UNM Feminist Research Institute Fall Lecture Series

"Could Emergency Department Visits Help Identify Women at Risk for Sexual Exploitation?"

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This study examines whether patient visits to emergency departments could offer health care providers an opportunity to identify women who may be at risk for sexual exploitation. Preliminary study findings indicate that female Medicaid patients who were diagnosed in the ED with at least one condition that could be related to potentially risky sexual behavior may be classified into one of four latent groups, including a group that could be characterized as "at risk." Moreover, the proportion of female Medicaid patients in this "at risk class" has been increasing over time. The ED visit may therefore offer providers an opportunity to identify and refer certain patients in this group.