

Commentary on “The Effect of Faith or Spirituality in Pregnancy: A Content Analysis”

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Shattell, M. (2007). Commentary on Jesse, D.E., Schoneboom, C., & Blanchard, A. The effect of faith or spirituality in pregnancy: A content analysis. *Journal of Holistic Nursing*, 25(3), 159.

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*****Note: Figures may be missing from this format of the document**

Jesse, Schoneboom, and Blanchard’s (2007) study of the effect of faith or spirituality in pregnancy was part of a larger study consisting of 130 pregnant women. Of the 130 women who were asked during individual interviews, “How does your faith or spirituality affect your pregnancy, if at all?” only 47% (61 women) reported that it had. Content analysis was used to analyze data gathered from these 61 women who reported that faith or spirituality affected their pregnancy. Jesse et al.’s (2007) article reports these findings.

As demonstrated by the six themes—guidance and support; protection, blessing, or reward; communication with God; strength and confidence; help with difficult choices; and generalized positive effect— participants reported overall that spirituality or faith positively affected their pregnancy. Nurses working with pregnant women can acknowledge, support, and even encourage the use of faith and spirituality to women who report that faith or spirituality is important to them. As Jesse et al. (2007) report, more than half the women in their initial sample did not say that faith or spirituality affected their pregnancy. Moreover, it is possible that faith or spirituality could have a negative affect, although this was neither found nor reported by Jesse et al (2007).

Reference

Jesse, D. E., Schoneboom, C., & Blanchard, A. (2007). The effect of faith or spirituality in pregnancy: A content analysis. *Journal of Holistic Nursing*, 25(3), 151-158.