



Challenging Choices in Pregnancy and Childbirth

Results from a Meta-Ethnographic Review of the Literature

Introduction

- Informed choice is the cornerstone of contemporary maternity care within the UK.
- Contributes to safe physical and psychological maternity care.
- Some women decline all or part of their maternity care and make choices and decisions considered 'non-normative'.
- A wider approach is needed to understanding how, why and what the underlying social and other processes underpinning these are.



What is a non-normative choice?



Review Question

“What are the views, attitudes, perceptions and experiences of women and birthing people who make non-normative choices along maternity care pathways?”

Methodology

Noblit and Hares (1988) Meta Ethnographic approach to qualitative systematic review, guided by France et al. (2019)

References

France, E. F., Uny, I., et al. (2019) 'A methodological systematic review of meta-ethnography conduct to articulate the complex analytical phases', *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, 19(1), p. 35. doi: 10.1186/s12874-019-0670-7.

Noblit, G and Hare, R. (1988) *Meta-Ethnography: Synthesising Qualitative Literature*. Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE Publications, Inc. doi: 10.4135/9781412985000.

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Key Findings

- 33 studies met inclusion criteria resulting in 3 3rd order constructs:

Influences and Motivators



- Philosophy, Values and Beliefs
- Socio-Cultural Influences
- Ambivalence
- Fear and (Re) Traumatizing Experiences

The Boiling Pot



- Policy procedure and guidelines
- An inflexible, fearful, risk averse system
- Institutional manifestation of fear
- Defining Moments

Knowledge as Empowerment



- Seeking and Evaluating Knowledge
- Operationalising knowledge

Conclusion

It is necessary to further explore the underlying sociological processes and experiences of women to then align these with existing knowledge around clinician's support in order to create a firm evidence base upon which to predicate equitable care pathways across the maternity continuum.

Line of
Argument
Synthesis



Project
Updates
Form

