Objective

- Discuss several distinct characteristics of qualitative research methods & the application of qualitative research to EBP.
- Identify and describe key theoretical categories of the experience of perinatal loss and bereavement in Black adolescents.
- List several nursing interventions to deliver culturally sensitive bereavement care to Black adolescents after perinatal loss.
- Discuss the theoretical findings in relationship to current conceptions of perinatal bereavement theory.

What informs our research?

- Clinical practice
- Education
- Mentorship
- Gap in knowledge
- Funding opportunities

What is the experience of perinatal loss and bereavement like for Black teenagers?

What kind of bereavement support do they need and how do their support needs differ from those of married women?

THE “BURNING” QUESTIONS...

Selecting the right approach & design

What are the differences between quantitative & qualitative research approaches?

Comparison...

Qualitative
- Inductive: Goes from specific to general in order to develop theory or rich description
- Sample size usually small; Purposive sampling
- Flexible, Emergent design
- No interventions
- Data are narrative; No statistics
- Data analyzed through interpretive coding
- Data saturation determines sample size

Quantitative
- Deductive: Goes from general to specific to test theory or hypotheses
- Sample size usually large; Random sampling can be used
- Rigid protocol design often with intervention
- Data are numbers
- Data are analyzed with statistics
- Power analysis determines sample size
Previous Perinatal Bereavement research...

Quantitative studies:
- Used Perinatal Grief Scales (and other measures) to measure grief
- Fraught with inconsistencies in “time from loss to measurement of grief”
- Compared early loss to later loss without distinction
- Very little representation of minorities in spite of higher rates of loss

Qualitative studies:
- Limited qualitative studies to explain the phenomenon of perinatal bereavement experience moving forward...most are retrospective, years later.

Qualitative Research Traditions

- Emphasizes the human experience as it is lived...does not attempt to “quantify” or measure the experience

Phenomenology: Philosophy
- What is the lived experience of?
- What is the meaning of?

Ethnography: Anthropology
- What are the patterns of?

Grounded Theory: Sociology
- What is the process of?

Grounded Theory

- Appropriate when little is known about a phenomenon
- Primary purpose is to “generate explanatory theories of human behavior” that are grounded in the data
- Identifies the underlying “basic psychosocial process” of a phenomenon
- Theoretical underpinnings from Symbolic Interactionism
  - Human beings act toward things and people based upon the meaning that the “things” hold for them

Hallmarks of Grounded Theory

- Theoretical Sampling:
  - Sampling is guided by emerging theory
- Primary data sources:
  - In-depth interviews
- Data Analysis:
  - Constant Comparison
  - Open Coding; Axial Coding; Selective Coding
- Product:
  - Theory about a specific phenomenon

Selected References