

Analysis of Theory Utilization Among Prenatal HIV-Testing Research

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Objectives: To ascertain extent and quality of theory utilization among published empirical studies specific to prenatal HIV testing. **Methods:** Systematic literature search for peer-reviewed articles was performed. Articles with “perceived barriers” construct to prenatal HIV testing from perspective of potential testees were sought. **Results:** Most studies mention constructs, but not specific theory.

Few studies clearly reported how operationalized constructs were used within their studies. **Conclusions:** Paucity of theory utilization points to a breach of the “science” in the scientific process. Researchers either failed to adequately use theory or did so but failed to describe how.

Key words: HIV, prenatal, barriers, test

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