were carried out with frontline staff from NHS hospitals in the United Kingdom.
- Interviews were semi-structured, focusing on HCWs' views on the virus, patients, and the health care system organization and management


Data Source	Method of Data Collection	Sample	Method of Data Analysis
Policy review	Policies were selected from legislation.gov.uk, gov.uk, National Health Service England (NHSE), and Public Health England (PHE) databases.	35 policies published between December 1, 2019, and April 20, 2020.	Data were extracted into Excel by one researcher and cross-checked by a second researcher who created a conceptual framework to categorize the policies.
Media analysis	Review of newspaper articles obtained from LexisNexis.	101 newspaper articles published between December 1, 2019, and April 20, 2020.	Data extracted using REDCap and analyzed for content using framework analysis (coding carried out by two researchers).
	Data were selected using the software "Meltwater" and sorted into pre-established categories.	146,000 social media posts were collected from the period between December 1, 2019, and April 30, 2020.	Social media content was analyzed using inclusion and exclusion framework, and coded the selected posts independently.
Frontline staff interviews	In-depth, semi-structured telephone interviews with a purposive sample of staff.	130 staff members working in emergency departments and intensive care units in three hospitals (doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals with different levels of training and expertise).	RAP sheets were used to synthesize findings on an ongoing basis. Selected transcripts were generated and analyzed using framework analysis.




## *“Mirror studies”*

- Other global research teams
- The premise behind “mirror studies” was that each country would carry out the study independently, seeking local ethical approvals and managing data collection and analysis
- Sharing study protocol :
- Study materials (information sheets, interview topic guide, consent form, etc.)

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- **Study 2:** A Rapid Qualitative Study on the Use of Qualitative Data During Infectious Epidemics


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- The aim of this study was to explore the use of qualitative data to inform epidemic response efforts and the barriers encountered when attempting to do so.


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- Participants were sampled for telephone interviews using a range of purposive and snowball methods (i.e., recruiting through affiliated epidemic response networks, and those directed to the study by those who had participated).

- 
- Individuals consulted included fellow social scientists, community engagement workers, frontline clinical staff, public health registrars, guideline creators, and program managers.



- 
- The study is based on telephone/online semi-structured interviews, all of which were audio-recorded and selectively transcribed.

- 
- **Study 3:** A Mixed-Methods Survey of the Impact of COVID-19 on the Delivery of Cancer Treatment
  - The study was global, multidisciplinary, and cross-sectional.
  - Qualitative and quantitative data were collected using a web-based survey instrument.
  - Both purposive and snowball-sampling techniques were employed to target oncology health care professionals.
  - A multidisciplinary team of specialists and researchers developed a standardized survey.

- 
- The survey included a mixture of open-ended and closed-ended questions.
  - The open-ended questions : collect qualitative data



## *Lessons from these studies*

- Briefing interview guides (i.e., 15- to 20-minute telephone interviews)
- Carrying out interviews at times of day most convenient for participants (including lunch break , nights, and weekends)
- Considering reducing the intensity of data collection at specific time points of the pandemic (i.e., during “epidemiologic peaks”).
- HCWs: despite feeling overstretched, many HCWs wanted to take part in the study and have indicated that the interviews were a therapeutic process, where they could freely narrate their experiences to an external party and feel that their voice was heard.
- Fast track ethical approval




## *How to reduce time and budget?*

- Documentary data: Rapid review
- Bypassing full interview transcription
- Analysing data either directly from audio recordings or by using selected transcription
- Students and leads




## *Data Collection and Analysis in Parallel to Share Emerging Findings in “Real-Time”*

- Timely sharing of findings so they could be used to inform decision making and inform changes in practice.
- Study 1, there was a period during the peak time of the pandemic in the United Kingdom that we were sharing findings bi-weekly with professional organizations in charge of redesigning care delivery in acute care hospitals.

- 
- The collection and analysis of data in parallel
  - In the case of the telephone interviews, these were audio-recorded by the interviewers who also took notes of the main topics discussed during the interviews.
  - After each interview, the interviewers summarized these notes in the form of a table called a RAP sheet.
  - The RAP sheet acted as a working document for each researcher. As new data were collected, the main findings were added to the RAP sheet.



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- at the end of each day, each researcher had a summary of the main findings from the study obtained to date that could be further refined and shared with our primary stakeholders.
  - The findings were not shared in an extensive report, but in the form of a one-page table

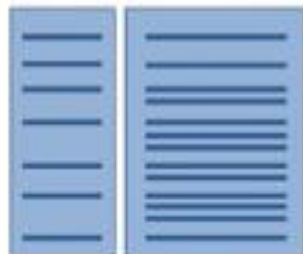


Telephone interviews  
with HCWs  
(audio-recorded)

After each  
interview

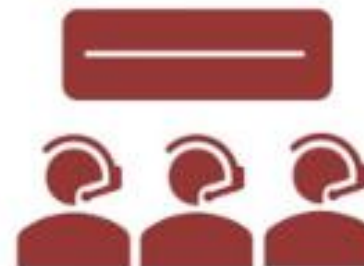


### RAP Sheet



Living document for each  
researcher  
Provides daily summary

Every week



Data analysis (based on RAP sheets  
and selective transcription)  
& team meetings



Modify RAP  
sheet as needed

As needed



1-page summary table of  
findings to date aimed at  
main stakeholders

At different  
stages of the  
pandemic



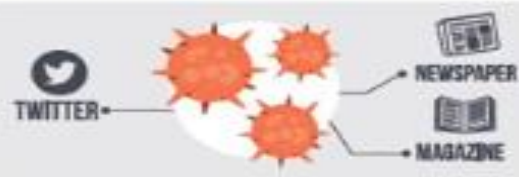
Write up of academic  
publications

# COVID-19

## RAPID MEDIA ANALYSIS:

DECEMBER 2019-PRESENT

Rapid review of newspaper and magazine articles and social media published from December 2019-present.



## RAPID APPRAISAL

BASED ON TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS



**AIM**  
CAPTURE STAFF PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES WITH COVID-19



Purposive sample of staff including primary care, emergency departments and intensive care units (ICUs).

## RAPID POLICY REVIEW


Review of policies and government guidelines in relation to COVID-19 and comparison of policies across countries.




## 'MIRROR STUDIES'




Data across all countries will be synthesized to inform global response efforts.

- 
- stakeholders were involved from the design of the research questions and remained a central component of the studies throughout all stages of the research.
  - The type and frequency of findings they required changed through time and our team needed to be flexible enough to adapt to these changes.

- 
- rapid qualitative research, if carried out well and responsibly, could do more good than harm if carried out before, during, and after a pandemic—but only if we were able to engage with stakeholders and share findings at a time and in a format to facilitate their use in decision-making processes.






# Rapid and Rigorous Qualitative Data Analysis: The “RADaR” Technique for Applied Research


Daphne C. Watkins<sup>1</sup>

*International Journal of Qualitative Methods*  
Volume 16: 1–9  
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 SAGE

- 
- The purpose of this article:
  - highlighting the advantages of using general-purpose word processing and spreadsheet software (i.e., Microsoft ® Word and Excel) as tools for organizing, reducing, and analyzing qualitative data for applied researchers
  - Presenting a quick and comprehensive method for analyzing qualitative data called the “rigorous and accelerated data reduction” (RADaR) technique





Step 1: Ensure that all the data transcripts are formatted similarly

Step 2: Place formatted data transcripts into an all-inclusive, phase 1 data table

Step 3: Reduce data in all-inclusive data table to produce a phase 2 data table

Step 4: Reduce data in phase 2 data table to produce more data tables

Step 5: Draft the project deliverables using the final phase of the data table



*Step 1: Ensure that all the data transcripts are formatted similarly.*

- Qualitative data can come in many forms, such as in-depth interviews (e.g., one-on-one or focus groups), direct observation (e.g., field notes, video recordings, and audio recordings), and written documents (e.g., archival records, newspapers, case studies, magazines, books, websites, memos, reports, transcripts).



**Transcript 1**

Month, Day, Year

Interviewer: -----  
-----  
-----

Participant: -----  
-----  
-----

Interviewer: -----  
-----  
-----

Participant: -----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----

Interviewer: -----  
-----  
-----

**Transcript 2**

Month, Day, Year

Interviewer: -----  
-----  
-----

Participant: -----  
-----  
-----

Interviewer: -----  
-----  
-----

Participant: -----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----

Interviewer: -----  
-----  
-----

**Transcript 3**

Month, Day, Year

Interviewer: -----  
-----  
-----

Participant: -----  
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Interviewer: -----  
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Participant: -----  
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Interviewer: -----  
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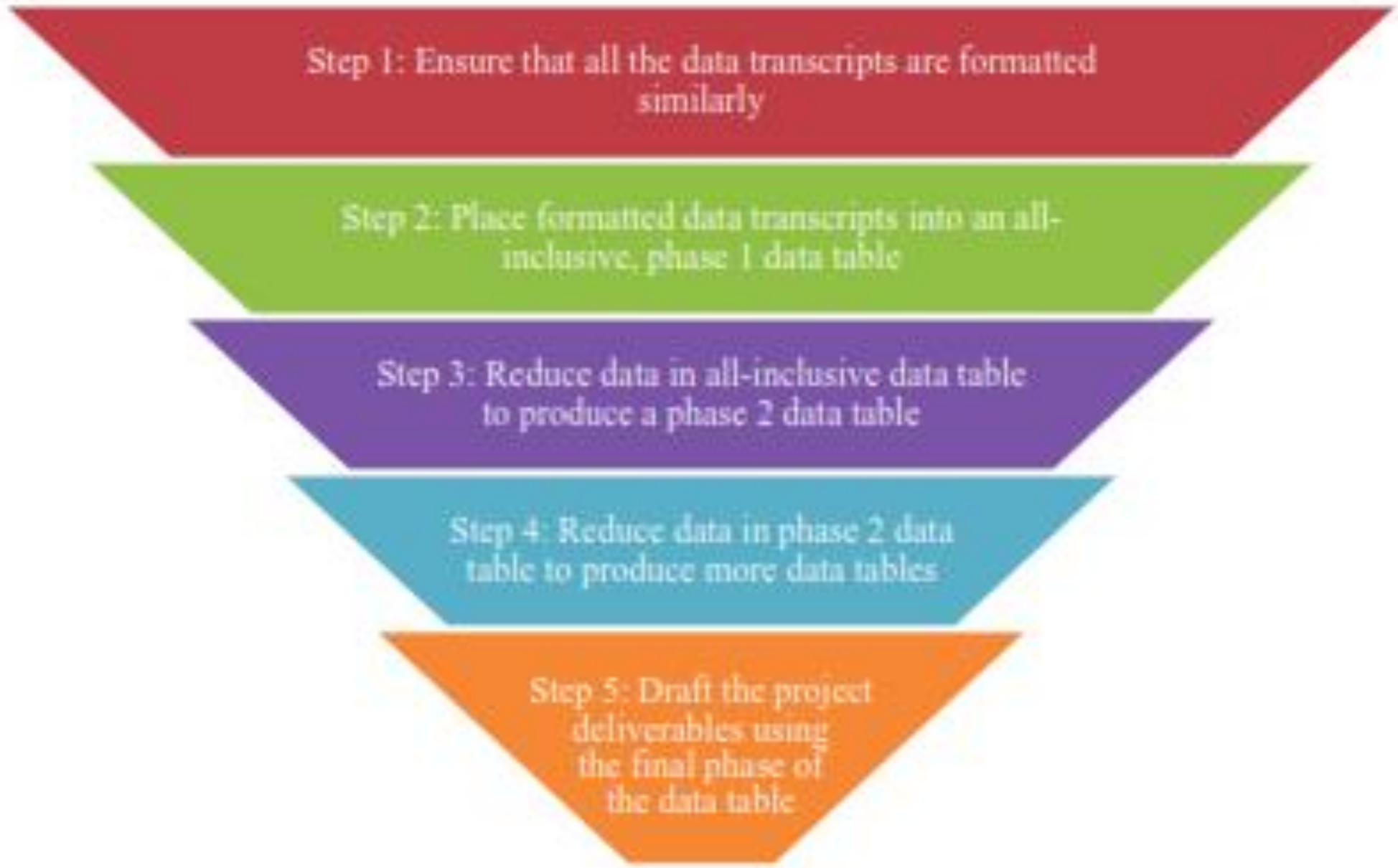







- 
- Research question: (What are the social and cultural experiences of depression for women ages 18 to 30?)
  - an example of an open code that might be used to address this question is “women believe that social media is a vehicle for depression education.”
  - An example of an accompanying focused code might be “social media as a depression education tool.”





Step 1: Ensure that all the data transcripts are formatted similarly


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Step 3: Reduce data in all-inclusive data table to produce a phase 2 data table

Step 4: Reduce data in phase 2 data table to produce more data tables

Step 5: Draft the project deliverables using the final phase of the data table



- 
- Step 3 is when some agreement and semi-final decisions should be made about which codes will likely remain in the code column from now until the end of the analysis.

# *Step 4: Reduce data in the Phase 2 data table to produce more data tables.*





## *Step 5: Draft the project deliverables using the final phase of the data table*

- The information streamlined to create the last phase of the data table (which again, will vary from project to project) can be used to begin drafting language to include in the final project deliverables.
- These project deliverables can range from a final project report to a conference presentation, thesis/dissertation, or peer-reviewed manuscript.

Row of data from an all-inclusive, Phase 1 data table

TR #	SECTION	QUESTION	RESPONSE	INCOME GROUP	NOTES	CODE	THEME
02	GETTING HELP	Does the topic of depression ever come up in your relationships with Black men?	I just want to say like in terms of my personal, how I would influence someone, I feel like for me I know [Participant 9] talked about she likes probing and like bringing up the topic, for me I feel like I almost try to avoid it cause I feel like I don't know how to handle the situation if they do bring it up to me so it's like ok you've brought up this topic to me, you've told me you're feeling a specific way but I don't really know what how I can help you or what I should say to you so it's like I don't even want that to come up because it's like makes for an awkward topic or it makes it seem like I don't hear or I don't understand when really I'm just not knowledgeable in that area. I don't really feel comfortable um telling you what to do or suggesting...making suggestions for you cause I'm not an expert in that field. (Line 662-670)	LOW	TBD	TBD	TBD

Row of data from a Phase 2 data table

TR #	SECTION	QUESTION	RESPONSE	INCOME GROUP	NOTES	CODE	THEME
02	GETTING HELP	Does the topic of depression ever come up in your relationships with Black men?	I just want to say like in terms of my personal, how I would influence someone, I feel like for me I know [Participant 9] talked about she likes probing and like bringing up the topic, for me I feel like <b><u>I almost try to avoid it cause I feel like I don't know how to handle the situation if they do bring it up to me so it's like ok you've brought up this topic to me, you've told me you're feeling a specific way but I don't really know what how I can help you or what I should say to you so it's like I don't even want that to come up because it's like makes for an awkward topic or it makes it seem like I don't hear or I don't understand when really I'm just not knowledgeable in that area.</u></b> I don't really feel comfortable um telling you what to do or suggesting...making suggestions for you cause I'm not an expert in that field. (Line 662-670)	LOW	<i>There is no support for Black men by Black women?</i>	2c	TBD

Row of data from a Phase 3 data table

TR #	SECTION	QUESTION	RESPONSE (With line numbers, income group, and assigned code)	NOTES	THEME
02	GETTING HELP	Does the topic of depression ever come up in your relationships with Black men?	... <b><u>I almost try to avoid it cause I feel like I don't know how to handle the situation if they do bring it up to me so it's like ok you've brought up this topic to me, you've told me you're feeling a specific way but I don't really know what how I can help you or what I should say to you so it's like I don't even want that to come up because it's like makes for an awkward topic or it makes it seem like I don't hear or I don't understand when really I'm just not knowledgeable in that area</u></b> ... [Line 662-670, Low income group, code assigned = 2c]	<i>Black women avoid conversations about depression; unable to offer support for Black men</i>	3



## خلاصه

- آیا واقعا پژوهش لازم است؟
- مشارکت stakeholders در تمام مراحل انجام پژوهش
- ازائه نتایج
- استفاده از روشهای غیر حضوری مانند تلفن، سوالات باز، بررسی مستندات
- انجام کار تیمی
- استفاده از ابزارهایی برای یکسان سازی مراحل جمع آوری داده و تحلیل ها
- استفاده از نرم افزارهای ساده و قابل استفاده برای تمام اعضای تیم
- **Triangulation**

*<http://SDHRC.tbzmed.ac.ir>*

Thank you

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