

Online Supplementary Material

Bennett IM, Switzer J, Aguirre A, Evans K, Barg F. 'Breaking it Down': Patient-clinician communication and prenatal care utilization among African American women of low and higher literacy. *Ann Fam Med*. 2006;4:334-340.

<http://www.annfammed.org/cgi/content/full/4/4/334/DC1>

Supplemental Appendix 1. Cultural Consensus Analysis

To help elucidate the experience of prenatal care utilization among low-income, inner-city women, we used an anthropologic method, cultural consensus analysis (CCA). This analytic method is a development of cognitive anthropology that posits knowledge shared by members of a group (part of the definition of culture)¹ is organized in mental categories. Consensus analysis aims to understand "how cultural knowledge is organized in the mind."² Mathematically analogous to latent-class analysis,³ CCA makes use of the shared meaning of words and short phrases (their semantic relationships) to assess the degree to which commonality exists among members of a group around specific a priori domains selected by the investigator (in this case prenatal care). The first step of cultural consensus analysis is to establish the total "membership" of a domain (made up of individual words or short phrases). The free list responses of participants to the questions related to the domains of interest are ranked by frequency for the sample. The free list procedure in the software program, Anthropac 4.0, creates a respondent by item matrix that is used for consensus analysis. The consensus procedure in this software identifies items that belong in the target domains and the similarity or dissimilarity of items relative to each other. Multidimensional scaling provides a graphic representation of the similarities and distances among items. Free listing is a commonly used, unbiased method of generating these responses.⁴

Grounded Theory

Focus group interviews provide textural data that can be analyzed for themes and patterns through a grounded theory approach.⁵ Grounded theory is a method that involves development of theories about what is occurring in the data as they are collected. The researcher looks for themes that emerge "from the ground." Questions are typically open-ended. Although the researcher may point the respondent toward topics of interest, central to the technique is the concept that the themes and issues discussed emerge from the respondent, not the interviewer. Consequently, special care was taken to ensure that the interviewer did not lead the content of the interview. As themes emerged, the investigators considered whether certain categories (eg, patients who have specific characteristics) should be further sampled to test for potential associations that arose from the data. The transcripts of the sessions were analyzed for recurrent themes related to obstacles to use of prenatal care, according to standard methods.⁶⁻⁸ The themes were correlated with demographic and obstetric information collected at the interview. Distinct differences between individuals were also examined.

References

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