Occupational perceptions of residential out-of-home care in Sweden (#130357)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What’s the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
H1a: Police respondents, social workers, and health care staff will significantly differ in how they rate the credibility of girls placed in residential out-of-home care.

H1b: Police respondents, social workers, and health care staff will significantly differ in how they rate the credibility of boys placed in residential out-of-home care.

H1c: Girls will be rated as more credible than boys.

H2a: Respondents’ (irrespective of occupation) estimates of the proportion of residential units in Sweden with legally confirmed cases of rape (where staff at the residential units were perpetrators and placed girls the victims) will differ significantly from the true proportion (which in the analyses will be defined as 30%).

H2b: Police respondents, social workers, and health care staff will significantly differ in their estimates of the prevalence of legally confirmed cases of rape (where staff at the residential units are perpetrators and placed girls the victims).

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
Dependent variable for testing H1a: total credibility score for girls (the sums of an 8-item-scale for rating the perceived credibility of girls).

Dependent variable for testing H1b: total credibility score for boys (the sums of an 8-item-scale for rating the perceived credibility of boys).

Dependent variables for testing H1c: total credibility score (the sums of an 8-item-scale for rating the perceived credibility of the youth).

Dependent variable for testing H2a: estimated prevalence of confirmed rape cases on the item ‘How common do you think it is for staff at SIS homes to rape placed girls? Indicate at how many of the institutions for girls you think there have been confirmed cases (in the form of convictions) of such rapes in recent years.’ (11-point-scale ranging from 0% to 100%).

Dependent variable for testing H2b: estimated prevalence of confirmed rape cases on the item ‘How common do you think it is for staff at SIS homes to rape placed girls? Indicate at how many of the institutions for girls you think there have been confirmed cases (in the form of convictions) of such rapes in recent years.’ (11-point-scale ranging from 0% to 100%).

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Participants will either be police, social workers, or health care staff. In the case a respondent reports experience of several of these occupations, when testing the five hypotheses, they will be assigned an occupational group as follows: a respondent with police experience will always be treated as police, and a respondent with social worker experience will always be treated as social worker unless s/he also reports police experience.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
H1a will be tested through a two-tailed one-way ANOVA with occupation as the independent variable and total credibility score for girls as the dependent variable.

H1b will be tested through a two-tailed one-way ANOVA with occupation as the independent variable and total credibility score for boys as the dependent variable.

H1c will be tested through a one-tailed two-sample t-test with sex (girls/boys) as the independent variable and total credibility score as the dependent variable.

H2a will be tested through a one-tailed one-sample t-test with (estimated) prevalence of confirmed rape cases as the dependent variable.

H2b will be tested through a two-tailed one-way ANOVA with occupation as the independent variable and estimates of the prevalence of legally confirmed
cases of rape as the dependent variable.

The alpha level is set to .05 for all the statistical analyses.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
The first question in the survey states: ‘In your profession, have you met youth placed at one of these residential units?’ A list of 23 units is provided. Respondents choosing ‘No, I have never met youth placed at any of these particular units’, or ‘Don’t know’, will be excluded from all further analyses.

On the item, ‘In what professional role have you met youth placed at SiS? (Multiple answers are possible.)’, selecting only ‘Researcher’ will result in exclusion. Selecting ‘Other occupation’ may result in exclusion depending on what they respond on the follow-up question ‘Please specify’. Respondents who do not specify anything on the follow-up question will be excluded.

Positive answers to any of the two items ‘Have you ever worked at The Swedish National Board of Institutional Care (SiS)?’ or ‘Have you or a close relative ever been placed at a SiS residential unit?’ will be manually screened through a scatter plot (looking only at the dependent variables used for testing the five hypotheses) to determine whether they should be excluded from any of those five statistical analyses. Unless they are obvious and only outliers, they will be included in the analyses.

Incomplete response to any of the 8 items rating credibility of girls will result in exclusion from analyses of H1a and H1c. Incomplete response to any of the 8 items rating credibility of boys will result in exclusion from analyses of H1b and H1c.

Respondents completing 10% or less of the survey will be excluded from all analyses.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.
The present study is a pilot why we have not conducted any formal power calculation. Data collection will begin on April 27th 2023, and close May 3rd 2023. The data then collected will be used for the purpose of a student thesis. However, unless a minimum of 50 respondents from each of the three occupations (police, social workers, health care staff; i.e. a total of 150 respondents) have completed the survey on May 3rd 2023, the data collection will continue for one more week (until May 10th). The survey will close on May 10th, 2023, even if fewer respondents than 50 per occupation have completed the survey.

A power of at least 80% is not expected to be achieved for all the five hypotheses by a sample of 150 respondents (50 per occupation), but is deemed to be enough for this exploratory pilot.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
Cronbach’s alpha will be calculated for each of the two 8-item credibility scales (girls and boys). A reliability coefficient lower than 0.7 might result in exclusion of individual items. Decisions on exclusion of items will be based on the extent to which it seems reasonable that the particular item is removed. No particular criteria for such exclusion were defined in advance.

The present study is a pilot and several exploratory analyses may be conducted, and will be reported as such. In addition, descriptive statistics will be reported.