

## **ABSTRACT**

### **The Experiences and Perceptions of Tobagonian Men in the Context of Health Care Utilization**

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Through interviews with four participants, this study explored men's experiences with, and perceptions of, health care utilization in Tobago. The participants were between the ages of 33 and 70 years, and had utilized various health care services in Tobago five years prior to the commencement of the study. Analysis of the data yielded 13 themes which reflected perceptions and experience with health care service utilisation: 1) patient-provider relationship, 2) wait time, 3) poor communication, 4) treatment effectiveness, 5) lack of empathy, 6) health knowledge, 7) severity of symptoms, 8) alternative medicine, 9) sense of control, 10) family role, 11) social support, 12) personal health choices, and 13) male social norms.

**Keywords:** Perception; Men; Public health; Case studies; Tobago; Trinidad and Toba