III-13: Perceived Maternal Competence among Low-Income, First-Time Mothers after Birth

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Abstract:
Introduction: The purpose of this mixed methods study is to determine the perceived level of maternal competence among low-income, first-time mothers as measured by the Parenting Sense of Competence scale and their responses on a semi-structured interview. Mothers who have a positive sense of their own maternal competence in early parenthood feel more comfortable with performing infant skills and interpreting their infant’s cues. Low-income mothers may be exposed to more environmental and economic stress which can affect parenting efficacy. The specific aims of this study are to compare the differences of high and low levels of maternal competence in low-income, first-time mothers as measured by the Parenting Sense of Competence scale and their interview responses.

Method(s): Data will be collected from mothers one month to six months after birth at a Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinic. After the WIC visit and the informed consent process, participating mothers will be asked to complete the Parenting Sense of Competence scale and a demographic tool, followed by the semistructured interview. The sample will include 20-25 first-time mothers who are 18 years or older and who gave birth to full-term, healthy infants and who did not experience neonatal and maternal complications.

Results: Descriptive statistics will be used to assess population characteristics. Inferential statistics will be used to assess instrument data. Content analysis will be used to analyze the data.
Discussion & Conclusions: The quality of the infant-caregiver relationship is crucial to all aspects of infant development. The results of this study will inform health professionals as they develop parenting programs that target positive parenting skills and infant development. This study is ongoing.

Abstract History:

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