

ABSTRACT

- Decreasing maternal morbidity and mortality and decreasing disparities are major goals for improving maternal and child health in Detroit.
- This project aims to review the major factors that impact severe maternal morbidity (SMM) for people who give birth aged 18 - 45 living in the city of Detroit.
- Health indicators were identified through a secondary needs assessment using online resources, and was followed by a primary needs assessment to collect information from key stakeholders, including providers and community members, in Detroit.
- Access to care was highlighted as a key health indicator, and a lack of transportation and childcare were identified as major barriers for accessing care.
- One potential intervention proposed in this paper is the introduction of a structure and systematic mobile clinic network that can provide responsive care in a less formal setting and address gaps for our target population.

INTRODUCTION

- Reducing infant and maternal morbidity and mortality has been indicated as a key objective by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- Initiatives in Detroit are critical, as the Detroit metro area has the state's second-highest severe maternal morbidity (SMM) rate.
- In 2019, there were 216 cases per 100,000 inpatient delivery hospitalizations due to SMM in Detroit. Decreasing disparities between Black and white mothers and children is also a priority.

METHODS

A combination of secondary and primary needs assessments were conducted to collect peer-reviewed and community data on SMM.

Secondary Needs Assessment

A secondary needs assessment was conducted using online peer-reviewed article databases to assess health indicators from three main domains (behaviors, stress, and physical condition; social, environmental factors and economic factors; and health outcomes) and analyze their contribution to SMM.

Domain	Indicator	Measure	Source
Social, Environmental and Economic Factors	Income	Percentage under the poverty level	American Community Survey
	Social Support	Percentage who had someone to take them to the doctor	Detroit Health Department
Behaviors, Stress and Physical Condition	Access to Care	Percentage of mother's without health insurance/primary care provider (resource center)	American Community Survey
	Mental Health	Percentage of mothers experiencing symptoms of postpartum depression	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Health Outcomes	Blood Transfusion	Percentage of blood transfusions related to hospitalizations after delivery	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
	Eclampsia	Percentage of eclampsia related to hospitalizations after or during delivery	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Analysis and Determination of Key Health Indicator

After analyzing the factors reported through the secondary needs assessment, access to quality care was determined to be one of the most potent health indicators.

Primary Needs Assessment

- Collected first-hand community perspectives towards birthing process.
- Interviews and a capacity and asset assessment were conducted with community members and leaders at Birth Detroit and the Perinatology Research Branch.

RESULTS

- Prenatal care, mental health and a healthy lifestyle are the major sectors within which challenges to access resources are most prevalent.
- Lack of transportation and lack of childcare were emphasized as the most important factors that prevented consistent access to care.
- Other barriers included mistrust between patients and providers, and an inability to access online resources due to improper health education or a lack of a technological device.

CONCLUSIONS AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- Mobile clinics are a potential intervention that has been used in other contexts to offer flexible, responsive care that is customized to the community's needs.
- They can also provide a comfortable and approachable environment with a less formal setting and familiar environment.
- Maternal health-focused mobile clinics can help overcome these barriers and provide preventative care for pregnant people in Detroit.
- The establishment of a mobile clinic centered towards providing perinatal care for people who give birth will decrease gaps in care and social support for vulnerable families in Detroit.