

QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

SPINAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE | CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM



Consumers with spinal cord injuries (SCI) all tell a story. Researchers seek to capture these stories through different techniques to provide answers to questions. Two common techniques are qualitative and quantitative research. Researchers sometimes use both of these, and this approach is called mixed methods research.



QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH: WHAT STORY DO THE NUMBERS TELL?

Quantitative research in SCI refers to a scientific investigation approach that utilises numerical data and statistical analysis to examine and understand various aspects of SCI. It involves collecting and analysing measurable data, allowing researchers to quantify and assess different variables and their relationships.

Data collection in quantitative research may include structured surveys, standardised assessments, testing of new therapies, or questionnaires to gather data from a specific population or sample of individuals with SCI. Outcomes are objective and measurable and may include assessments of motor function, pain levels, quality of life and functional independence. Researchers may also investigate social and psychological areas such as employment, mental health, adjustment to SCI and recreational outcomes.

Data analysis may include statistical analysis techniques. This enables researchers to derive meaningful conclusions and make generalisations about the larger SCI population. Patterns, trends, correlations, or cause-and-effect relationships may be identified from the data, providing valuable insights into understanding, treating, and managing spinal cord injuries.

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