

Does Maternity Care Meet the Expectations of African-born Australian Women? An Evaluation of the Reasons for Declined Care.

Bimal G^a, Palmer KR^{a,c}, Mol BW^{a,b}, Davies-Tuck M^{a,b}

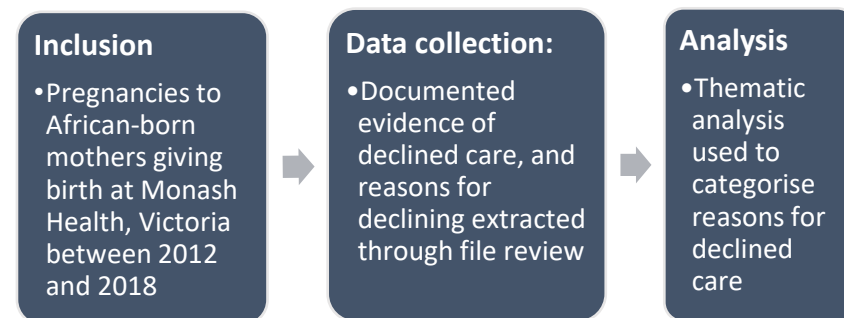
^a Monash University, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Clayton Rd, Clayton, Victoria 3800, ^b The Ritchie Centre, 27 -31 Wright St, Clayton, Victoria 3800, ^c Monash Women's and Newborn, Monash Health, 246 Clayton Rd, Clayton, Victoria 3800

INTRODUCTION:

- Cultural safety is a cornerstone of woman-centred care.¹
- Reduced engagement or declined care may be a sign that care is not meeting the needs of women.
- Rates of antenatal or obstetric interventions and engagement are reported to be lower among African-born women however the reasons for low uptake is not known.²

AIM: To understand the types of declined maternity care and reasons for declining maternity care among African-born women.

METHOD:



Declined care is defined as any investigation or intervention offered to the mother that was not accepted

RESULTS:

Of 2,533 African women included, the **minority had documented evidence of declined care (n=390, 15.4%)**

Most commonly declined care included:

1. Induction or augmentation of labour (n=70, 2.8%)
2. Vaginal examinations and 'stretch and sweeps' (n=60, 2.4%)
3. Vaccinations (n=43, 1.7%)

African-born women with livebirth and perinatal death has similar rates of declined care

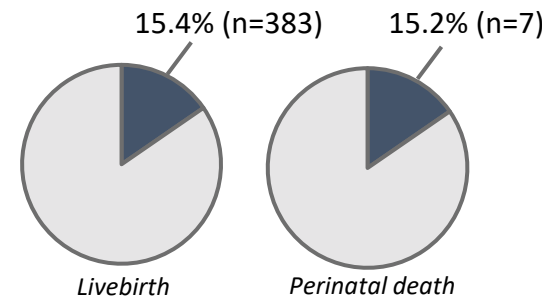


Fig 1: Declined care according to perinatal death status

The majority of reasons of declined care were not documented (n=263, 67.4%)

References:

1. COAG Health Council. Woman-centred care: Strategic directions for Australian maternity service. Canberra: Department of Health; 2019 August 2019.
2. Stillbirth more common in non-white migrant women [press release]. Medical Journal of Australia: MJA 2018.

RESULTS (cont):

Documented reasons for declining care included:



Fig 2: themes, subthemes and examples of documented reasons for declining care

CONCLUSION:

African-born women decline obstetric interventions for diverse reasons. Interviews with African women are needed to gain further understanding of their pregnancy values