Abstract 24
Presentation Format: Poster
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Title: Immigrant Women’s Experiences of Childbirth in Their New Country

Objectives (of project and/or presentation)—The learner will be able to:
1. Describe the obstacles to obtaining equitable maternity care services faced by immigrant women.
2. Summarize the findings from the literature about immigrant women’s satisfaction with the maternity care they received.
3. State the higher risks for complications of pregnancy and birth that immigrant women and their newborns face.

Introduction OR Rationale: The U.S. Census Bureau reported that approximately 20 percent of the annual births in the U.S. in 2010 belonged to immigrant mothers (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012). Recent world events are expected to increase the immigrant birth rate dramatically (Migration Policy Institute, 2015). Childbirth is a significant life event, whose meaning is shaped and defined by the culture of the mother (Kang, 2014; Lewallan, 2011). The literature supports that immigrant mothers face barriers to receiving culturally satisfactory maternity care in their new country (Wikberg, Eriksson & Bondas, 2012).

Methods: A computerized search of the literature was conducted using these electronic databases: CINAHL, Nursing and Allied Health, Medline, and Academic Search Premier. The search was limited to peer-reviewed, professional journals published between 2007 and 2015. Key words and search terms were “maternity care and culture,” “culture and competence,” and “culture and safety.” A total of 21 articles which met the inclusion criteria were reviewed, and 18 articles were found by the researcher to be the most relevant. This poster will present a summary of the findings from the literature.

Results OR Practice Implications: In light of the burgeoning immigrant population in the United States, it is important that nurses gain awareness of how to meet the healthcare needs of patients from diverse cultural backgrounds. This review of the literature will add to the understanding of the needs of immigrant women during pregnancy and childbirth.

Conclusions: Immigrant women face barriers to receiving equitable maternity care services in their new country, as well as increased risks for preterm birth, Cesarean section delivery, and postpartum depression. They frequently report less satisfaction with maternity care received compared to non-immigrant mothers.

References:

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