PII-42: Perceived Burden and Perceived Health: Do they Predict Service need and Service use in African American Grandmother Caregivers?

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Abstract:

Introduction: Increasingly, grandparents are becoming primary caregivers for their grandchildren. Studies have shown that role transition from grandparent to parent impacts grandparent health and stress levels. Health outcomes are reported worse in African American (AA) grandmother caregivers and these grandmothers reported increased stress related to the daily duties of being caregivers. This study examined the relationships between perceived burden and service need and use and perceived health and service need and use in AA grandmother caregivers.

Method(s): Ninety-three AA grandmothers who were primary caregivers for their biological grandchildren participated in this study. Grandmother caregivers answered questionnaires about perceived burden, perceived health, service need and service use.

Results: The proposed relationships were analyzed using hierarchical multiple regression. Perceived burden was not a predictor for service need or service use ($\beta = .005, p < .915; \beta = -.063, p = .599$, respectively). Likewise, perceived health, did not predict service need ($\beta = .002, p = .963$) or service use ($\beta = .120, p = .312$). While perceived burden and perceived health were not individual predictors of service need and service use, collectively, data yielded a significant predictor for service need by demographics, information need, perceived burden, and perceived health, $F (8, 72) = 67.256, p = <.001$, $R^2 = .882$, adjusted $R^2 = .869$. Similarly, the overall regression equation predicted service use by demographics, information need, perceived burden, and perceived health $F (8, 72) = 3.050, p = .005$, $R^2 = .253$, adjusted $R^2 = .170$. These findings
support the complexity of the grandparent caregiving phenomenon and suggest that the combined effects of grandmother caregiving may influence outcomes for these grandmother caregivers.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** Grandmothers providing care for their grandchildren are vulnerable to decreased health and increased burden, thereby, necessitating need for services. Future studies should examine interventions that explore how service use among AA grandmother caregivers influences their health status and stress levels and to investigate AA grandmother views regarding the efficacy of these services.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

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