# Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0378-5122(18)30102-6

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.maturitas.2018.07.013

Reference: MAT 7043

To appear in: *Maturitas* 

Received date: 11-2-2018 Revised date: 2-7-2018 Accepted date: 19-7-2018

Please cite this article as: Cooper J, Examining Factors that Influence a Woman's Search for Information About Menopause Using the Socio-ecological Model of Health Promotion, *Maturitas* (2018), https://doi.org/10.1016/j.maturitas.2018.07.013

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Examining Factors that Influence a Woman's Search for Information About Menopause Using the Socio-ecological Model of Health Promotion

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## **Highlights**

- Women indicate they need more information about menopause than they receive.
- A woman's foreknowledge of menopause most often leads to a more positive attitude, and a positive attitude leads to a more positive menopause experience.
- Fewer than half of the women participating in this study indicated that they had engaged in any kind of learning action regarding menopause.
- For the women in this study who initiated a search to know more about their bodies at menopause, factors influencing their self-directed learning were found at every level of the socio-ecological model of health promotion.
- Understanding that education is one of the key determinants of health, the most important implication of the results of this study is that there is a need to connect adult education with health promotion, at every level of the socio-ecological model of health promotion.

#### **Abstract**

Recognizing that increased knowledge of the perimenopause transition, in advance of experiencing symptoms, can make a positive impact on a woman's menopause experience, this study investigated whether women engage in self-directed learning to inform themselves about menopause, and if they do initiate self-directed learning, what socio-ecological issues may help or hinder their search.

Two hundred twenty-seven responses to an online survey were analyzed from women aged 35-55 years. Fewer than half (48%) indicated that they had engaged in any kind of learning action regarding menopause. For the women who initiated a search to know more about their bodies at menopause, factors influencing their self-directed learning actions were found at every level of the socio-ecological model (SEM) of health promotion: intrapersonal, interpersonal, institutional, community, and policy factors.

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