that TBAs would have seen such events as retained placenta, malpresentation of fetus, and hemorrhage before and after delivery. We consider three models of TBA training: individual experience, vertical training, and horizontal knowledge sharing.

C: 2:00 p.m.


This study tests the hypothesis that longitudinal experience of glossolalia or “speaking in tongues,” a form of dissociation, reduces the reactivity of stress response to daily stressors. Dissociation is the partitioning of awareness associated with a variety of cross-cultural practices. It is believed to filter stress by mediating evaluation of potential stressors and reactivity of the mechanisms of stress response. Previous studies have examined these mechanisms in clinical and secularized health settings, but few have attempted to do so in traditional religio-cultural contexts. This study investigated culturally-embedded dissociation by comparing salivary cortisol and alpha-amylase as proxies of biological stress response to measures of glossolalia among a sample of 65 Apostolic Pentecostals in New York's mid-Hudson Valley. Saliva samples were collected at four predetermined times on a Sunday and the subsequent Monday to establish diurnal profiles and compare a day of worship to one of non-worship. Participants dichotomized by lifetime glossolalia experiences were compared using t-test statistics and were found to be socio-demographically similar. Biochemically, the high glossolalia group showed a significant decrease in cortisol on Monday relative to Sunday (P < 0.05) and a corresponding increase in alpha-amylase (P < 0.05). Linear regressions were performed on cortisol and alpha-amylase by multiple dimensions of glossolalia. Preliminary analysis suggests that, among those in the greater lifetime experiences group, glossolalia is suggestively associated with a reduction in stress in response to normal stressors (P < 0.10) and significantly associated with positive mood and calmness (P < 0.05). This supports a growing body of work validating the health-improving effects of dissociation and religiosity.

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A systematic review of childhood obesity and socioeconomic status in South Asians: The literature. E McClure1, LJ Ells2, GR Bentley1. 1Durham University, United Kingdom; 2Northeast Public Health Observatory, United Kingdom.

Childhood obesity is a problem of escalating concern that increases risks for short- and long-term health problems. In western countries, South Asians have a higher incidence of obesity and percent body fat than Europeans, largely influenced by sociocultural factors including socioeconomic status (SES). We present here a systematic review of literature exploring current links between obesity/overweight, SES, and migration in South Asian populations. After relevant exclusions, 13 studies were chosen for review: six identifying associations between SES and childhood obesity in South Asia, four measuring rates of obesity and overweight in affluent South Asian school children, and three looking at rates of obesity and overweight in South Asian immigrants. Results from these studies were inconsistent with regard to the measures and references used to determine overweight and obesity levels, and therefore, statistical inferences could not be made. Associations between SES and obesity were consistently positive in South Asian children and adolescents. Rates of obesity and overweight were similar in high SES South Asian populations and migrant populations. Incidence of overweight and obesity was higher in boys overall, and higher in boys and girls of pubertal age than in any other age group. Other associations include physical activity and food consumption. These results suggest the development of an obesogenic environment in affluent