

ORIGINAL PAPER**Difference of Health Practices Between Wanted and Unwanted Pregnancy****Ayla Çapık, PhD**

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Correspondence: Ayla Çapık, Atatürk University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Midwifery, 25240, Erzurum, Turkey. e-mail: aylakanbur28@hotmail.com**Abstract****Background:** Health practices during pregnancy are defined as activities that affect the course of pregnancy and its results; these activities extend to monitoring the health of the pregnant woman, the fetus, and the newborn.**Aims:** The purpose of this study; assessing the effects wanting a pregnancy has on health practices carried out by pregnant women.**Methodology:** A comparative descriptive type research. A questionnaire was used to determine the socio-demographic and obstetric characteristics, and a Health Practices in Pregnancy Questionnaire (HPQ) was used to determine the health practices during pregnancy. This study was conducted in a government hospital in Erzurum, Turkey. The sample group of the research consists of 270 pregnant women (146 wanted pregnancies, 124 unwanted pregnancies) registered at the polyclinics for prenatal controls. The data were evaluated with SPSS program.**Results:** Average age of pregnant women who participated in the study is 27.53 ± 5.49 . 56.3% of pregnant women are primary school graduates, 90% are unemployed and 77% live in the city center. The mean score of health practices in pregnancy is determined to be higher in intended pregnancies. Educational status, working status, education of the husband, residence, and monthly income of the family affect the mean score of health practices in pregnancy in both intended and unintended pregnancies. While age and number of living children affect the mean score of health practices in pregnancy in unintended pregnancies, they do not have an effect on said practices in intended pregnancies.**Conclusion:** Women who want the pregnancy have more positive health practices in pregnancy and the health practices performed throughout pregnancy in both intended and unintended pregnancies are affected by a number of demographic and obstetrical factors.**Keywords:** Pregnancy, wanted pregnancy, unwanted pregnancy, health practices.