

#257 Myanna Olsen

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Comparison of Socioeconomic Needs between Pregnant and non-Pregnant patients in a Low-Resource Neighborhood During Covid-19

During the Spring 2020 Covid-19 peak, the low-resourced neighborhood of Central Brooklyn was among the hardest hit in NYC. In response, our institution performed an outreach initiative to address social stressors. Given that socioeconomic stressors can lead to adverse pregnancy outcomes, our goal was to assess the differential in stressors between pregnant and non-pregnant patients during the pandemic. From April to June 2020, student volunteers conducted calls to clinic patients. Respondents were screened for socioeconomic stressors and social needs. Patients who screened positive were offered referral to community resources or social work as needed. Chi-square analyses were used to compare response rates between pregnant and non-pregnant patients. IRB approval was waived. 162 pregnant and 1,191 non-pregnant patients were surveyed. Comparisons of housing insecurity (14.20% pregnant vs. 7.22% non-pregnant, $P < 0.01$), bill-related stress (24.22% vs. 13.33%, $P < 0.01$), and childcare needs (4.97% vs. 1.9%, $P = 0.02$) were significant. The proportion of respondents indicating concerns regarding necessity of leaving home for work (17.31% vs. 19.19%), food insecurity (18.52% vs. 14.36%), lack of social companionship (6.25% vs. 4.17%) and domestic violence (1.27% vs. 0.33%) did not differ significantly between groups. Previous studies have shown that pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to social stressors. This study highlights the unique needs facing pregnant women during the pandemic and suggests that improved social support is an integral part of comprehensive pregnancy care in a low-resource community during this time.

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