

Nurses' Priorities for Improving Pregnancy and Birth Care for Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

pregnancy and birth care for individuals with opioid use disorder

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

North America - USA

Why was it conducted at all?

The motivation to seek treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) can increase during the perinatal period. However, several identified barriers, such as poor access to services, lack of trained providers, stigma, and legal ramifications of OUD, limit the ability for individuals with OUD to receive safe and supportive care during pregnancy and birth. During the birth hospital stay in particular, nurses provide the majority of care for pregnant and birthing families. We aimed to engage nurses, with experience caring for pregnant and postpartum individuals with OUD, in priority setting as a way to identify areas of need in the current health care systems.

What was the objective?

to further contextualize the priorities developed by affected community members by engaging perinatal nurses in a similar research and policy priority setting process

What was the outcome?

a list of 5 research areas

How long did the research prioritization take?

3 days

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

focus group; survey

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: survey: participants were asked to submit questions and concerns regarding the provision of care for individuals with OUD, participants submitted a total of 165 questions and concerns. Step 2: data cleaning: grouping submitted questions. Step 3: focus groups: participants reviewed 165 questions, all questions and comments were visually displayed on the walls of the room for clarity and understanding, all questions were reviewed, participants expanded questions to 189 questions, participants then selected their top 15 questions using a sticky dot, all questions without sticky dots were removed, remaining questions were rearranged for visibility by categories, participants then ranked their top 5 questions with a different color sticky dot, final priorities were determined through discussion between participants using number of sticky dots per question, revision and reorganization of topic headings or categories and grouping of questions

Which stakeholders took part?

Survey: 47 participants: nurses and midwives. Focus group: 20 participants: nurses and midwives.

How were stakeholders recruited?

Inpatient and outpatient nurses, including advanced practice nurses, who attended the conference of the Washington State chapter of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses in November 2019 were recruited. Individuals were invited to participate if they were English speaking, a registered nurse (RN) or advanced practice nurse, and self-identified as regularly providing direct care for pregnant and parenting individuals with OUD.

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.