

Common Impact Metrics Workshop:

What We Urgently Need to Make a Difference for Childbearing Families

Birth Equity Funders' Summit

Atlanta

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About the National Partnership for Women & Families

- **National non-profit, non-partisan organization based in DC**
- **More than 50 years of advancing essential policies for women and families**
- **Work for a just, equitable society in which all women and families can live with dignity, respect and security**
- **Health Justice and Economic Justice policy teams**
- **Welcomed Jocelyn Frye, our 3rd president, in December**

I have no conflicts to disclose



Crucial Lever for Change; Far from Reaching Potential

Performance measures help create a high-performing maternity care system

- Accountability: through payment and/or public reporting
 - Should be meaningful, valid, fair/comparable, parsimonious, standardized
- Quality improvement: meaningful, valid; otherwise more flexible

NQF's nationally-endorsed maternity measure portfolio is small & limited

- None specified for disaggregation by race and ethnicity, language, etc.
- No person-reported measures of either experience or outcomes of care
- Nearly all are facility-level intrapartum measures vs clinician/group, health plan, and ability to understand prenatal and postpartum care

If you can't measure it, you can't improve it



Priority Community-Identified Topics for Next National *Listening to Mothers* Survey

What do you and people/groups you work with need to know from birthing people?

What do you want policymakers and other decision makers to know about birthing people's views and experiences?

Most highly-endorsed topics for inclusion

- Whether treated with respect TIED WITH Shared decision making (10/10)
- Feeling unsafe/safe at place of birth, threats/actions from CPS, other authorities
- Mental health: depression/anxiety symptoms, screening, treatment, causes
- Social needs and impact on pregnancy
- Barriers to care and to desired forms of care
- Solutions: what worked/helped (broadly)

Many other topics were highly rated and will be included!

Glaring Gaps in Nationally-Endorsed Measures

Person-reported measure of respect and mistreatment in maternity care

Person-reported measure of experience of maternal-newborn care

Person-reported composite measure of outcomes of maternal care

Anxiety and depression in pregnancy, after birth: whether screened; and if screened positive, whether received care and was helped

Social needs: whether identified, whether received help with unmet needs

Whether had care choices (e.g., midwife, birth center, doula, VBAC)

Across all: ways to measure inequities and to be fair to those caring for families with elevated needs

Bright Spots: Maternity Measure Initiatives Under Way

Birth justice leader tools for measuring respectful maternity care

- National Birth Equity Collaborative PREM for Black birthing people, PREM for all birthing people: hospital level – aim to integrate
- Dr. Karen Scott: Person-Reported Experience Measure of Obstetric Racism (PREM-OB): hospital level – aim for strongest anti-racism tool

Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality

- CAHPS Experience of maternity care surveys: clinician/group, facility levels

National Committee for Quality Assurance

- Birth equity measurement bundle, with NBEC: health plan level

Formative research, development, testing, endorsement take many years/\$

Public Reporting is Limited, Inaccessible, Underused

Available results are in varied poorly publicized, difficult to use places, e.g.,

- The Leapfrog Group – voluntary/incomplete, hospitals only
- The Joint Commission – hard to use, cesarean rates nontransparent - hospitals
- Some state departments of health
- CMS Care Compare: 1/75+ hospital measures; 0 for maternity clinicians
- Ambitious advocacy effort: cesareanrates.org

***Listening to Mothers* national representative survey results**

- Do you think there are large differences in the quality of maternity care across hospital maternity units, and across obstetricians? ~1/3 Yes, others No or DK

Public reporting can drive maternity improvement and inform birthing people about care options

Judith Hibbard: stellar body of research on user-friendly quality reporting for consumers



Ideal Future State

We have robust set of nationally-endorsed measures that matter with potential to drive delivery system reform, including by advancing equity

The measures are well integrated into payment, reporting, QI programs

The programs *are* leveraging improvement, driving delivery system reform

An up-to-date user-friendly public reporting interface provides the info birthing people need to make wise, personalized care arrangements

People have access to high-performing care options (another workgroup)

Making intentional care choices has been socialized as a standard part of the experience of planning pregnancy or early pregnancy

Thank you, contact info



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