

1125-VP-2800

Budhinath Padhy* (budhinath@yahoo.com) and **Gemechis Djira**. *A Multivariate Longitudinal Analysis of the effects of Depressive Symptoms, Financial Strain and Self Rated Health on Spiritual Connectedness.*

This talk presents and discusses the results obtained using the longitudinal structural equation modeling methodology to analyze survey data sampled from Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) database. In this study two waves of data collected during 2001 and 2004 were used to study the effect of physical, mental and financial strain on spiritual connectedness. Our research objectives are to find which explanatory latent variables have significant effect on spiritual connectedness at Wave 1. Secondly, which latent variables have significant effect on spiritual connectedness at Wave 2. Thirdly, how the spiritual connectedness is affected by race, gender, education and region. Results from our analysis show that the spiritual connectedness at Wave 1 is significantly affected by the financial strain at Wave 1. Secondly, the spiritual connectedness at Wave 2 depends solely on the effect of spiritual connectedness at Wave 1. Thirdly, African Americans are spiritually more connected than white Americans whereas females are spiritually more connected than males. Finally, there is no significant effect of education or region on the spiritual connectedness. (Received September 20, 2016)