

D4c Perceptions About Alcohol Use During Pregnancy in France, Portugal and Spain – A Cross-Cultural Qualitative Study

Maria Xavier

Authors: Xavier, M.R, Franco, R, Charro, B, Hoffmeister, K, Fruscione, M, López-Pinto, I

Learning Objectives

1. Identify differences and similarities between the 3 groups of participants
2. Consider importance of cultural dimensions related to alcohol use during pregnancy
3. Discuss importance of qualitative approach to understand alcohol use during pregnancy

Abstract

Considering children prenatally exposed to alcohol present substantial challenge to societies and considering minimum safe dose of alcohol during pregnancy is unknown, WHO suggest zero consumption. Despite, research shows that there is a substantial number of women who continue to drink.

Taking into consideration that information is needed to make an informed decision about alcohol use during pregnancy (AUDP), understanding the accessibility and quality of information available to pregnant women is an issue for research. This qualitative study explores attitudes of Portuguese, Spanish and French pregnant women regarding AUDP, knowledge about the impact of AUDP, accessibility and quality of information available.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 20 French (Toulouse), 21 Portuguese (north region) and 23 Spanish (Madrid) pregnant women. Interviews were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. Data were qualitative analyzed using a semi-inductive approach. Theoretical saturation was achieved in Portuguese and French groups.

In the three groups pregnant women reveals alcohol consumption at some point during pregnancy (festive events). Pregnant women (French, Portuguese and Spanish) described mixed messages and confusions about consequences of AUDP. In Portugal and Spain, participants reported limitations concerning accessibility of information available and social pressure to drink. French participants argued that it is easy to find information related to AUDP.

Practices and perspectives towards AUDP have common points and differences between, as described by the three groups of participants. In spite of the differences, it seems that Portuguese and Spanish groups point that type and quality of information don't allow a clearly informed decision about AUDP.

Keywords

Alcohol consumption; pregnancy; women; information