

Assessing Gaps in Home Visiting Programs that Serve Expecting Mothers and Mothers with Children under 5 in North Central Florida.

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Background

In Florida, 15% of population is currently uninsured, including women and children. Women lack access to prenatal care, maternity leave, and the US ranks the lowest in terms of infant mortality rates. Home visitation programs were created to tackle issues face by pregnant women and women with children using evidence based programs to increase birth outcomes.

Goals

To assess the home visiting programs that fall under the Healthy Start Coalition of North Central Florida and the Central Healthy Start Coalition, as well as other home visitation programs delivered in the same counties:

- Eligibility requirements
- Populations served
- Services provided to women

Methods

Developed an online questionnaire using SurveyMonkey with the help of the Healthy Start program director to send to the 30 programs residing in the coalitions 16 counties. Questionnaire was sent to the directors of six home visitation programs to test the validity and quality of questions. After updating questionnaire based off feedback, questionnaire was sent to remaining programs with a two week deadline. Received 20 completed questionnaires, from which eligibility, populations served and services provided were separated and prepped for analysis. Analysis comprised of simple counts and average, and eligibility responses were analyzed for recurring themes.

Results

Pre-conception and inter-conception women are served the least in terms of populations served. Sexual abuse counseling, pre-conception counseling, household/personal care assistance, and medical services are provided the least in the 16 counties. Union county was the only county with a limited service age, from 0-3 years. For entry age, 3 months of age was the cut off for children to enter into programs.

Conclusions

There is a need for more services for preconception and interconception women, as well as services which provide household/personal care assistance and sexual abuse counseling. Pre-conception women may not need home visitation programs but do require resources regarding family planning. More resources and education should be provided to inter-conception women to increase inter-conception intervals. Combining household/personal care assistance with sexual abuse counseling might prove to be affected as they are usually seen to effect one another.

