B. Hage. Bridging the digital divide: the impact of computer training, internet, and email use on levels of cognition, depression, and social functioning in older adults. Gerontechnology 2008; 7(2):117. In this quasi-experimental study, we examined the impact of computer training and access to Internet and e-mail on levels of depression, social isolation, and cognition in long-term care (LTC) residents aged 55 or greater. The study population consisted of 23 LTC residents in two counties in northeast Pennsylvania. **Method** Inclusion criteria included a Mini-Mental State Exam (MMSE)[1] score of 24 or greater, the ability to read a computer screen and use an input device. Pre-test post-test measures included the Mini-Mental State Exam (MMSE), Geriatric Depression Scale-Short Form[2], and SF-36 Short-Form Survey[3]. Subjects received technology training using the ACTION curriculum[4]. Generations Online, a software tool designed specifically for elders, was used for email and Internet searches[5]. **Results and discussion** Using repeated measures t-test on square root transformations of pre and post GDS-SF2] scores the researchers detected no significant difference in depression following the intervention (M(Pre)=1.347; M(Post)=1.449; t=-0.672, p=0.512). Pre and post SF subscale scores showed no significant difference in social functioning following the intervention (M(Pre)=89.8438; M(Post)=89.8438). Repeated measures t-test on original MMSE[1] scale scores pre and post intervention showed no significant differences in cognition (M(Pre)=28.56; M(Post)=28.06; t=0.696, p=0.497). There was a high degree of skew in some of the pre-test, post-test responses within the SF-36[3] measures. Square root and inverse transformations did not completely correct the skew with all measures. A review of the raw data showed that subjects had low levels of depression or no depression at baseline. A one-way ANOVA of GDS-SF[2] scores by number of training sessions detected a significant difference between groups (interaction) on both pre and post intervention scores (F(Pre)=12.83, p=0.001; F(Post)=8.22; p=0.005). This finding suggests that increasing the number of training sessions may offer a beneficial effect on level of depression due to the increased interaction during training.

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