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HEALTH EDUCATION
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FOLIC ACID USE IN WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE (150 pp.)

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The purpose of this quantitative study was to determine among women of childbearing age, whether or not the Theory of Planned Behavior variables (attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control), explain folic acid knowledge and pregnancy status.

Data were collected using a 36 item, "Folic Acid Knowledge and Behavior Questionnaire." A total of 235 women who met the study criteria and agreed to participate were given the questionnaire to complete while they were waiting for their scheduled OB/GYN appointment at a large practice setting located in a northwestern Pennsylvania city. Two-hundred eleven women returned completed surveys. Six surveys contained excessive missing data; therefore, a total of 205 questionnaires were used for data analysis. Following logistic regression three subjective norm variables were found to be significant in predicting current vitamin use in pregnant women, husband/partner (Odds Ratio = 1.302, 95% CI = 1.0 to 1.5), close friends (Odds Ratio = 1.99, 95% CI = .997 to 1.4), and mother (Odds Ratio = 0.702, 95% CI = .593 to .927).

Knowledge was not found to be significant. Logistic regression was also completed in the sample of women regardless of their pregnancy status. Two variables were found to be significant: attitude (Odds Ratio = 1.33, 95% CI = 1.0 to 1.1) and the subjective norm variable husband/partner (Odds Ratio = 1.33, 95% CI = 1.0 to 1.2).

Pregnancy regardless of pregnancy history was found to be a significant predictor of multivitamin use. According to the results of this study, TPB variables are significant in influencing a woman's decision to take a multivitamin with folic acid, whereas knowledge is not significant.