Creating the Capacity to Screen Deaf Women for Perinatal Depression [poster]

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Creating the Capacity to Screen Deaf Women for Perinatal Depression

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Perinatal depression impacts 1 out of 9 mothers in the general population.\(^1\)

Deaf women receive sub-optimal maternal health care and report more dissatisfaction with their overall prenatal care experiences due to systemic linguistic and attitudinal barriers.\(^2\)

These barriers leave Deaf women vulnerable to development or exacerbation of depression during the perinatal period, which can have a detrimental, multi-generational impact.

Yet, the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Screen (EPDS) is inaccessible to Deaf mothers due to severe disparities in English literacy and health literacy.\(^4, 5, 6\)

In 2015, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommended depression screening for all pregnant and postpartum women.\(^3\)

Community-Engaged Method:

- Team includes:
  - Deaf Co-I
  - ASL-fluent Co-I
  - 2 Deaf Community Advisors (Deaf laypeople)

- Forward translate EPDS from English to ASL
- Recruit 50 Deaf perinatal women from across U.S.
- Deaf Community Advisors administer ASL EPDS on videophone
- 40% of filmed calls will undergo fidelity checks
- Back translate EPDS from ASL to English
- Equivalence comparison; Team-approved ASL EPDS filmed
- Psychometric data analyses

Disseminate findings to Deaf Community, scientific community, and continue research endeavors

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