INPLASY PROTOCOL

Corresponding author:
Tegwende Seedu

seedut@mcmaster.ca

Author Affiliation:
McMaster University.

Support: N/A.

Review Stage at time of this submission: Formal screening of search results against eligibility criteria.

Conflicts of interest:
None declared.

Understanding maternal morbidity from the perspectives of women & people with pregnancy experience: a concept analysis

Seedu, T[1]; Manly, E[2]; Moore, T[3]; Anderson, L[4]; Murray-Davis, B[5]; Ménage, D[6]; Seymour, R[7]; D'Souza, R[8].

Review question / Objective: This study will investigate the question: what is maternal morbidity from the perspective of women and people with pregnancy experience? The objectives of this study are to: 1. describe the conditions and events that WPPE conceptualize as maternal morbidities, 2. identify the themes that arise across WPPE's experiences, such as regional and cultural differences and similarities, and 3. produce a schematic representation of how WPPE conceptualize maternal morbidity.

Background: Maternal morbidity is primarily concerned with adverse pregnancy-related outcomes, excluding mortality, among the pregnant and postpartum population. Although presently a global concern, maternal morbidity was not always prioritized in healthcare and research. The increased attention towards maternal morbidity in recent decades was preceded by the initial prioritization of maternal mortality as the dominant indicator of maternal health, leading to its decreasing trend over the decades.(1) Standards of maternal care are no longer solely defined by preventing mortality; they now include preventing and better treatment of maternal morbidity to improve patient outcomes. However, there are no universally accepted criteria for describing maternal morbidity. Less evidence is available on the views of Women and People with Pregnancy Experience (WPPE), and a knowledge gap exists in conceptualizing maternal morbidity from their perspective.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective: This study will investigate the question: what is maternal morbidity from the perspective of women and people with pregnancy experience? The objectives of this study are to: 1. describe the conditions and events that WPPE conceptualize as maternal morbidities, 2. identify the themes that

arise across WPPE's experiences, such as regional and cultural differences and similarities, and 3. produce a schematic representation of how WPPE conceptualize maternal morbidity.

Background: Maternal morbidity is primarily concerned with adverse pregnancy-related outcomes, excluding mortality, among the pregnant and postpartum population. Although presently a global concern, maternal morbidity was not always prioritized in healthcare and research. The increased attention towards maternal morbidity in recent decades was preceded by the initial prioritization of maternal mortality as the dominant indicator of maternal health, leading to its decreasing trend over the decades.(1) Standards of maternal care are no longer solely defined by preventing mortality; they now include preventing and better treatment of maternal morbidity to improve patient outcomes. However, there are no universally accepted criteria for describing maternal morbidity. Less evidence is available on the views of Women and People with Pregnancy Experience (WPPE), and a knowledge gap exists in conceptualizing maternal morbidity from their perspective.

Rationale: A concept analysis would help establish an understanding of the evolving nature of maternal morbidity and how WPPE experience and understand the concept. This understanding can support the improvement of clinical definitions, case management, data collection, and care to reflect the needs of WPPE and improve maternal healthcare regarding morbidity. The literature search conducted as part of our concept analysis is guided by the PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) and Methodology for the Joanna Briggs Institute Scoping Reviews. (2,3) Since the concept of maternal morbidity presently receives considerable attention, providing the first concept model of maternal morbidity from the perspective of WPPE will allow future researchers to further elaborate on the concept and contribute to a common understanding of the concept.

METHODS

Strategy of data synthesis: Terms related to pregnancy and maternal morbidity are used across four platforms to search MEDLINE, Embase, CINAHL, and LILACS for articles. The detailed search strategy will be published with the final manuscript.

Eligibility criteria: Inclusion criteria: 1. Qualitative articles and the qualitative components of mixed-methods studies that refer to maternal morbidity or related terms (i.e., maternal near-miss, potentially life-threatening event, serious untoward events/outcomes). 2. Includes the perspective of women or individuals with pregnancy experience, their family members, or their pregnancy care providers. 3. English or English-translated articles due to the language abilities of the researchers. 4. Primary articles (reviews will be referred to for their references but will not be included in the final full-text screening). Exclusion criteria: 1. Quantitative articles. 2. Articles that refer to a specific maternal morbidity, basing their participant selection on a specific adverse outcome.

Source of evidence screening and selection: In May 2022, the following databases were searched in consultation with a medical librarian: MEDLINE and Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process, In-Data-Review & Other Non-Indexed Citations, Daily and Versions, Classic Embase + Embase, CINAHL, and LILACS. The search strategy for MEDLINE is listed under Strategy of Data Synthesis. The search strategies were uploaded to DistillerSR for title & abstract and full-text screenings. In addition to the electronic database search, relevant reviews were scanned for references.

Data management: DistillerSR is being used to screen.(4) Microsoft Word will be used to conduct data extraction, followed by Quirkos for data analysis.(5)

Reporting results / Analysis of the evidence: The analysis will be rooted in thematic methods including the

organization of data into iterative themes, an exploration of the relationships between these themes, and a description of the final themes that emerge.(6,7)

Presentation of the results: Contextual information, such as date, country and facility setting, of the included articles will be presented in a table. A representation of the concept's attributes and the antecedents, consequences and scope of these attributes will also be developed into a representation that is determined by the data that arises from the concept analysis.

Language restriction: No language limit was imposed on the search. However, only English-language and English-translated articles were in included due to the language abilities of the research team.

Country(ies) involved: Canada.

Other relevant information: This study is being conducted as a master's thesis project.

Keywords: Maternal morbidity; pregnancy; women; experience.

Dissemination plans: This study is a master's thesis project and will be published online in the McMaster University Libraries Institutional Repository. Additional dissemination plans include poster presentations and submission for journal publication.

Contributions of each author:
Author 1 - Tegwende Seedu - This author drafted the protocol, consulted with the medical librarian for the search strategy, conducted the title & abstract and full-text screenings as the primary reviewer, drafted the extraction form and will pilot the extraction form. She will extract and analyze the data and draft the manuscript.
Email: seedut@mcmaster.ca
Author 2 - Eden Manly - This author was the second reviewer for the title & abstract and full-text screenings. She will also pilot the extraction form.
Email: eden.manly@medportal.ca

Author 3 - Taylor Moore - This author contributed her medical librarian expertise for the search strategy and contributed to the development of the eligibility criteria.
Email: taylor.moore@sunnybrook.ca
Author 4 - Laura Anderson - This author contributed to the conception of the work, revised the protocol and extraction form, and will revise the manuscript. She has consulted throughout the project as a supervisory committee member.
Email: ln.anderson@mcmaster.ca
Author 5 - Beth Murray-Davis - This author contributed to the conception of the work, revised the protocol and extraction form, and will revise the manuscript. She has consulted throughout the project as a supervisory committee member.
Email: bmurray@mcmaster.ca
Author 6 - Diane Ménage - This author contributed her concept analysis expertise to the design of the project, conceptual framework, and interpretation of study findings. She reviewed the extraction form and will be consulted throughout the extraction pilot, data extraction, and analysis.
Email: diane.menage@dmu.ac.uk
Author 7 - Rebecca Seymour - She will be joint senior author on this project. This author supervised data extraction, contributed to the project design, reviewed the protocol, and was consulted to resolve screening conflicts between the two reviewers. She will be consulted throughout the extraction pilot, data extraction, analysis, and to review the manuscript.
Email: seymor@mcmaster.ca
Author 8 - Rohan D'Souza - He will be joint senior author on this project, and the project idea follows from his previous work. He reviewed the protocol and extraction form, was consulted to resolve screening conflicts between the two reviewers, will be consulted throughout the extraction pilot, data extraction, analysis, and will review the manuscript.
Email: rohan@mcmaster.ca

References:
1. Roberts CL, Ford JB, Algert CS, Bell JC, Simpson JM, Morris JM. Trends in adverse maternal outcomes during childbirth: a

population-based study of severe maternal morbidity. BMC Pregnancy Childbirth. 2009 Feb 25;9(1):7.

2. Peters M, Godfrey C, Mcinerney P, Soares C, Khalil H, Parker D. Methodology for JBI Scoping Reviews. In 2015. p. 1–24.

3. Tricco AC, Lillie E, Zarin W, O'Brien KK, Colquhoun H, Levac D, et al. PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR): Checklist and Explanation. Ann Intern Med. 2018 Oct 2;169(7):467–73.

4. DistillerSR [Internet]. Evidence Partners; 2022. Available from: https://www.evidencepartners.com

5. Quirkos - Qualitative Data Analysis Software made simple [Internet]. [cited 2022 Oct 29]. Available from: https://www.quirkos.com/index.html

6. Furuta M, Sandall J, Bick D. Women's perceptions and experiences of severe maternal morbidity – A synthesis of qualitative studies using a meta-ethnographic approach. Midwifery. 2014 Feb 1;30(2):158–69.

7. Lange IL, Gherissi A, Chou D, Say L, Filippi V. What maternal morbidities are and what they mean for women: A thematic analysis of twenty years of qualitative research in low and lower-middle income countries. Withers MH, editor. PLOS ONE. 2019 Apr 11;14(4):e0214199.