

Paper Session D1: High Risk Issues in Women's Health

Rio Grande Area Women and Maternity Staff Members Report on Perceptions of Prenatal Care Deterrents and Suggestions for Prenatal Care

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Purpose: This study examined perceptions of maternity staff members and pregnant/non-pregnant women on reasons for delaying prenatal care. Subjects were asked to identify their views of their first, second, and third most important prenatal care deterrents and suggestions to obtain this care.

Theoretical Framework: Healthy People 2010's goal is for 90% of women to receive adequate and early prenatal care. This remains the goal for Health People 2020. Texas data indicate that the counties of the birth center and the medical center as well as the state were below the national average and the goals set for Healthy People 2010 and 2020.

Methods: This was a descriptive quantitative design. The subjects (n = 152) included members at a birth center and a medical center. A researcher-developed survey included 18 items with a 5-point Likert scale and several open-ended items was completed on site. Descriptive statistics were used to describe the sample, demographic, and health-related data. ANOVA was used to examine differences in the means of each of the summed scores of the 18 Likert-scale items. Results: There were statistically significant differences in total mean scores on the Likert scale items between the two groups (p = .03). Both groups agreed on all deterrents and ranked health care costs and lack of insurance as number one deterrents. Both groups ranked encouragement from spouses/partners/friends as their most important strategy for getting prenatal care. One major difference between the groups on care suggestions was that the pregnant/non-pregnant women ranked the need to prevent problems as a reason for care more highly than did maternity staff members.

Conclusions and Implications: The two groups varied their suggestions for prenatal care. Staff members need to direct their efforts to areas of interest to pregnant women.