

Associations between Gender, Perceived Vulnerability, and Social Coping when Facing Cancer-Related Stress

• Andre Velasquez, Dr. Marilyn Stern, Dr. Sylvia Crowder, Dr. Diana Rancourt

Background:

- The cancer experience can be exhausting
- Coping – the way individuals mitigate internal and external demands related to a stressful situation
- Perceived vulnerability – the extent to which an individual views themselves as susceptible to a health issue
- Gender differences?
 - Defining gender
 - Masculine gender norms may explain gender differences
- Current research gaps which address:
 - Gender and social coping strategies in the context of cancer
 - The relationship between gender and perceived vulnerability to cancer

Hypotheses:

- Men will be less likely to use social coping strategies than women when facing cancer-related stress
- Men will be less likely to perceive themselves as vulnerable to cancer than women

Methods:

- Secondary analysis
- N = 52
 - 24 male, 28 female
- Instrumentation
 - Perceptions of Vulnerability Scale (PVS)
 - How I Coped Under Pressure Scale (HICUPS)
- SPSS for analyses