

Breast-feeding Intentions Among Low-Income Pregnant and Lactating Women

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Objectives: Provide a better understanding of the process used by low-income pregnant/postpartum women when deciding whether to breast-feed or not. **Methods:** Pregnant/postpartum women admitted to an obstetrics floor completed a survey to determine breast-feeding intention (n=88). **Results:** Subjects were primarily Hispanic and African American women. Beliefs and referent other were related positively to attitude and subjective norm, respectively. Subjective norm was

related positively to intention to breast-feed. Breast-feeding knowledge was low. **Conclusions:** Others' opinions clearly influence feeding intentions among this population of low-income women. Inclusion of these significant others, family, and friends within the breast-feeding education process is warranted.

Key words: Theory of reasoned action, expanded rational expectation intentions model, breast-feed, intention, low-income

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