

Utilization of Pre And Postnatal Resources among Black Women in Sedgwick County

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Abstract: Introduction: Significant infant death disparities exist. African American women have the highest infant mortality rate at 18.8/1,000 live births compared to the average rate 7.4 per 1,000 live births in Sedgwick County. Non-Hispanic black women have a rate two to three times higher. Mothers can prevent causes of infant mortality by taking care of their health during and after pregnancy. Community services are available to improve health and reduce health disparities.

Research Question: Is there a relationship between the use of community resources that provide pre-and post-natal services and the high incidence of infant mortality among black women ages 18-65 years?

Methods: A Qualtrics survey was provided to participants via email and social media. All women had to be 18-65 years old, English speaking, and live in or near Sedgwick County Kansas. Responses were tabulated using excel and analyzed for trends. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the data.

Findings and Interpretations: There were 59 participants, age range of 21-30 years old and most completing high school or higher 87% (n=33). Of the 19 community services listed in the survey 12 services were utilized. 40 (68%) of participants used at least one community service. The Women Infant and Children nutritional program (WIC) was the most selected service used 43% (n=32). The next most frequent were Healthy Babies and A Better Choice 11% (n=8), followed by Grace Med Health Clinic and The Treehouse 7% (n=5). Of the participants, 11% (n=4) of mothers reported an infant loss. Most women reported they trusted their services providers 93% (n=42).

Conclusion: African American women do use community services in Sedgwick county. Four women had babies die within the first year. Further research is needed to understand the high rates of infant mortality amongst African American women and the services needed during and after pregnancy.

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