

ABSTRACT

A PILOT STUDY ASSESSING LEVELS OF AWARENESS REGARDING INFANT MORTALITY AMONG AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN WEST FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

The purpose of this pilot study was to assess the baseline awareness level of African American women to the problem of infant mortality. Assessment was ascertained in terms of awareness of the term infant mortality, knowledge of infant mortality risk factors, and rates among African Americans. The target group was African American women 18 years and above. The sample size was 61 participants. The theoretical model used was the PEN-3 Model. Two hypotheses were tested through Pearson chi-square.

The study investigated knowledge and awareness through two independent variables: prior experience of miscarriage or stillbirth and place of residency. No differences were found in awareness to and knowledge of infant mortality when comparing women who had experienced a loss with those who had not. Significant difference was found in awareness to the term infant mortality among residents of West Fresno compared to participants who lived outside of West Fresno.

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