Creating the Capacity to Screen Deaf Women for Perinatal Depression

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Creating the Capacity to Screen Deaf Women for Perinatal Depression

Kelly S. Wolf Craig, Melissa L. Anderson, Kathleen Biebel, Nancy Byatt, Sheri Hostovsky, Maureen Bligh, & Kristin Walker

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

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
- Back translate EPDS from ASL to English
- 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
- Equivalence comparison; Team-approved ASL EPDS filmed
- Psychometric data analyses
- Disseminate findings to Deaf Community, scientific community, and continue research endeavors

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


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