

Barriers to Prenatal Care Among Black Women of Low Socioeconomic Status

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Objective: To qualitatively identify attitudinal and psychosocial determinants of early prenatal care among Black women of low socioeconomic status (SES). **Methods:** Focus group discussions were conducted among Black women who attended community clinics for prenatal care. **Results:** Early initiators of prenatal care, compared with late initiators, had positive attitudes toward pregnancy, were knowledgeable about pregnancy signs/symptoms, and thought pre-

natal care was important. All participants indicated strong social support during pregnancy. Late initiators, particularly multiparous women, perceived clinic staff to be insensitive. **Conclusions:** Findings provide valuable insight into overcoming barriers to early initiation of prenatal care among low SES Black women.

Key words: prenatal care, Black women, barriers, focus groups, socioeconomic status

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