

Introduction

- Maternal sepsis is the second-leading cause of maternal mortality in the U.S., with a disproportionate impact among racial and ethnic minorities.
- We aimed to contribute to Aim 3 of EnCoRe MoMS by conducting qualitative in-depth interviews (IDIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) with postpartum patients to explore the lived experiences, needs, and perceived solutions for maternal care continuity, sepsis prevention, and promotion of equity in postpartum.

Methods

- We conducted IDIs patients (N=16) with delivery/postpartum complications including preterm premature rupture of membranes (n=10), chorioamnionitis (n=5), and sepsis (n=2).
- We conducted FGDs with 12 community members including doulas, community health workers, etc.
- Patients and community stakeholders provided feedback on a patient education handout on sepsis.

Key Takeaways

- IDIs and FGDs uncovered patients' experiences, needs, and barriers to adequate maternal health care.
- IDIs and FGDs revealed a need for increased education and awareness about delivery/postpartum complications.
- Patients expressed unmet needs in services including mental health support and home visiting programs.

Preliminary Findings from Patient IDIs

Prenatal and L&D Experiences

- Lack of continuity in provider
- Lack of information on potential risks/complications of pregnancy and delivery

Maternal Sepsis Knowledge

- Lack of prior maternal sepsis knowledge among patients
- Provided feedback on patient education handout

Facilitators & Barriers to Accessing Maternal Care

- Preferences for virtual vs. in-person appointments
- Greater need for family support with driving, childcare, etc. during appointments

Respectful Care

- Trust in provider but poor communication
- Lack of respect for religious beliefs in context of abortion

Postpartum Care Continuity

- Utility of mental health resources postpartum following traumatic birth
- Difficult transition to postpartum with baby in NICU

Community-based Resources & Solutions

- Need for mental health services
- Need for greater incorporation of doulas into care team

Patient Feedback on Maternal Sepsis Education Handout

Signs of Sepsis

"...it's very easy to write off as oh I'm pregnant, my stomach hurts or I feel like foggy brain or confusion."

Emoji Inclusion

"I think it's pretty informative. I like the visuals. It provides helpful information."

Positive Feedback

"No, this is great. I'm looking at it as you're scrolling up right now and it's very informative. I wasn't spoken to about that."