The meaning of motherhood and its influence on infant feeding practices among mothers enrolled in a methadone treatment program: An exploratory, sequential mixed methods study

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ABSTRACT

Description of problem/ rationale

A dearth of knowledge exists surrounding the meaning of motherhood in women on methadone. Socially constructed ideologies of motherhood may impact their perception of breastfeeding. The purpose of this exploratory, sequential mixed methods study is to ascertain how the cultural and contextual meanings of motherhood influence infant feeding practices for mothers with histories of SUDs.

Overview/ Methods

A critical ethnographic approach will be used to illicit rich data from the participants. Mothers will be recruited from a local methadone treatment facility. Semi-structured individual interviews will be completed with approximately 20-30 participants in a safe, private location determined by the participant (home, hospital, or community setting). Observations will also take place in these locations. Data analysis will be accomplished utilizing a holistic description of patterns and themes. After data analysis is completed, it will then be determined what quantitative approach will best serve to enhance the qualitative findings.

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholders include a local methadone treatment facility, a county hospital within the southwestern region of the US, and their patient populations. Time will be taken to learn the inner workings of the programs through onsite observation. Working relationships are currently in place to foster active engagement in the study.

Conclusion

Exploring the social complexities that effect breastfeeding among women with a history of SUDs will provide a greater understanding of the unique description of motherhood in these individuals. These findings may provide a basis from which effective and sustainable nursing interventions can be developed and tested.

Questions
• What are possible ways in which the qualitative data, once analyzed, can give rise to the quantitative approach?
• In respect to quantitative research methods, how can I work to ensure that steps toward social change are not undermined?

No handouts provided for this session.

Notes: