Maternal Health: Problem Analysis Diagram

Social/Economic/Policy Level

Social/Employment Policy
Antenatal & postpartum leave
Legal protections for women (workplace, violence, etc.)

Social Issues
Poverty & social determinants of health
Stigma of mental illness
Racism & discrimination

Healthcare Practice/Policy
Health insurance policy disincentives for best care practices
Medicalization of childbirth
Medical training in obstetrics
Health insurance & eligibility

Healthcare Continued
Reductions in maternal health funding
Lack of respect for or incorporation of midwives/midwifery practices

Family/Community/Institutional Level

Family/Home
Low level of family connectedness & social support
Family views on pregnancy & childbirth
Genetic risk factors/family history
Patient perceptions of acceptable OB care
Violence in the home

Community/Environment
Neighborhood violence & safety
Access to/time/safe space/affordability of exercise
Limited access to affordable nutritious food
Environmental exposures
Occupational safety & workload
Poor education support & quality
Lack of transportation

Healthcare Providers/Institutions
No hospital protocols for obstetric hemorrhage
No hospital policies against elective deliveries prior to 39 weeks
Hospital referral & case management
Regionalize risk appropriate care & ongoing regional quality improvement
Insurance reimbursement rates
Fear of malpractice
Inadequate comprehensive prenatal education

Individual Level

Knowledge & Behavior
Low levels of formal education & health literacy
Use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol
Birth spacing

Health Status
Overweight/obese or underweight
Mental health issues
Chronic health condition(s)
Cardiovascular disease
Diabetes/gestational diabetes
Sexually transmitted infections
Perinatal mood/anxiety disorders
Hypertension/ pre-eclampsia/ eclampsia
Placenta previa

Maternal Health Care/ Outcomes
Inadequate preconception & prenatal care
Current or previous cesarean delivery
Prior poor birth outcomes

Other
Unemployed/underemployed
Intimate partner abuse
Poverty & financial insecurity
Race/ethnicity
Advanced maternal age
Chronic stress

Target Outcome(s): Death, near-miss morbidity, severe morbidity, racial & ethnic disparities (Morbidity measures: hospital re-admission, maternal infection, anesthesia complications, hemorrhage, maternal birth trauma, cesarean delivery)

Consequences: Preterm & low birth weight babies, low breastfeeding rates, failure to thrive in infants, family trauma - children left motherless, hysterectomy, reduced future fertility, transfusion, other medical complications, long-term health concerns, health care costs

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