

Assessing women's healthcare access needs through the Florida Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program Evaluation

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INTRODUCTION

- Despite significant annual US expenditures on healthcare, access and utilization remain poor.¹
- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) aims to minimize health disparities in low socioeconomic status (SES) and racial minority groups in the US.²
- Individuals with lower SES tend to underutilize healthcare services due to numerous barriers.³
- Home visiting programs have been shown to positively impact healthcare access amongst individuals served. To address growing concerns over maternal and child health status in the US, the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program was created, initially under ACA.^{4, 5}
- Florida MIECHV promotes health and development for 1100 pregnant women, children and families with low SES through evidence-based home visiting.



METHODS

- Each interview transcript was reviewed for accuracy by FL MIECHV Evaluation research staff.
- A subset of transcripts were reviewed to develop a codebook using an inductive, grounded theory approach to identify emerging themes.
- Transcripts were systematically coded by two independent raters.
 - 29 transcripts were used to assess inter-rater reliability
 - Kappa (K) = .788
 - Percentage agreement = 70.8%
- Codes were then analyzed to assess themes that emerged from the interviews.

Participant Characteristics	
Mean Age (n=55)	26.53 yrs.
Race	
White	2(3.4%)
Black	31(53.4%)
Latina	20(34.5%)
Multiracial	2(3.4%)
Not reported	3(5.2%)
Language (spoken during interview)	
English	36(62.1%)
Spanish	13(22.4%)
Haitian-Creole	9(15.5%)
Marital Status	
Single	42(72.4%)
Married	13(22.4%)
Separated or Divorced	1(1.7%)
Not reported	2(3.4%)
Education	
Some High School and below	19(32.8%)
High School Diploma or GED	17(29.3%)
Some College and above	21(36.2%)
Not reported	1(1.7%)
Employment	
Unemployed	35(60.3%)
Part-time	15(25.9%)
Full-time	5(8.6%)
Not reported	3(5.2%)

RESULTS

Barriers in Access to Healthcare Services

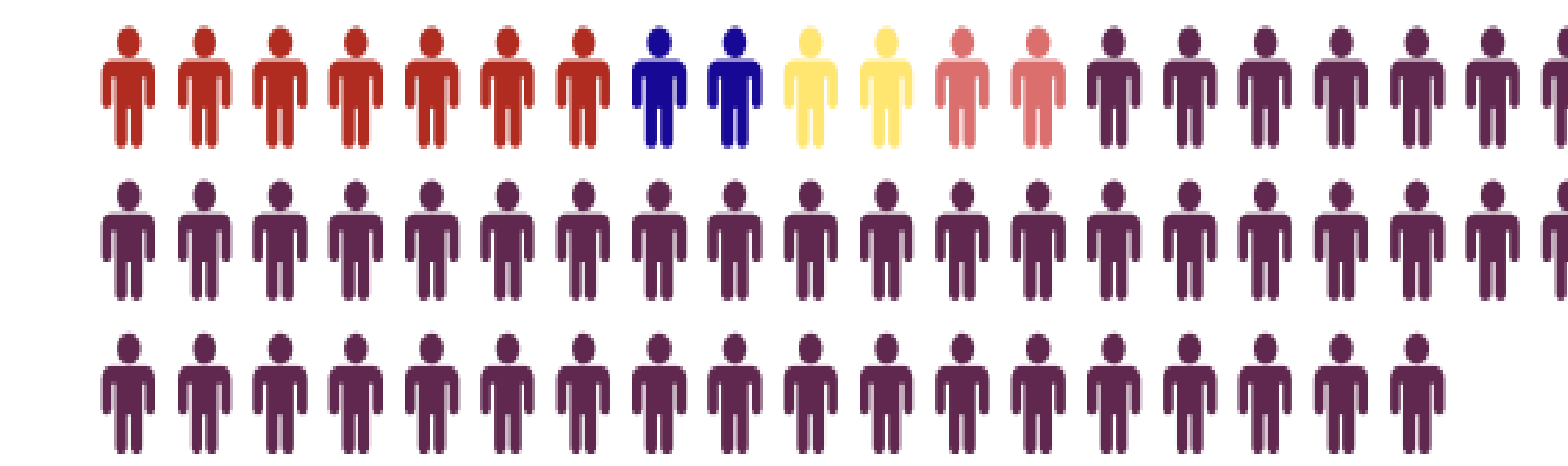
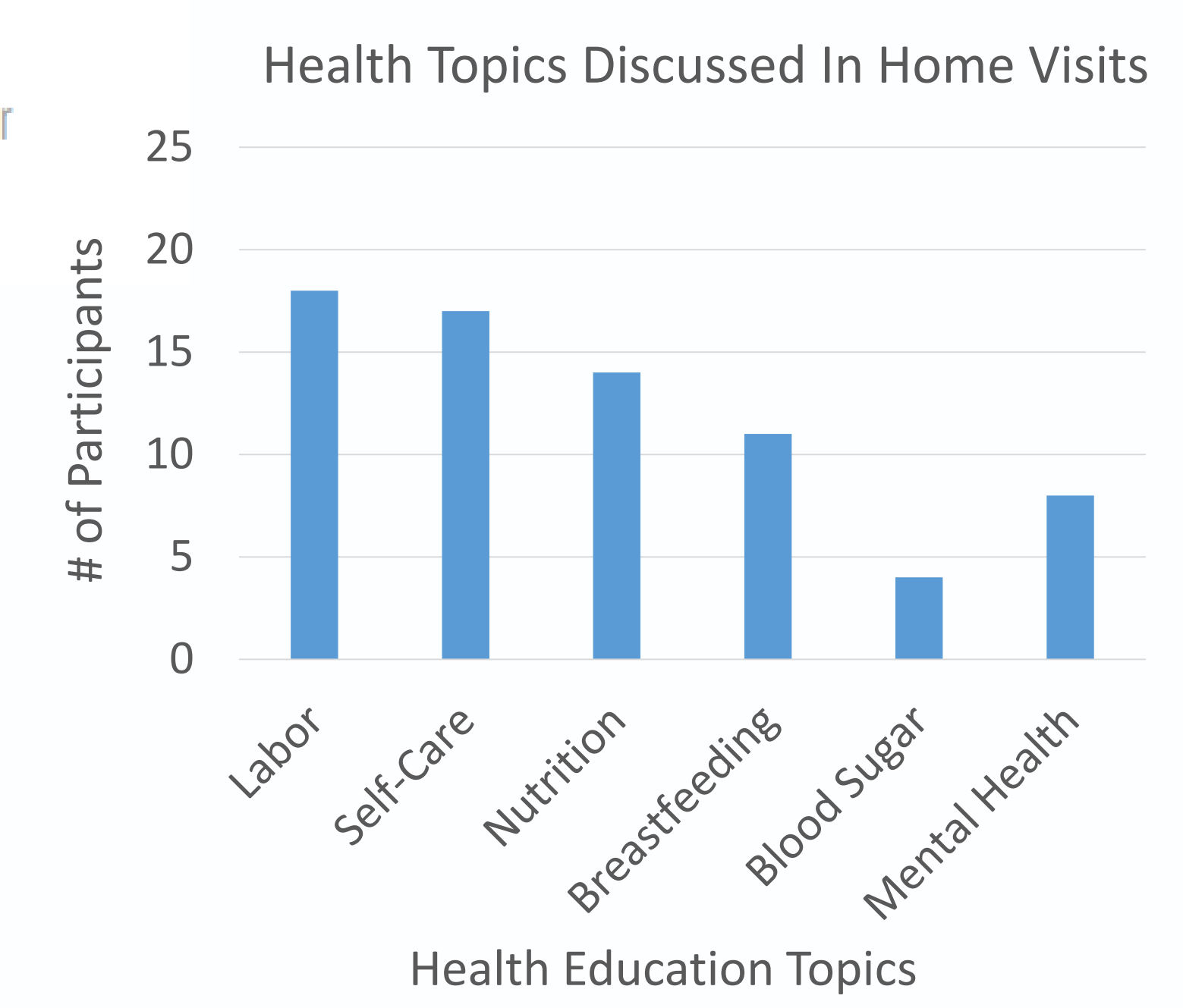


Figure 1: Participant reported barriers to healthcare.

"I haven't used it yet due to my own schedule. That's why I haven't used it but I am planning on using it because I know it is going to be very helpful to me."

"He [doctor] doesn't explain the things you need to know, but the nurse who comes does explain. She takes a lot more time with me, clears my doubts. She prepares everything for the topic we will talk about at the visit and it is really very useful."



RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- The primary aim of this exploratory study was to assess the extent to which participants perceive the FL MIECHV program facilitates their access to healthcare.
- The second aim of this study was to assess whether FL MIECHV serves as a conduit to mental health services for program participants.

METHODS

- FL MIECHV participants were recruited for this study via fliers distributed by their home visitors.
- A \$25 gift card was offered as incentive for participation.
- After obtaining verbal consent, 58 semi-structured interviews were conducted in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole via telephone.
- Topics of discussion included:
 - Healthcare experiences
 - Home visitors aid in access to care
 - Challenges in access to care
- Interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed.



RESULTS

- The primary emerging themes fell into two broad healthcare domains:
 - **Primary and Obstetrical Healthcare**

"She helped me apply for Medicaid."

"I didn't have access to a doctor. She actually referred me because I told her, well we told her, me and my husband told her that we were struggling because we didn't have insurance."

# of Participants	% of Sample	Primary and Obstetrical Emerging Themes
15	25.86%	Had or obtained Medicaid as their primary insurance during the program
3	5.17%	Did not have insurance
10	17.25%	Used a clinic as their main source of primary/OBGYN care
17	29.31%	Stated that they had a primary care physician/OBGYN
3	5.17%	Used a doula
4	6.90%	Referred to a primary care physician/OBGYN through their home visitor
15	25.86%	Received a health assessment (i.e. Blood pressure, weight and/or temperature) from their home visitor

Mental Health Care

# of Participants	% of Sample	Mental Health Emerging Themes
26	44.38%	Discussed mood/mental health with their Home Visitor
10	17.24%	STRESS most the discussed Mental Health Issue
8	13.79%	Discussed other mood related issues (e.g., Anxiety, etc.)
12	20.69%	Identified their Home Visitor as a major source of support/therapist
6	10.34%	Received mental health services outside of MIECHV
12	20.69%	Stated they did not require mental health services

"Honestly, it is one of those things when you know that you are not alone and you always have somebody there to look out for you and help you in any situation."

"I think of her as my therapist."

DISCUSSION

- Participants described how the FL MIECHV program increases health literacy through multiple venues that include, but are not limited to: educational videos, handouts, pamphlets, etc.
- Forty-four percent of the study sample discussed mental health in some capacity during the telephone interviews. Analysis revealed that:
 - Mental health was the most offered/discussed service that was deemed unnecessary by the study participants.
 - Some participants cited that their home visitor served as their emotional support/therapist.
- An overwhelming majority of the study participants stated that they had or would refer a pregnant friend or family member to FL MIECHV.
- Due to the open-ended structure of the interviews, participants reported on issues most salient to them. Thus, results may not be representative of health related concerns and experiences within the FL MIECHV population.
- Further research utilizes additional methods to assess the extent to which healthcare is accessed by participants in FL MIECHV, including qualitative focus groups with program staff and quantitative data linkage and analysis.

"There's nothing you can lose with this program. You can only gain, gain knowledge and health and support."



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