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Effects of Comfort with Technology on Learning in an Applied Setting

Lindsay K. Crosby

University of Montana - Missoula, lindsay.crosby@umontana.edu

Cameo F. Borntrager

University of Montana - Missoula, cameo.borntrager@mso.umt.edu

Daniel W. Gray

University of Montana - Missoula, dgrayven@yahoo.com

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Effects of Comfort with Technology on Learning in an Applied Setting

Lindsay K. Crosby, Cameo F. Borntrager, & Daniel W. Gray

The impact of advances in technology in Western healthcare systems is salient. The availability, convenience, and affordability of the Internet is changing the way industries and programs operate. Along these lines, software programs and tools are becoming prominent in healthcare and mental health settings. As such, comfort with technology and fluency with utilizing data-based decision making (and tools available to do so) is becoming increasingly important for accountability in the healthcare and mental health industry. The current project includes a review of the literature examining the availability and use of technological innovations and computerized measurement feedback systems in the healthcare and mental health industry. The project also describes the development of an instrument measuring both comfort with technology and 'data fluency;' whereby, 'data fluency' is defined as the ability for a professional to collect client progress data as well as to utilize data in a stepwise fashion to make practice, training, or policy decisions. The instrument will be assessed in a sample of mental health practitioners who are trained in evidence-based practices for youth mental health, in order to examine the sensitivity to change and predictive validity of the instrument to determine use of evidence-based assessment and practice behavior among practitioners.