

Community-Led Priority Setting for Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy and Parenting

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

opioid use disorder in pregnancy and parenting

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

North America - USA

Why was it conducted at all?

Opioid use disorder in pregnancy is considered one of the leading maternal health crises in the United States. Pregnancy and childbirth present a unique time in which efforts towards recovery from opioid use disorder (OUD) may be most meaningful and the chance of success potentially higher than during other times in a person's life. However, current efforts to support pregnant and parenting people with OUD have largely not been successful at promoting a lasting recovery. Research exploring the experiences of pregnant and parenting people with OUD has described many avenues for improved care, highlighting the importance of community voices in providing direction for future research and policy work. Community engagement is key to elevating the voices of those who have lived experience and identifying needs for those within marginalized communities.

What was the objective?

to engage community members with opioid use disorder (OUD) and case managers working with pregnant and parenting individuals with OUD in a priority setting process to identify the key priorities for research, policy, and care improvement during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum

What was the outcome?

a list of 11 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

August 2019 - December 2019

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

focus group

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: 3 focus groups with pregnant and parenting people with OUD and 2 focus groups with case managers, in first session participants nominated priorities. Step 2: interim data analysis: single online document to rapidly categorize questions into preliminary headings for the second session. Step 3: second session of focus groups: questions were prioritized and organized into themes and headings. Step 4: research team examined all priorities across participant groups and participant categories (community members and case managers) to assess similarities and differences among groups, iterative process using order in the final list of priorities, relative ranking of priorities by participants in each group, and thematic analysis

Which stakeholders took part?

24 pregnant and parenting people with OUD, 16 case managers working with this community

How were stakeholders recruited?

Participants were recruited from 5 counties and 1 tribal community across Washington State. Agencies helped to recruit participants.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.