



COVID-19 Impact on Maternity and Pediatric Health

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DESCRIPTION

The novel Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) continues to disrupt the availability and use of routine and emergency health care services, with varying effects in different jurisdictions around the world. Since the first COVID-19 case was reported on December 31, 2019, more than two years have elapsed, and the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020. Since its discovery, a lot of research has been done to determine how COVID-19 impacts pregnant women, their developing fetuses, and children. There are still significant gaps in our understanding of the effects of COVID-19 on pregnant women and children. A large portion of the COVID-19 data collected from studies carried out in High Income Countries (HICs), which may have produced results that aren't applicable to or generalizable to mothers and children in low and middle income nations. A "one-size-fits-all" approach cannot be effectively used to determine research priorities in various global regions because the health systems and public health strategies used to control the spread of the virus in various parts of the world may vary according to the availability of funding and resources.

We must make every effort to comprehend the priorities in various foreign locations in light of these diverse needs. Such strategies are required to focus on funds, resources, and research efforts where they are most needed, as well as to advise policymakers and guarantee that the most important research questions for children and pregnant women are addressed. The COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition's Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Working Group (MNCH WG), which is made up of obstetricians, gynecologists, public health doctors, and pediatricians, conducted an international survey to determine

the most important COVID-19 research priorities in maternal, reproductive, and child health in order to address these needs. In pursuing this area of research, we looked for priorities that were fair, globally representative, and also representative of the various specializations that provide care for pregnant women and children around the world. Observational studies have also found that women who were diagnosed with COVID-19 during their pregnancy have a higher risk of pre-eclampsia, preterm birth than women who were not diagnosed with COVID-19 during their pregnancy. The increased severity of disease among pregnant women observed in the United States and the United Kingdom during the pandemic's second wave has also generated concerns about whether developing variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus are more pathogenic in pregnancy.

In order to offer a more comprehensive understanding of the needs of women and children around the world, we also attempted to complement previous COVID-19 research priority setting exercises currently being conducted in this field. Healthcare systems all throughout the world are under unprecedented pressure as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic. In many nations, acute and critical care services are overburdened, which forces many medical professionals to move to the front lines and reduces the availability of "non-urgent" therapies. In light of this, it is important to consider how these changes have affected women's and children's access to maternity, sexual, and reproductive healthcare during this time. This is especially important for those who already had difficulty receiving these services before the pandemic has begun, such as adolescent girls and unmarried women who are part of immigrant and refugee populations. The study objective with the highest average ranking was the availability of healthcare for children during the COVID-19 epidemic.

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