**Problem Statement**

- Is there a difference between younger women of ages 15-20 and older women of ages 30-35 years of age and the level of depression after experiencing a stillbirth postpartum?

**Statement of Purpose**

- Determine whether there is a difference between the younger women of ages 15-20 years and older women ages 30-35 and their levels of depression after experiencing a stillbirth postpartum.

**Hypothesis**

- There will be a greater level of postpartum depression following a stillbirth in younger women ages 15-20 than in older women ages 30-35.

**Independent Variable**

- Stillbirth

**Dependent Variable**

- Level of Depression

**Operational Definitions**

- **Depression**: A disorder which makes a person feel lost, sad, and uninterested; measured with the use of a questionnaire, Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale
- **Stillbirth**: the death of a fetus in utero after 20 weeks gestation
- **Postpartum**: period that occurs right after birth and last up to six weeks

**Literature Review**

- Women who are of young age, African American, single, uninsured, and with a low education, were found to have a higher prevalence of being screened positive for postpartum depression (Wisner et al., 2013).
- Lakshminarayana et al. (2012) found that there was an increase psychological distress with lower age women specifically during infant loss.
- Boggs, Gold, Leon, and Sen, (2015) concluded that those women who did lose a child after birth were four times more likely to be diagnosed with depression and seven times more likely to be diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder than those women who did not lose a child after birth.
- Vocational identity processes potentially indicate that there might be a high risk of depression in adolescents compared to the emerging adults (Lannegrand-Willems, Marchal, and Persche, 2016).
- Depression was a major outcome in poor coping strategies after experiencing a postpartum loss (Van, 2012).

**Theoretical Framework**

- Theory of Psychosocial Development By Erik Erikson
- According to this theory, completion of eight stages results in a healthy outlook and the formation of basic virtues (McLeod, 2013).
- For this proposed study, the adolescent girls ages 15-20 are going through a period of reflection and are in search of their identity (McLeod, 2013). In comparison, the older women ages 30-35 the focus is on personal relationships such as: a relationship with a child or a partner (McLeod, 2013).
- Nurses should follow Erik Erikson’s Theory of Psychosocial Development in order to provide patient centered-care throughout the entire lifespan.

**Research Design**

- Non-experimental correlational design

**Research Setting**

- Two outpatient clinics located in two separate teaching hospitals in the large metropolitan area in southwest Texas.

**Data Collection**

- The proposal will be submitted to the Institutional Review Board at Prairie View A&M University.
- Data will be collected using The Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale which is commonly used to measure postpartum depression.

**Data Analysis**

- One-tailed t-statistic will be used to assess whether the depression in adolescent girls (age:15-20) is higher than older women (age: 30-35) with significance level (alpha) at 0.05
- Descriptive statistics will be used to analyze the demographics
- If we reject H1: at alpha=0.05, we can conclude that there is a greater level of depression in younger women than in older women who have experienced post-partum depression after stillbirth.

**Significance to Nursing**

- Identifying the age group most effected by postpartum depression when experiencing a stillbirth will help in assessing depression related to stillbirth.
- The results might throw new light on obstetric nursing practice by enabling to design specific interventions to the prenatal, antenatal, and postpartum women depending on their age.

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**The Comparison of the Effect of Stillbirth Postpartum on Depression in Women Between the Ages 15-20 versus Ages 30-35**

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