

Figure 1.
Theoretical Model

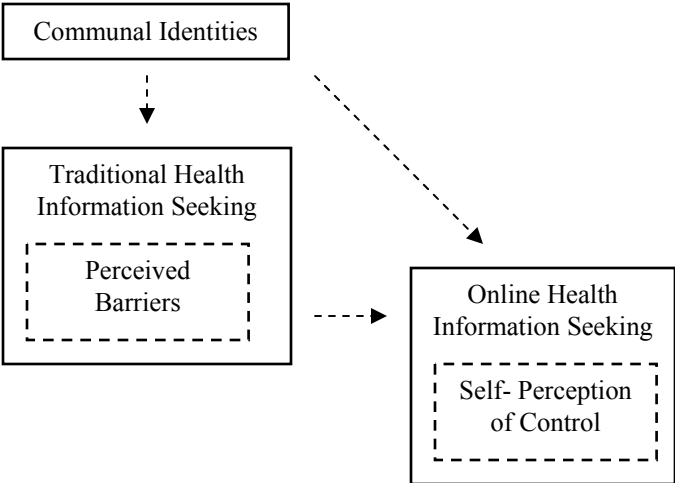


Table I Demographic Characteristics*

Study Variable	
Age	
Median	48.5 (range 26-60 years)
Marital Status, % (n)	
Married	33% (6)
Single	50% (9)
Divorced	17% (3)
Number of Children, % (n)	
0	22% (4)
2-3	50% (9)
4-6	28% (5)
Salary, % (n)	
8,000-13,000	39% (7)
14,000-23,000	28% (5)
24,000-36,000	6% (1)
Prefer not to answer	27% (5)
Education, % (n)	
Some high school	11% (2)
High school/GED	50% (9)
Community college/ trade school	22% (4)
Some college	17% (3)
Length of computer use, % (n)	
0-1 year	61% (11)
2-4 year	11% (2)
5 ≤ years	28% (5)
Length of internet use	
Median	1 year (range 1-4 years)
Location of internet use	
Home	30% (5)
2 or more sites (home, work, relative, community)	40% (7)

*Percentages and frequencies reported except where median is noted.

Table II *Searches for specific health topics online

Health Area	Percent (n)
Diabetes	61% (11)
Heart Disease	61% (11)
High Blood Pressure	56% (10)
HIV/AIDS	33% (6)
Cancer	28% (5)
Depression	22% (4)
Asthma	22% (4)
Fibromyalgia	6% (1)
Sickle Cell Anemia	6% (1)
Cholesterol	6% (1)
Menopause	6% (1)
Pituitary Health	6% (1)
Keyloids	6% (1)
Vision	6% (1)

*Participants visited more than one health area.

Table III Summary I of Qualitative Findings

Domain: Traditional Health Information Seeking (Perceived Barriers)

1. Secondhand healthcare
 - a. Distrust of health providers
 - b. Substandard treatment
 - c. Misinformation regarding treatment
 - d. Questionable prescribing of medicine
2. Withholding health information
 - a. Do not want to hear health concerns
 - b. Generalization of African Americans
 - c. African American providers give better health information
3. Tension in access
 - a. Health resources available
 - b. Limited/no insurance barrier to receiving health services

Domain: The Internet in Health Information Seeking (Self-Perception of Control)

1. Embrace technological change
 - a. Access to vast health information
 - b. Help to overcome obstacles
 - c. Facilitates personal empowerment
 - d. Use technology with caution
 - e. Reification of social hierarchies and inequalities
 2. Seek more health information
 - a. Support information from health providers
 - b. Second opinion
 - c. Facilitates client and health provider's communication
 3. Access to technology
 - a. Computers are available in the community
 - b. Need motivation/willingness to use
 - c. Negative self-perceptions barrier to use
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Table IV Summary II of Qualitative Findings

Domain: Traditional Health Information Seeking (Perceived Barriers)

1. Cultural identity
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2. Racial identity in health information seeking
 - a. Secondhand healthcare
 - b. Withholding health information
3. Socio-economic identity in health information seeking
 - a. Tensions in access

Domain: The Internet in Health Information Seeking (Self-Perceptions of Control)

1. Cultural identity in health information seeking
 - a. Embrace technological change
 - b. Seek more health information
 2. Racial identity in health information seeking
 - a. Technology reifies social hierarchies and inequalities
 3. Socio-economic identity in health information seeking
 - a. Access to technology
 - b. Technology reifies social hierarchies and inequalities
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