

Women's Perceptions of Stigma in Health Care Settings in Western Cape, South Africa.

Okoror, T.A; Belue, R; Zungu, N; Adam, A.M; Airhihenbuwa, C.O

Abstract:

We explored the cultural context of HIV positive women's perceptions of stigma in health care settings in Western Cape, South Africa. We conducted seven focus groups with women living with HIV/AIDS in Gugulethu and Khayelitsha. We used deductive/inductive approaches to identify themes. Fifty-one women participated, with ages ranging from 18 to 47. Using the PEN-3 model as a guide, we detected these emergent themes: expectation of care (perceptions), care delivery protocols (enablers), and physical environment (nurturers). We recommend that the cultural context in which care is delivered to women living with HIV/AIDS be considered in efforts to reduce and eliminate HIV/AIDS-related stigma in health care settings.