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Improving Access to Community Resources for Mothers in Southern New Jersey

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Improving Access to Community Resources for Mothers in Southern New Jersey

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Background

Maternal mortality is the pregnancy-related death of a woman during pregnancy, at delivery, or soon after delivery. Roughly 700 women die each year due to pregnancy or delivery complications¹.

According to the New Jersey Maternal Mortality Review Committee (NJMMRC), the maternal mortality ratio (MMR), which is defined as deaths per 100,000 live births, in southern New Jersey is twice as high as those in both central and northern Jersey, with central Jersey having the lowest MMR².

Objective

- Identify barriers in resource accessibility for mothers in Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem county.
- Partner with community stakeholders to develop a tool that will improve access to resources for mothers in these communities.

Methods

- Literature review using words such as: New Jersey Maternal Health, Patient Barriers
- Formal interview with community partner, Acenda Integrated Health

Results and Intervention

In order to improve resource accessibility for mothers in southern New Jersey, we partnered with Acenda Integrated Health to develop a maternal resource map. We researched current assistance opportunities in Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties and compiled them into digitally accessible and printable resource maps. Additionally, we created a Spanish copy of each that features Spanish headings.

Resources listed on the map include:

- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Day-cares & Family Support Services
- ❖ OBGYN, Mental Health & Counseling, Pediatric Services

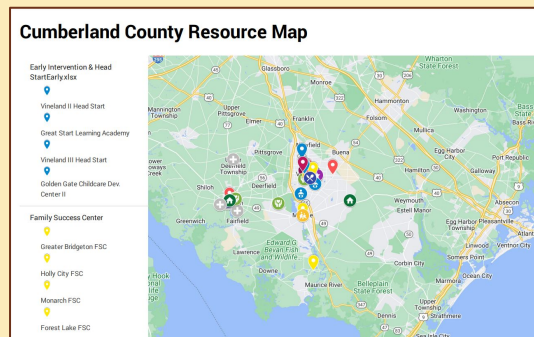


Fig 1. Resource map for Cumberland County created for Acenda Integrated Health

Conclusion

Patient barriers prohibit mothers from getting the care that they need³. These barriers include: inadequate transportation, work or family-related issues, long waitlists, and lack of availability. However, the main patient barrier was found to be language/communication⁴.

Resource maps that were generated for counties within southern New Jersey were given to Acenda, their partners, local clinics, and any organization that might benefit from this resource map.

Limitations

Currently there is little to no data on how access to community resources correlates with maternal health in general or in a specific area.

References

