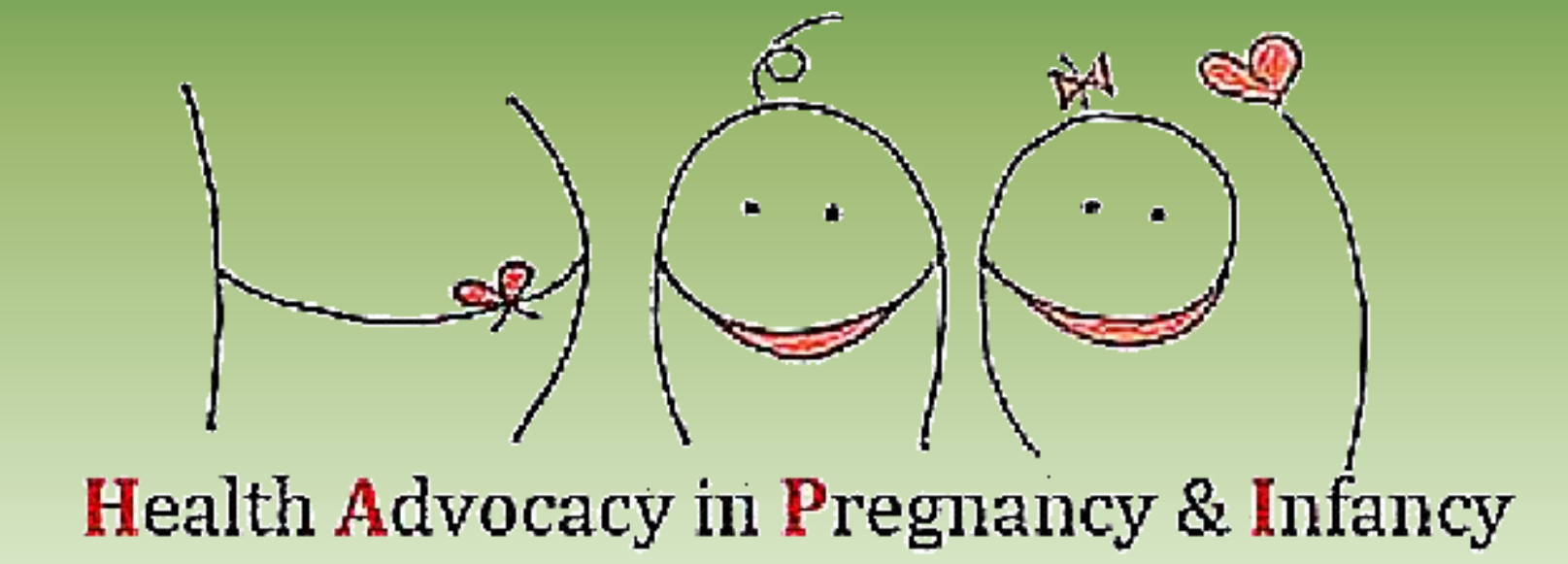


Health Advocacy in Pregnancy and Infancy (HAPI): Needs Assessment for Creating Patient-Centered, Community-Engaged Programs for Pregnant Homeless Women



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Introduction

- In 2016, Milwaukee's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) was 9.1/1000 live births, compared to the national average IMR of 5.87/1000 live births.^{1,2}
- The leading cause of Milwaukee's infant deaths was prematurity.³
- Homelessness during pregnancy is correlated with a higher risk of premature births resulting in poorer birth outcomes.⁴

Purpose

- Identify, via a needs assessment, the unmet needs in maternal and perinatal health of homeless women currently living at a shelter in Milwaukee, WI.
- Inform the development of patient centered service-learning modules, known as HAPI.
- Impact the future health of participating homeless pregnant women, as well as the future service of participating medical students.

Methods

- Two 1 hour focus groups were held 2 weeks apart at the women's shelter.
- A total of 13 shelter residents, 4 students, and 1 physician participated in each session.
- Open- and close-ended questions prompted discussion on challenges, strengths, and needs of homeless pregnant women.
- Documented responses were analyzed in order of frequency.

Results

- 13 themes were identified as unmet needs for homeless pregnant women: the 5 most frequently identified themes are shown below

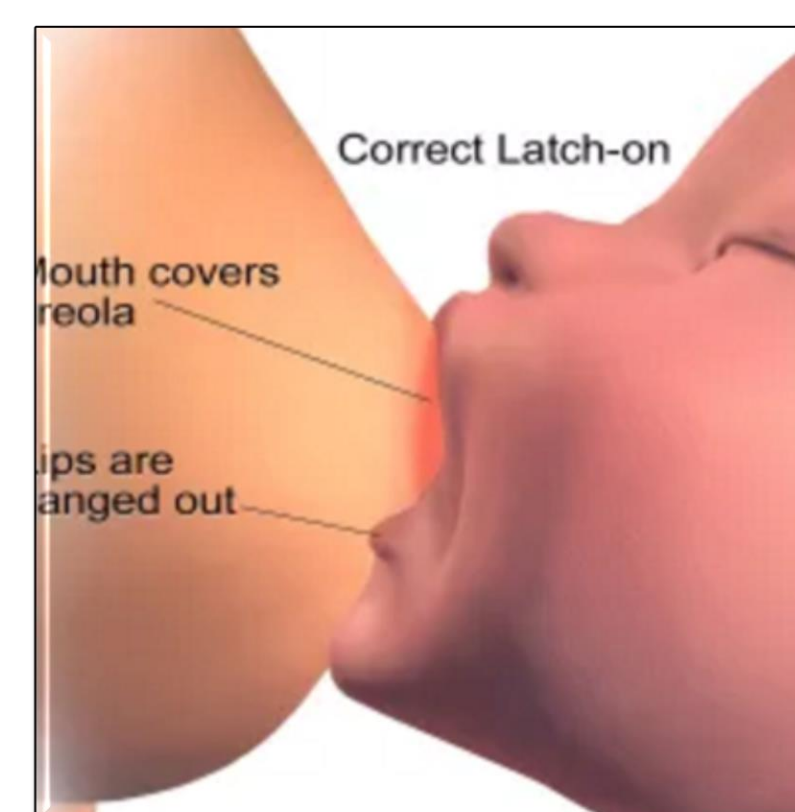
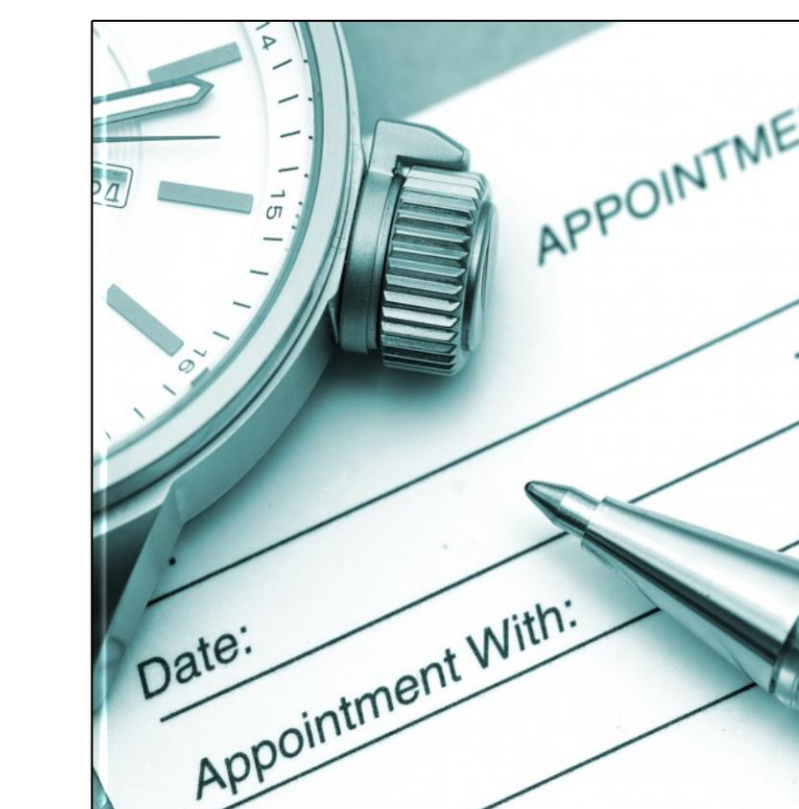


#1 Pregnancy Education

- Explaining normal pregnancy and delivery
- Managing health during pregnancy
- Postpartum health

#2 Access and Transportation

- Help scheduling doctor appointments
- Childcare during prenatal visit



#3 Baby Care

- Baby illnesses, fevers, soothing, etc.
- How to make baby food and hygiene products
- Breastfeeding classes

#4 Advocacy

- Forming medical student & mother partnerships
- Student advocates at prenatal visits, labor and delivery
- Developing a 'Community of Peers'



#5 Material Necessities

- Maternity clothes
- Baby clothes, diapers, etc.

Figure 1. The top 5 identified themes for improving pre- and postnatal experiences for homeless pregnant women. Examples of concepts discussed are shown within each theme.

Conclusions and Future Steps

This needs assessment found unmet maternal and perinatal needs in this local homeless pregnant population, some of which can be addressed through the development of HAPI.

Results are informing the development and implementation of the HAPI service-learning program, which currently includes:

1) Interactive modules

- Breast feeding and contraception
- Maternal and infant nutrition
- Infant care: Safe sleep, common rashes and illnesses, child development, well-child visits, and baby first aid kits
- Postpartum depression and stress management

2) Student & Mother Partnership Program

- Students acting as advocates
- Students providing pre/postnatal health assistance

3) Data collection on birth outcomes

- Ongoing quality improvements
- Dissemination of findings

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