

Hawaiian Culture

According to a study performed by Soon et al. (2015), Hawaiian culture places tremendous importance on family. Although Hawaiians make up only about 0.2% of the population of the United States, I have had the pleasure of meeting a family from this culture through my job (Soon et al.,2015). Within this culture, the emphasis placed on "ohana" or family is vast.

An issue that is central to the core value of family is the higher than average rate of unplanned pregnancies among Hawaiian people. 54% of pregnancies in this subgroup of the population are unplanned (Soon et al.,2015). This rate is substantially higher than any other ethnic group, but the incidence of abortion of unplanned pregnancies in this group is significantly lower than in other groups. This statistic brings a focus back to the core value of family and demonstrates the ideal of this culture that children are a gift, no matter the circumstance.

In treating patients of Hawaiian descent, it is essential as a nurse to consider this core value. One tip for managing this population in a culturally competent manner would be to understand that first and foremost pregnancy Hawaiians regard pregnancy, no matter the origin, a blessing (Soon et al.,2015). Another idea would be to present healthcare options that might offend this ideal in a sensitive and caring way. Offering supportive guidance to these clients in choosing to proceed with an unplanned pregnancy can show them that you have their best interest at heart (Vogler, Altmann & Zoucha, 2010). Finally, once the child is born, allowing time for family bonding is especially crucial for this population. It is also essential to consider several family members may be visiting the hospital to welcome the new child. It is making accommodations for these visitors that will improve the experience for the family and help them feel that their core values are respected.

References

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