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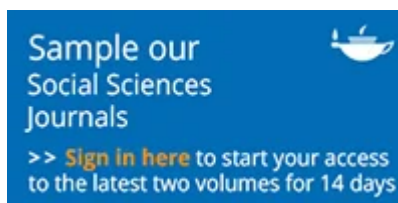
Research Article

Pregnancy, Birth and the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States

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ABSTRACT

How quickly and in what ways are US maternity care practices changing due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Our data indicate that partners and doulas are being excluded from birthing rooms leaving mothers unsupported, while providers face lack of protective equipment and unclear guidelines. We investigate rapidly shifting protocols for in- and out-of-hospital births and the decision making behind them. We ask, will COVID-19 cause women, families, and providers to look at birthing in a different light? And will this pandemic offer a testing ground for future policy changes to generate effective maternity care amidst pandemics and other types of disasters?

Q KEYWORDS: COVID-19 pregnancy birth maternity care obstetricians midwives doulas
homebirth freebirth

Acknowledgments

We sincerely thank all those busy practitioners who took the time to respond to our email questionnaire.

Correction Statement

This article has been republished with minor changes. These changes do not impact the academic content of the article.

Notes

1. We take this term “revealers” from Ivry et al. ([2019](#)).
 2. The CM (Certified Midwife) certification was created by members of the ACNM in 1994. The CM receives the same higher education as the CNM, with the exception of nursing training. CMs are legal, licensed, and regulated in only 5 states, as most schools of midwifery are located within nursing programs and do not wish to produce “direct-entry” midwives who are not first trained as nurses, as CNMs are. (See May and Davis-Floyd [2006](#) for a history of the creation of the CM.)
 3. Out of 34 members on this Taskforce, there were only 2 CNMs, no CPMs, along with 17 MDs, 5 JDs, and a few MBAs and MPPs (New York State Taskforce on Maternal Mortality and Disparate Racial Outcomes [2019](#)).
 4. These guidelines can be found at www.homebirthsummit.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/HomeBirthSummit_BestPracticeTransferGuidelines.pdf.
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Additional information

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