

Creating the Capacity to Screen Deaf Women for Perinatal Depression

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Perinatal depression impacts **1 out of 9 mothers** in the general population.¹

Deaf women receive **sub-optimal maternal health care** and report more **dissatisfaction** with their overall prenatal care experiences due to systemic linguistic and attitudinal barriers.²

In 2015, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommended **depression screening** for **all** pregnant and postpartum women.³

These barriers leave Deaf women vulnerable to development or exacerbation of depression during the perinatal period, which can have a detrimental, multi-generational impact.

Yet, the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Screen (EPDS) is **inaccessible to Deaf mothers** due to severe disparities in English literacy and health literacy.^{4, 5, 6}

1. Ko, Rockhill, Tong, Morrow, & Farr (2017)
2. O'Hearn (2006)
3. ACOG (2006, 2010)
4. Gallaudet Research Institute (2003)
5. Barnett S, McKee, Smith, & Pearson (2011)
6. Anderson & Kobek Pezzarossi (2012)

Community-Engaged Method:

Team includes:
Deaf Co-I
ASL-fluent Co-I
2 Deaf Community Advisors (Deaf laypeople)

Forward translate EPDS from English to ASL

Back translate EPDS from ASL to English

Equivalence comparison;
Team-approved ASL EPDS filmed

Recruit 50 Deaf perinatal women from across U.S.

Deaf Community Advisors administer ASL EPDS on videophone

40% of filmed calls will undergo fidelity checks

Psychometric data analyses

Disseminate findings to Deaf Community, scientific community, and continue research endeavors