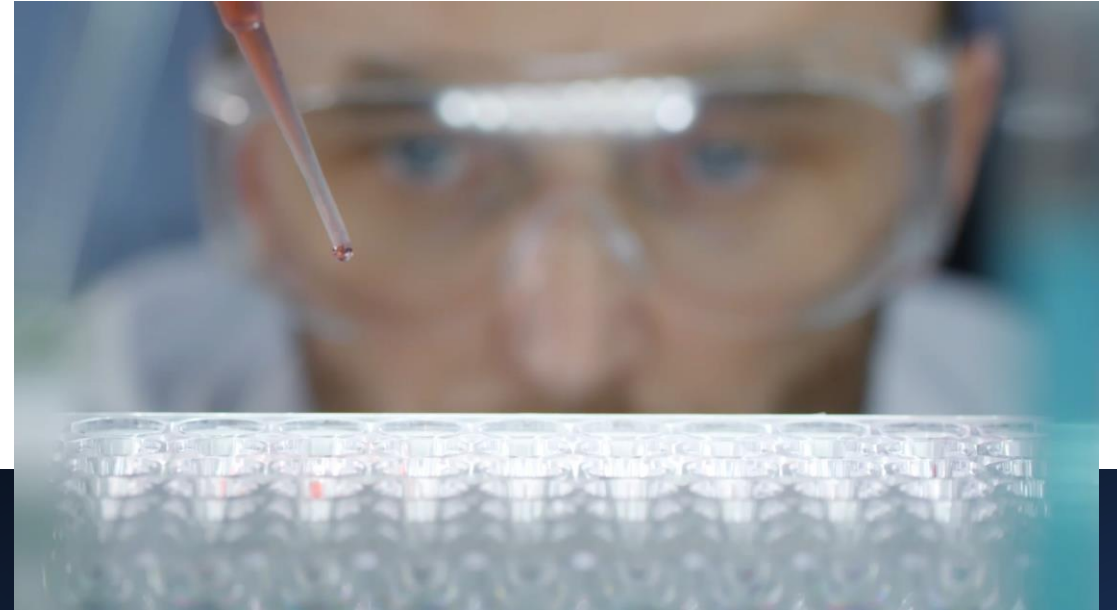


Module: Introduction to Research (BMHP5005)

Assessment 2: Viva Voce

- Student Name: Raluca Roman
- Student Number: 2113735
- The impact of Covid 19 pandemic on healthcare services provided to pregnant women UK. Evaluate the impact of the pandemic on their pregnancy and their mental health.



Introduction

- Covid 19 pandemic had greatly impacted all the services provided by NHS. Maternity care was considered riskier due to the vulnerability of pregnant women and newborns.
- Conducting a systematic review to evaluate the impact of the pandemic on pregnant women's mental health and what they used to manage stress.
- The aim of the systematic review is to assess pregnant women's satisfaction with antenatal and postnatal support during Covid 19.
- How did the measures put in place impacted their life and their mental health?
- In which way has the pandemic affected their pregnancy experience?



Objectives

Using a systematic literature review to evaluate the impact of Covid 19 had on pregnant women and how it has affected their mental health and the all-birthing experience.

Evaluate in which way Covid lockdown and restriction reduced the maternity services provided by NHS

Methods

Methods that were used: searching for academic journals articles

Databases used for finding relevant articles: PubMed, ProQuest, UWTSD Library, google scholar

Keywords for search: pregnant women, Covid 19, Coronavirus, SARSCOV2, antenatal, postnatal, mental health, maternity care, pregnancy, stress-reduction

Inclusion criteria: articles in English, from the UK, published after 2019, primary research articles

Exclusion criteria: articles in another language, not UK-based studies, published before 2019, other systematic literature reviews

Thematic analysis will be used for the analysis of the data.

Literature Review

Author(s), title, and year of publication	Aim of study	Methods and Sample size and characteristics	Summary of main findings
Keely, Greenfield and Darwin, 2023	Evaluate the experience of maternity care for pregnant women and their partners during the first Covid lockdown in UK	Pregnant women and their partners during the first covid lockdown in UK Semi-structured interviews were used via Skype 11 participants both pregnant women and partners.	Uncertainty and anxiety due to restriction Uncertainty about maternity services available No partner was allowed for antenatal appointments Anxiety around safety while in hospital Difficulties enjoying their pregnancy
Meaney et al., 2021	The aim of the study was to assess pregnant women's satisfaction with antenatal care and social support during the Covid-19 Pandemic	573 pregnant women completed the survey between June and July 2020	Satisfaction with antenatal care Issues related to social support Concerns related to Covid 19 infection and pregnancy Stress reduction strategy

Literature Review

Author(s), title, and year of publication	Aim of study	Methods and Sample size and characteristics	Summary of main findings
Sanders, J. and Blaylock, R. (2021).	Understand the impact of Covid 19 public health measures and how it impacted the services provided by NHS maternity services.	Online survey to explore the experience of pregnant women after the 11 th of March 2022. Data were collected between June and September 2020 524 women who participated in the survey all experienced maternity care during the pandemic.	Public health advice-reported to be unclear and confusing Antenatal care during the pandemic Women attending the appointments alone Virtual antenatal care-routine check-ups by video or phone call Caring during labour and birth Postnatal care at home
Karavadra et al., 2020	The aim of this national survey was to explore pregnant women's perception of Covid 19 and their healthcare experience	26 item Online questionnaire 1451 participants both prenatal and postpartum women.	Concerns about antenatal care: virtual consultation with midwives Are worried about being alone-no partners allowed Postnatal care and lack of support from extended family and friends due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Results

Public health advice-
reported to be unclear
and confusing

Uncertainty and anxiety
due to restriction

Uncertainty about
maternity services
available

Women attending the
appointments alone

Virtual antenatal care-
routine check-ups by
video or phone call

Anxiety around safety
while in hospital- risk of
getting the infection

Difficulties enjoying
their pregnancy

Postnatal care and lack
of support from
extended family and
friends due to Covid 19
restrictions.

Themes

Theme 1: Uncertainty about maternity services available and confusing health advice from Public Health UK (Sanders, J. and Blaylock, R. 2021).

Theme 2: Lack of availability for antenatal and postnatal home visits, reduced services (Meaney et al., 2021)

Theme 3: High risk of developing mental health problems or aggravating the existing conditions. (Karavadra et al., 2020)

Discussion

Uncertainty about services available in maternity

Risk of getting infected while attending hospital appointment- women avoiding to go in for check-ups. Risk of transmitting the virus from the mother to the baby

Partners not allowed for regular appointments and safety measures required during delivery process

Reduced services for antenatal care and postnatal support at home

All the aspects above are associated with increased stress, depression and anxiety

Limitation of the review: reduced number of research articles,
Reduce number of participants, no previous pandemic experience



Conclusion

Covid 19 Pandemic and lockdown had a huge impact on the services provided to pregnant women in UK

The pandemic has contributed to increased rates of mental illness among pregnant and new mothers in the UK.

Services provided were reduce significantly, videocalls and phone calls were used often

Women could not enjoy their pregnancy period, reduced socialising and support from extended families and friends

Constantly worrying not to get the virus and pass it to the baby.

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