

Annotation #5

The article I chose was from the New York Times, titled *When Doctors Downplay Women's Health Concerns*. This was a first person perspective of what the author experienced when going to the doctors regarding mental health issues and having her problems being overlooked. The author Camille Noe Pagán's went to the doctor's office and when she starting discussing the anxiety and depression she had been dealing with, the doctor told her to come back a few months later if she still had problems. When she went to a different doctor a few months after, the health professional was appalled by the experience. With the treatment from her new doctor and therapy, Camille wanted to know if having concerns about ones health overlooked by people in healthcare was a common occurrence for females. The research for this article made her discover that it is something that happens quite frequently unfortunately. Pagán went on to give several statistics showing the severity of women's issues being downplayed in healthcare, one stating that "in a survey of more than 2,400 women with chronic pain, 83 percent said they had experienced gender discrimination from their health care providers". Women should not need to visit more than one doctor to have their illnesses and pain take seriously.

Why is it that when women go to the doctors, they are often told that their pain is all in their heads and not taken seriously? It is not fair that while women are suffering, they actively have to show some sort of proof that they are not okay instead of the doctor just taking the woman at their word that they are in pain. By being denied so many times, women occasionally know something is wrong but since they are unable to articulate the problem is goes unnoticed and ignored because women are much more likely to be told that their pain is psychosomatic. This article does a very good job of showing viable proof that women have these experienced and it backs up the more technical aspect of this issue that I discussed in the previous annotation. I think that this article is very important for people to read because it is very easy to understand since it is from first person narrative and it is a problem that everyone should be aware of.

Pagán, C. N. (2018, May 3). *When doctors downplay women's health concerns*. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/03/well/live/when-doctors-downplay-womens-health-concerns.html>.