

Tarrant County Maternal & Infant Health Coalition

2023 Year in Review

December 2023



Executive Summary

The Tarrant County Maternal & Infant Health Coalition (the “Coalition”) was first convened [in September of 2022 by Mayor Mattie Parker](#) to explore a more collective, cohesive approach to improving the quality of care and wraparound supports provided to Tarrant County mothers before, during, and after giving birth. Tarrant County has the second highest maternal mortality rate among Black women in Texas, and as a community experiences at least 6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

The Coalition is comprised of local hospital system leaders, maternal and infant health care providers, and philanthropic partners who are committed to ensuring the health and survival of local mothers and infants. Led by [The Best Place for Kids!®](#) team, the Coalition engaged in key discovery activities in 2023 to determine the current local resources that exist across the perinatal continuum (pre-natal to one-year postnatal), identify key areas of opportunity to address together, and map out near-term next steps.

This briefing provides an overview of the Coalition’s work and progress together in 2023, including:

- 1. Maternal & Infant Health Coalition Partner Interviews + Tarrant County Resource Map of Services**
- 2. Medicaid Renewal Campaign**
- 3. Local Maternal Health Interviews (79 Total) & Key Takeaways**
- 4. Next Steps: Existing Local Resources to Leverage Together Moving Forward**



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Key Coalition Goals

Addressing a Critical Issue in Tarrant County

- **Texas accounts for 10% of all births in the U.S.** (400,000 annually, 27,161 live births in Tarrant County).¹
- Tarrant County has **2nd highest maternal mortality rate among Black women** in the state (48.3 deaths per 100,000 live births).²
- **Mental health** conditions are a **leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths.**
- **1 in 7 Texas women** experience **depression within 6 months** after pregnancy.

*“There is a disconnect between what we strive to provide to our patients and what the data shows are the outcomes, especially for Black mothers. We have to do better, and **this coalition can help us do that together.**”*

- Tarrant County Hospital Administrator

¹ https://access.tarrantcounty.com/content/dam/main/public-health/PH_DOCUMENTS/Epi/Data_Briefs/2021/2021-07-06_Data_Brief_Live_Births.pdf
² <https://itstimetexas.org/tarrantcountybirthequitycollaborative/#:~:text=In%20addition%2C%20according%20to%20the,deaths%20per%20100%2C000%20live%20births>

Building a Cohesive, Comprehensive System of Care

“Increasing healthy birth outcomes by improving systems of care is a complex process. It requires that state agencies, local groups, and their partners **center community voices to build cross-sector relationships, trust, and understanding.**

Coordinating such partnerships and initiatives to **leverage state and local data sources, identify gaps in services, and improve alignment and integration of partners and programs can help parents and infants live their healthiest lives.”**

- Pew Research Center, 2022

How the Coalition Will Define Success



01

Connection

18% of success markers

- Offer a space to connect and share experiences
- Increase access to care for our patients
- Increase access to reproductive health
- Create a coordinated care model that all partners operate within
- Adopting a “there is no wrong door to care” type of policy
- Increase referrals in targeted geographic areas



02

Community

13% of success markers

- Identify private funding for social programs and supports that could catalyze public investment
- Increase the well-being of mothers in Tarrant County, and move mothers and children out of poverty
- Have more boots on ground in areas where there are resource gaps



03

Navigation

18% of success markers

- Community-wide navigation and communication systems
- Navigation of resources/supports for mothers and their children
- Ensure gaps in services and care are proactively being addressed
- Developing a closed-loop referral system that is anchored in a continuum of coordinated care



04

Data & Metrics

38% of success markers

- Improved maternal health outcomes for women – combat the data in the state maternal health report
- Developing a data system to track maternal and infant health outcomes before, during and after birth



05

Policy

13% of success markers

- Advocating for critical policy changes at the State level
- Expansion of Medicaid to 12-months postpartum

Baseline Data:

1. **PRENATAL CARE - 1st TRIMESTER: 61% (Tarrant)**
2. **POSTPARTUM CHECK-UP: 88.6% (Texas)**
3. **WELL CHILD VISIT: 89.2% (Southern U.S.)**



Tarrant County Maternal & Infant Health Resource Map

Tarrant County Maternal & Infant Health Coalition | Continuum of Care Resource Map | Updated March 2023

SERVICE	PERINATAL			WAITLIST	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES
	PRENATAL	HOSPITAL & DELIVERY	POSTPARTUM & INFANCY		
PRECONCEPTION & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH Reproductive education and contraceptive access.					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> THR OBGYN, pre-pregnancy planning JPS Provider-specific reproductive education HEAL Pre-Conception Education, STI Education on prevention and treatment UNTHSC Reproductive Health & Adolescent Sex Education
WOMEN'S EDUCATION Educational resources and classes to support women's reproductive and parenting health from pre-pregnancy through the first year of infancy.				1 MONTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSW Parent Ed (regarding childbirth and parenthood) GLADNEY Training for adopting and foster families THR Breast care, breastfeeding, family planning, hormonal care UNTHSC Education from providers at the Center* HEAL Women's mental/physical health, attachment, infant care COOK Baby Steps program, resources through CCHP MHMR Mother's & Babies Program: 9 week prenatal program to support pregnancy, nursing, and mental health JPS Centering Pregnancy
DOULA & LACTATION SUPPORT Support services focused on pregnancy, labor and postpartum support					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCPH Lactation Support Specialists THR Breastfeeding Support BSW Lactation Support Specialists JPS Lactation Support Specialists
MEDICAL SERVICES OBGYN, L&D, NICU, Midwives, Pediatrics					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSW 6500 deliveries/year, NICU, midwives, unique birthing plans JPS 20% of all births in Tarrant County annually + NICU + Pediatrics THR OBGYN, postpartum care, midwifery, and Neonatal Care COOK Neonatal & Pediatric Care UNTHSC Pediatrics
MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH Clinical therapeutic services that address the mother's mental health.					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> THR Mental health providers on staff JPS Mental health providers on staff BSW Mental health providers on staff UNTHSC Mental health providers on staff at the Center MHMR Postpartum mental health services ACH Behavior care for parents and caregivers CTL Clinical counseling services within CTL programs
EARLY RELATIONAL HEALTH Clinical therapeutic services focused on the foundational relationship between mother and baby.				1 MONTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MHMR Mental Health Consultation & Healthy Steps UNTHSC Healthy Steps ACH Behavioral services for parent/caregiver and child CTL Whole family counseling (caregiver & those cared for)
INFANT DEVELOPMENT & WELL-BEING Non-medical, non-mental health services that support baby during the first year of life.				3 MONTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MHMR ECI Program, TBRI, & Parent Cafes AFC Family Advocate Program* F3Y Safe Babies Program - CPS Cases only COOK Screening & Home Health Services
HOME VISITING Two-generation approach that matches expectant parents and caregivers of young children with a designated support person who guides them through the early stages of raising a family.					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCPH RN visits participant's home throughout pregnancy - 2 yrs postpartum MHMR PeriNatal & Family Connects UNTHSC Healthy Start: Home Visiting for High Risk Level
CASE MANAGEMENT Ongoing service provision to assess, advocate, connect, and verify a package of services that meet the client's specific needs. Continues beyond intake and/or examination room.				1 MONTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCPH RN visits participant's home throughout pregnancy - 2 yrs postpartum GLADNEY Pregnancy options + wraparound supports CC Gabriel Project offers wraparound supports + counseling MHMR Behavioral health coaches ACH Included in services provided* AFC Family Advocate Program - support for protective caregivers CTL Wraparound services (largely housing) COOK Pregnancy case management program JPS Mom & Baby Substance Abuse Program; Post Partum Support
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH Child Care, Housing, Transportation, CHIP/Medicaid, Substance Abuse, Food Security				HOUSING / 1 MO HEADSTAR / 8 MO 1 MONTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MHMR Help Me Grow CTL Child care for mothers in the program CCA Child care, Head Start, Early Head Start, CCMS COOK Medicaid/CHIP JPS Mom & Baby Program for substance abuse UNTHSC Pediatric Mobile Clinic

SERVICE ACRONYM	SERVICE FULL NAME
ACH	ACH CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES
AFC	ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN
BSW	BAYLOR SCOTT & WHITE HEALTH
CC	CATHOLIC CHARITIES
CCA	CHILD CARE ASSOCIATES
COOK	COOK CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
CTL	CENTER FOR TRANSFORMING LIVES
F3Y	FIRST 3 YEARS
GLADNEY	GLADNEY CENTER FOR ADOPTION
HEAL	HEALTH EQUITY ALLIANCE
JPS	JPS HEALTH NETWORK
MHMR	MHMR TARRANT
TCPH	TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
THR	TEXAS HEALTH RESOURCES HEALTH & HOSPITAL SYSTEM
UNTHSC	UNT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

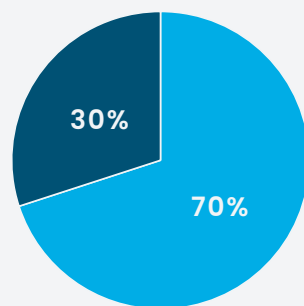
Resource Map: Top-Level Takeaways*

1

Awareness & Access Are Greater for Those Already in System

65% reported navigation and understanding of the healthcare system continue to be a significant barrier

70% report that Medicaid and low-income women and families who are attached to a specific program or system are most aware of services



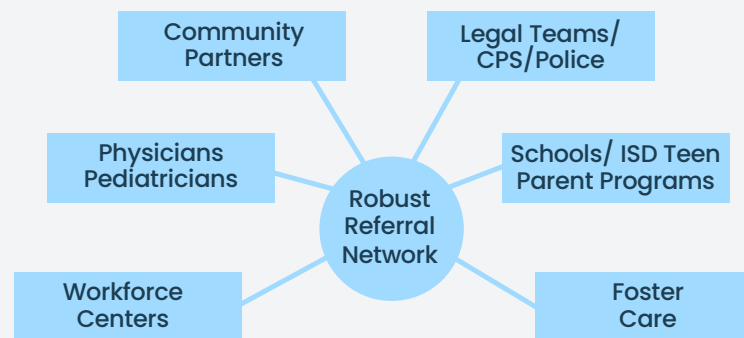
Data points pulled from survey questions 8, 14, 16, 23, and 24.

2

High Referral Rates, Low Post-Referral Connectivity

High volume of referrals: 72% of providers receive clients from referrals and 86% of providers refer out for key services

75% report being unaware of the process that occurs after their referral is made

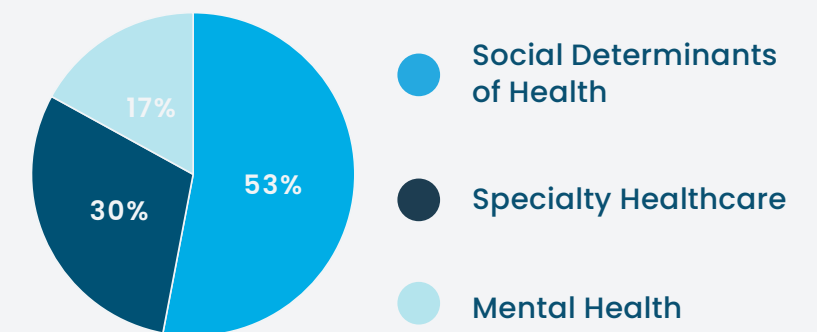


3

Social Determinants of Health are Key Factors of Success

75% of providers attested to the impact of social determinants of health (specifically housing, food insecurity, transportation, and legal challenges)

53% of all client referrals out were barrier-related (SDOH)



A photograph of a man and a young girl sitting at a table, looking at a laptop. The man is on the right, wearing a blue denim jacket over a white shirt, and is pointing at the laptop screen. The girl is on the left, wearing a yellow and white shirt, and is also looking at the screen. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a window and some plants.

“TAKE 3” Medicaid Campaign

"TAKE 3" Medicaid Campaign

The COVID-19 Continuous Coverage for Medicaid has ended. The state is checking renewals and eligibility.

KEEP YOUR FAMILY'S MEDICAID COVERAGE!

TARRANT COUNTY PARENTS CAN TAKE 3

You can take 3 important steps today to make sure you keep your Medicaid coverage.

- 1 Update your family's Medicaid information.** A Texas benefits account can help you apply for or use your benefits. YOURTEXASBENEFITS.COM
- 2 If you get a yellow envelope, follow the directions.** You will need to send the documents requested.
- 3 A free community partner program (CPP) can help you.** Contact a CPP today to ask questions or get help to apply.

Map with partner information on back.

A message from your local Tarrant County healthcare providers.

Free local community partners are available to help you keep your Medicaid benefits.

FIND A FREE COMMUNITY PARTNER NEAR YOU

- Ab Christian Learning Center | Appointment Only**
5005 Brentwood Stair Rd, Suite 200, Fort Worth, TX 76112
(817) 457-3911
ABChrist.org
- Muslim Community Center for Human Services**
Tuesday and Thursday only
7800 Glenview Dr, Richland Hills, TX 76180
(882) 715-4849
- Aging and Disability Resource Center | Appointment Only**
1300 Circle Dr, Suite 104, Fort Worth, TX 76119
(855) YES-ADRC | (855) 937-2372
TarrantCountyADRC.org
- North Texas Area Community Health Centers, Inc.**
2332 Beverly Hills Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76114
(817) 625-4254, ext 2005
NTACHC.org
- Cook Children's Health Plan | Appointment Only**
7000 Calmar Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76116
(882) 303-8225 | CommunityMarketing@cookchildrens.org
CookCHP.org
- Tarrant County College**
300 Trinity Campus Cr, Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 515-4332
TCCD.edu/Community/Outreach-Services
- Guardianship Services Inc.**
1125 College Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76104
(773) 241-2565
GuardianshipServices.org
- Tarrant County Public Health Community Health Access**
1101 South Main St, Fort Worth, TX 76104
(817) 321-4729
TarrantCountyTX.gov
- JPS Eligibility and Enrollment Center**
1325 S. Main St, Fort Worth, TX 76104
(817) 702-1001
JPSHealthNet.org
- Tarrant Area Food Bank**
2800 Cullen Street, Fort Worth, TX 76107
1-888-430-8143
TABF.org/snap
- My Health My Resources of Tarrant County (MHMR)**
Appointment Only
1300 Circle Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76119
(817) 569-4141
- United Way Tarrant County / Area Agency on Aging Benefits Counselors**
201 N. Rupert St, Suite 107, Fort Worth, TX 76107
Call Diana at (817) 258-8038 or (817) 258-8000, ext 1
UnitedWayTarrant.org/aaatc

Find a full list of Tarrant County Community Partners at TexasCommunityPartnerProgram.com.

As continuous coverage for Medicaid under COVID-19 expired in March of 2023, the Tarrant County Maternal & Infant Health Coalition sought to launch a shared communications campaign to local families to encourage them to keep their Medicaid coverage. All Coalition members provided input and feedback on the flyers, and distributed them in person, online, and via social media channels.

[Click here](#) to view the flyers online.

A pregnant woman is shown from the waist up, wearing a dark blue, vertically ribbed dress. She is gently holding her belly with both hands. The background is a soft-focus bokeh of light spots, suggesting an outdoor setting with trees and sunlight. The overall mood is calm and nurturing.

Maternal Health Interview Results & Key Takeaways

Maternal Health 2023 Interviews



53 Total interviews, **29** Surveys completed

3,200 Minutes listening to **55+** personal experiences of pregnancy and parenting in Tarrant County

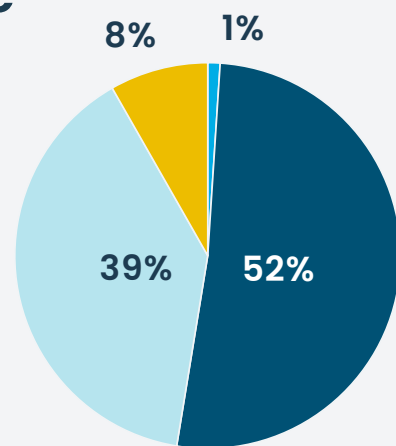
9,000+ Experiences codified in data to inform next steps

Following a survey and interview of each of the Coalition partners to create the Tarrant County Maternal & Infant Health Resource Map, the Coalition sought to integrate the “lived experience” of Tarrant County mothers into the resource map. The Best Place for Kids!® team partnered with University of Michigan’s Zero to Thrive research team to conduct and analyze 53 interviews and 29 surveys of mothers in Tarrant County. The data from these interviews and surveys was used to glean key takeaways and opportunities for the coalition, and to create an updated resource “heat map” of how well services are known about and utilized across the perinatal continuum.

Maternal Health Interview Demographics

Maternal Age

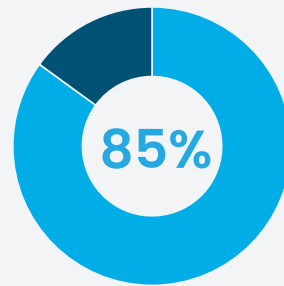
- <20 Years Old
- 20-29 Years Old
- 30-39 Years Old
- 40+ Years Old



Median Age: 29

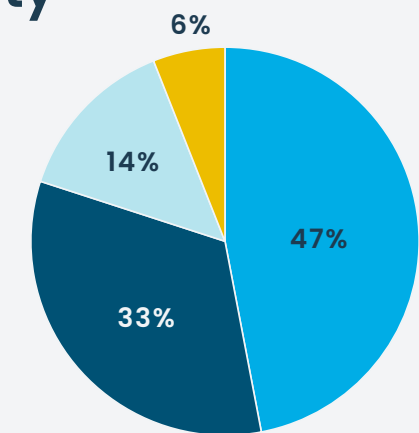
Income

Below Federal Poverty Level



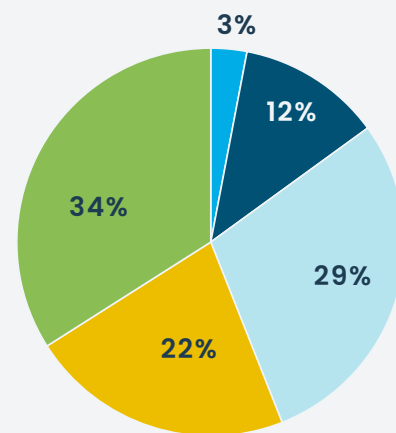
Race/Ethnicity

- Hispanic/Latina
- Black/African-American
- White
- Other



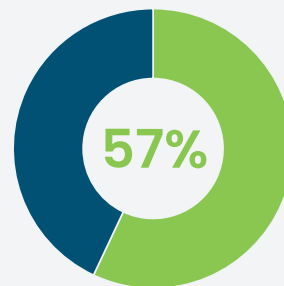
Education

- 8th Grade or Less
- Some High School
- HS / GED
- Some College
- College Grad



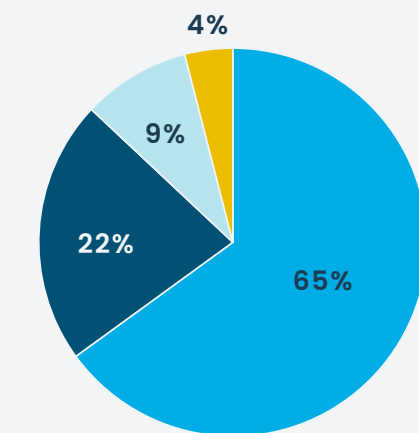
Employment

Planned to or had returned to paid work



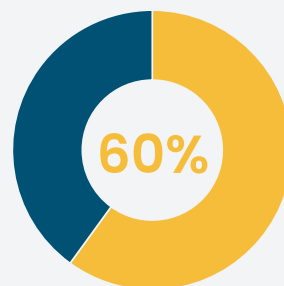
Language

- English
- Spanish
- English & Spanish
- Other



Planning

Unplanned pregnancies



Maternal Interview Key Takeaways

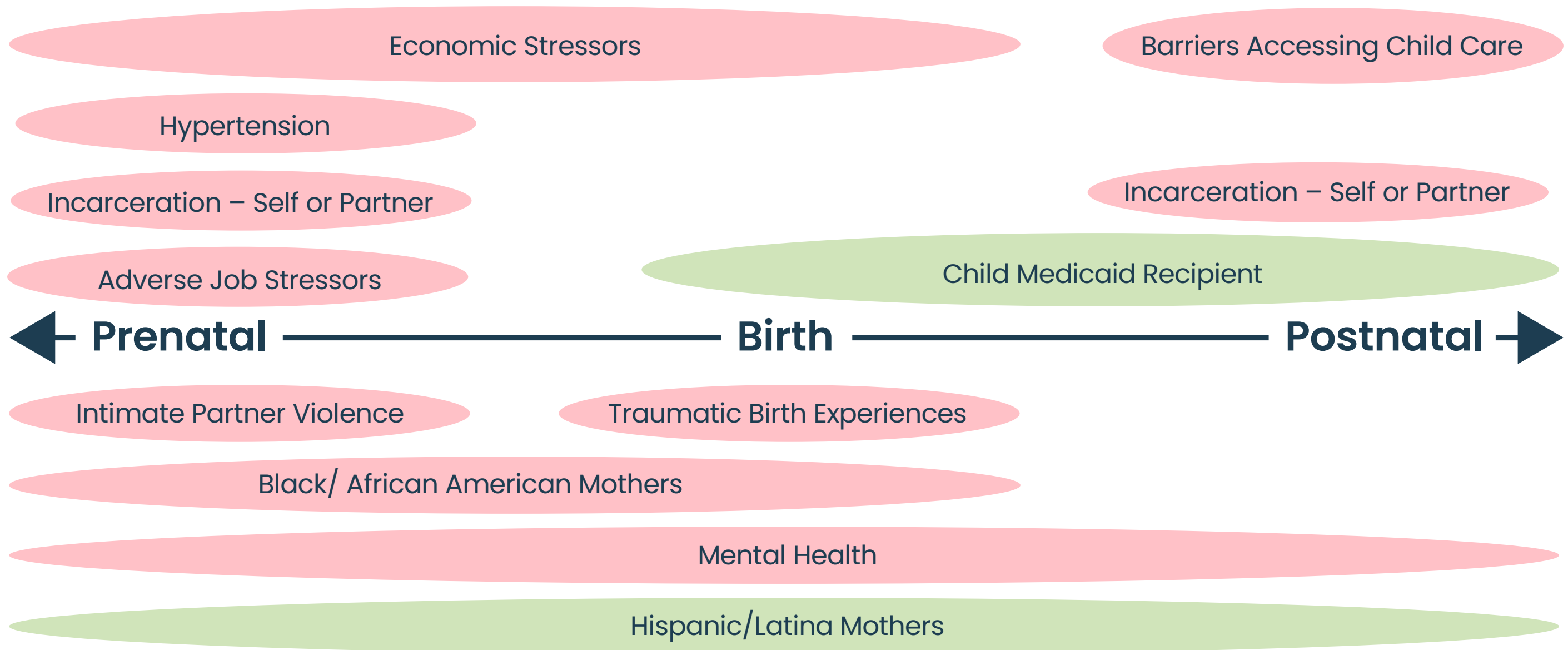
Strengths

- ✓ **93%** satisfied with maternal health experience (pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum)
- ✓ **80%** said there were services they found especially helpful during their last pregnancy
- ✓ **WIC, SNAP, Child Medicaid** helps connect mothers to other services

Opportunities

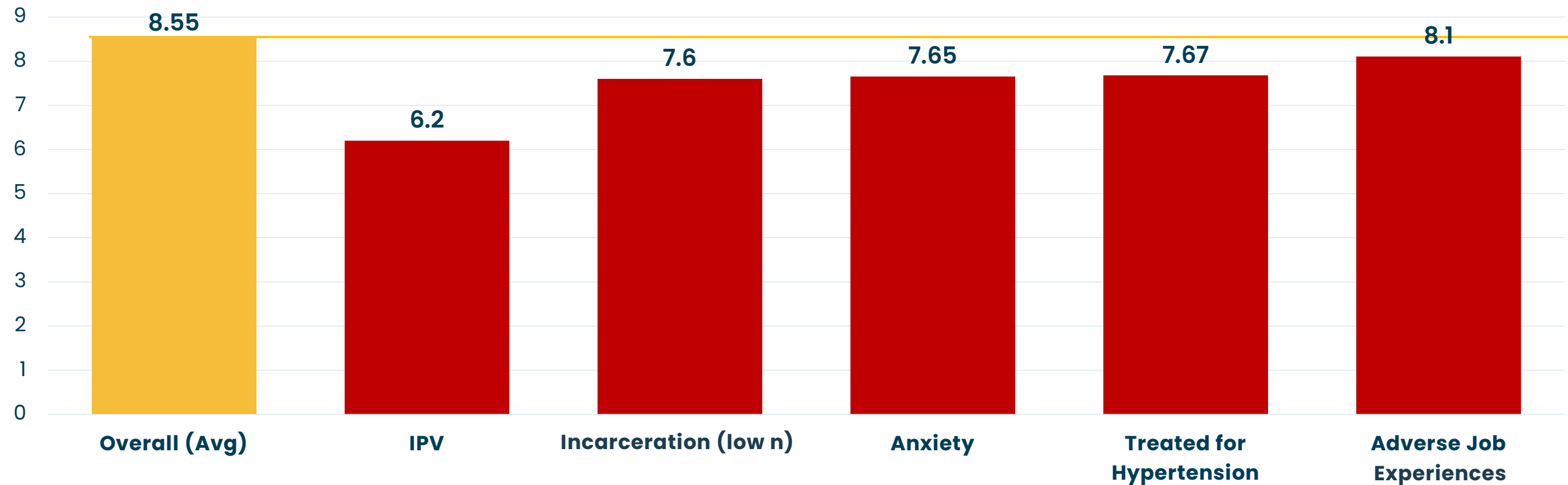
- ✓ **1 in 5 mothers** not accessing prenatal care until after first trimester
- ✓ **Hypertension and traumatic birth** case management and care
 - 1 in 5 mothers experienced hypertension...80% of those with hypertension prior to pregnancy had a traumatic birth
- ✓ **56%** of mothers wanted more support after child was born, including mental health

Factors Impacting Mothers' Overall Experience*



Overall, how do mothers' pregnancy journeys vary by condition in Tarrant County?

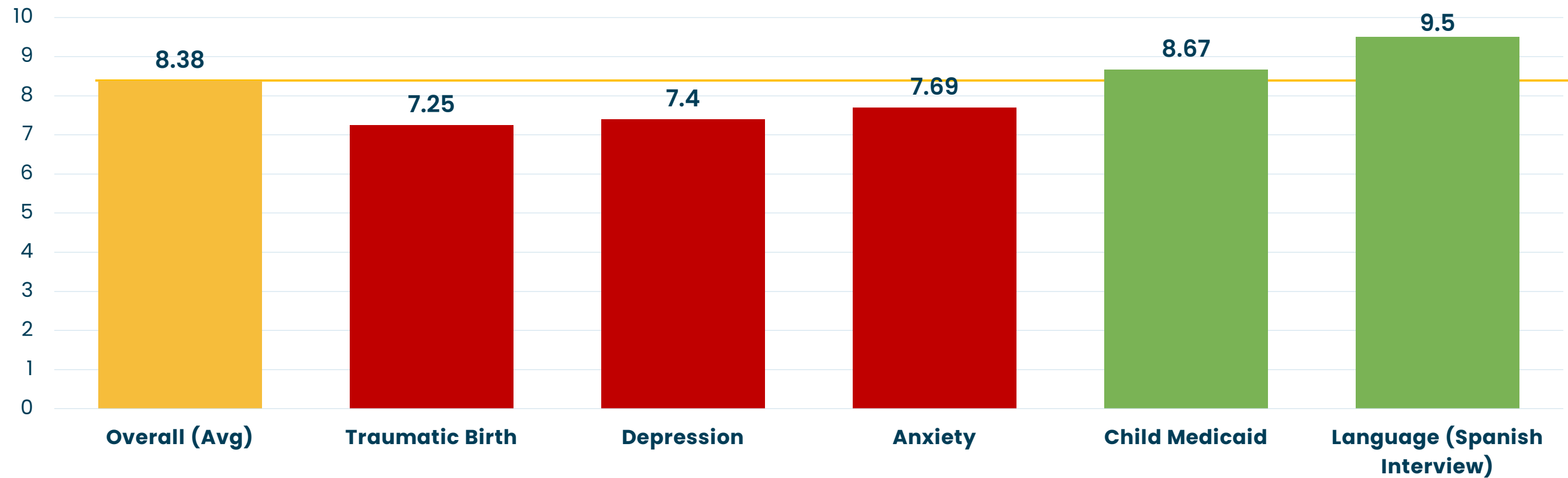
PREGNANCY Level of Satisfaction*



*Statistically Significant

Overall, how do mothers' birth experiences vary by condition in Tarrant County?

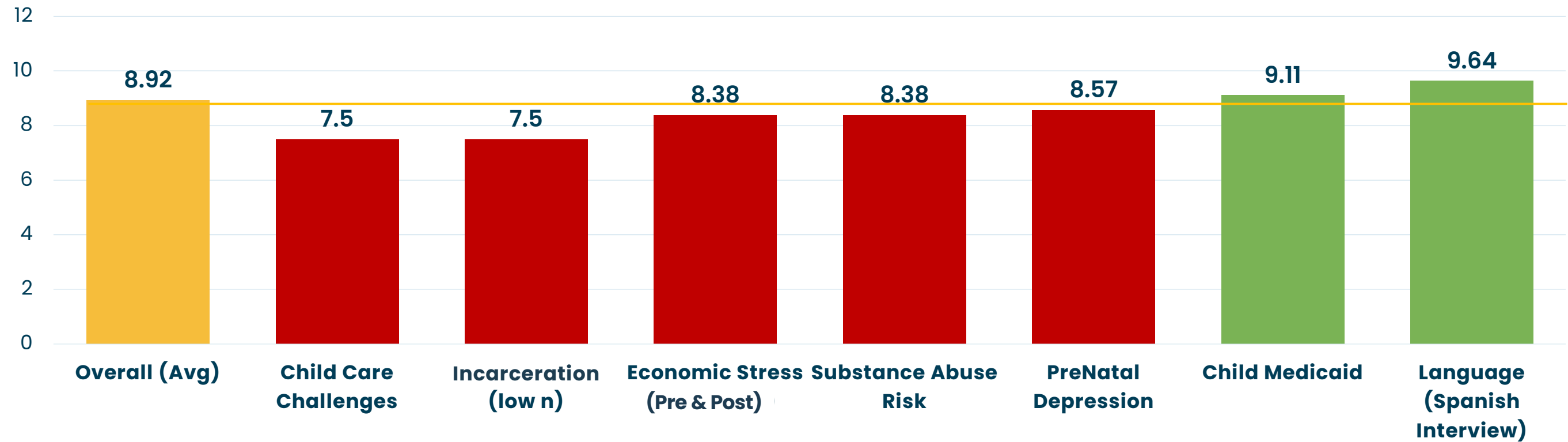
BIRTH EXPERIENCE Level of Satisfaction*



*Statistically Significant

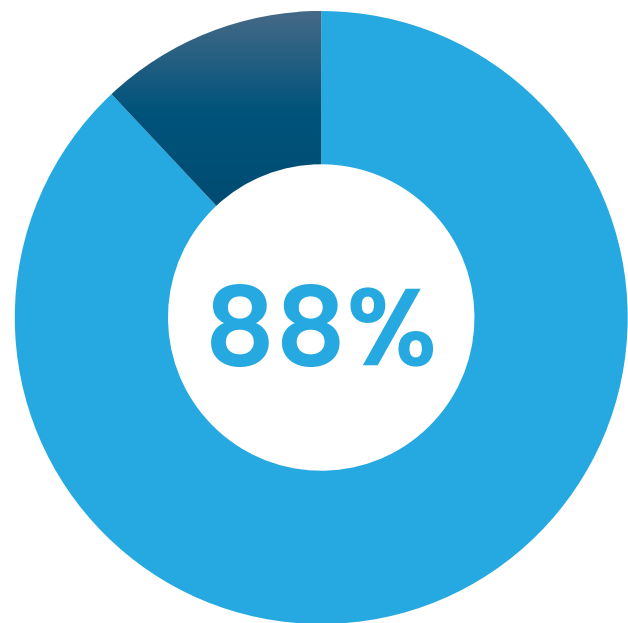
Overall, how do mothers' parenting experiences vary by condition in Tarrant County?

PARENTING Level of Satisfaction*



*Statistically Significant

Where Do Mothers Go for Trusted Information?



88% of mothers indicated that they generally know where or who to turn to for trusted information or guidance

BUT there is no “single source” for accessing this information

30%
Use Family & Friends

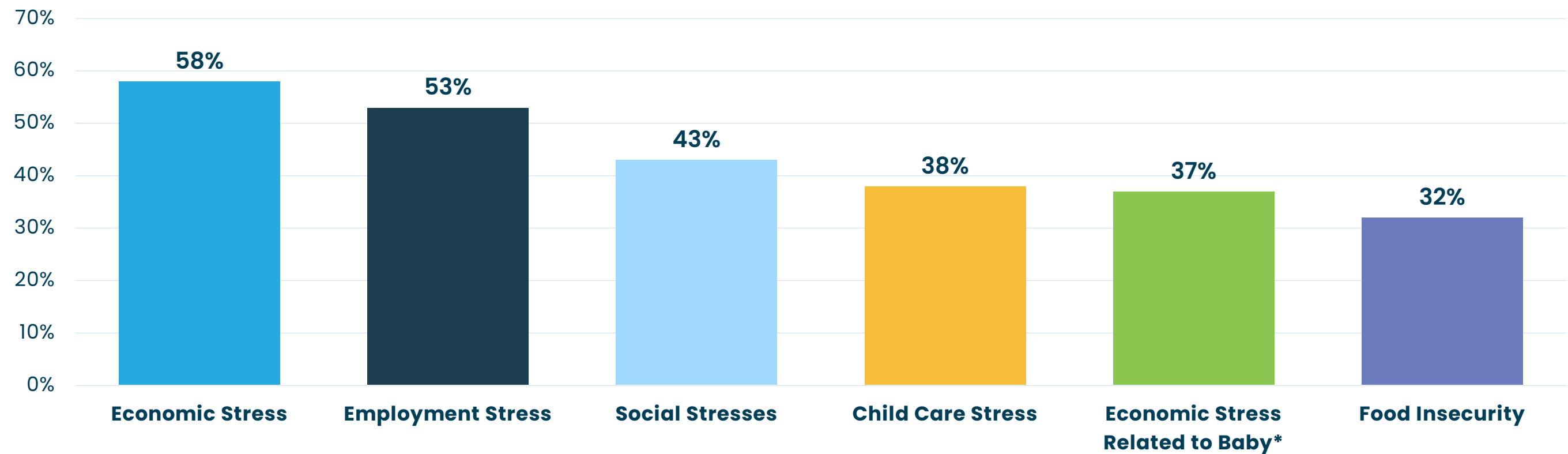
25%
Use Healthcare Professionals

8%
Call 211

8%
Search Online

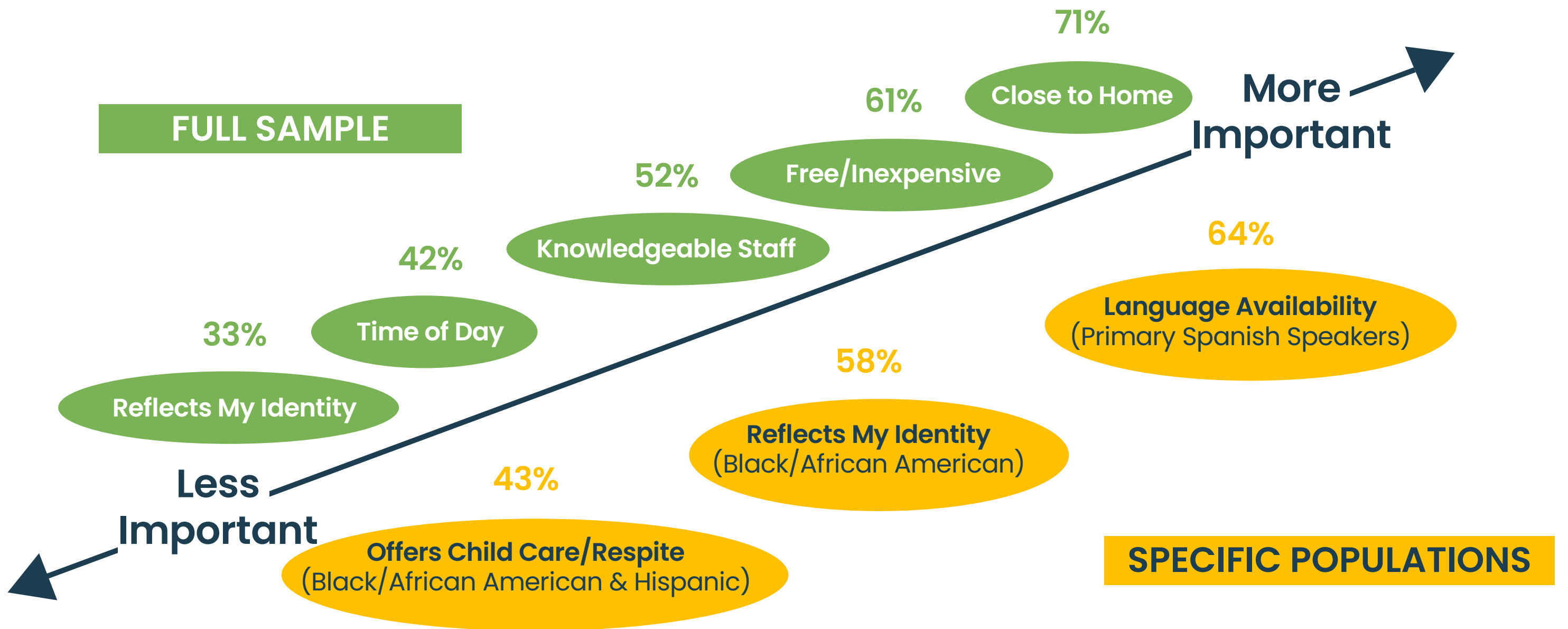
What SDOH Are Mothers Facing in Tarrant County During the Perinatal Period?

Most Cited Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

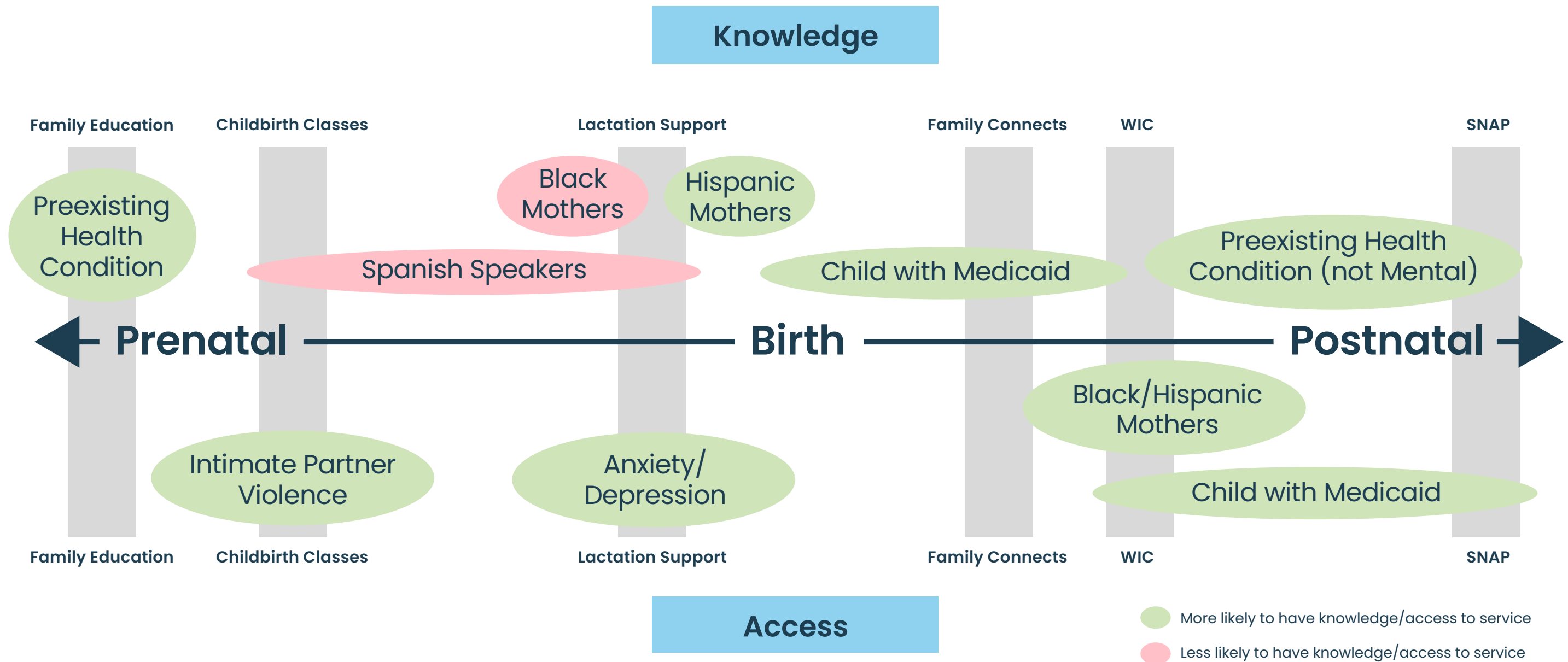


* Trouble purchasing formula and/or diapers

How Do Mothers Rate What's Important in a Provider?



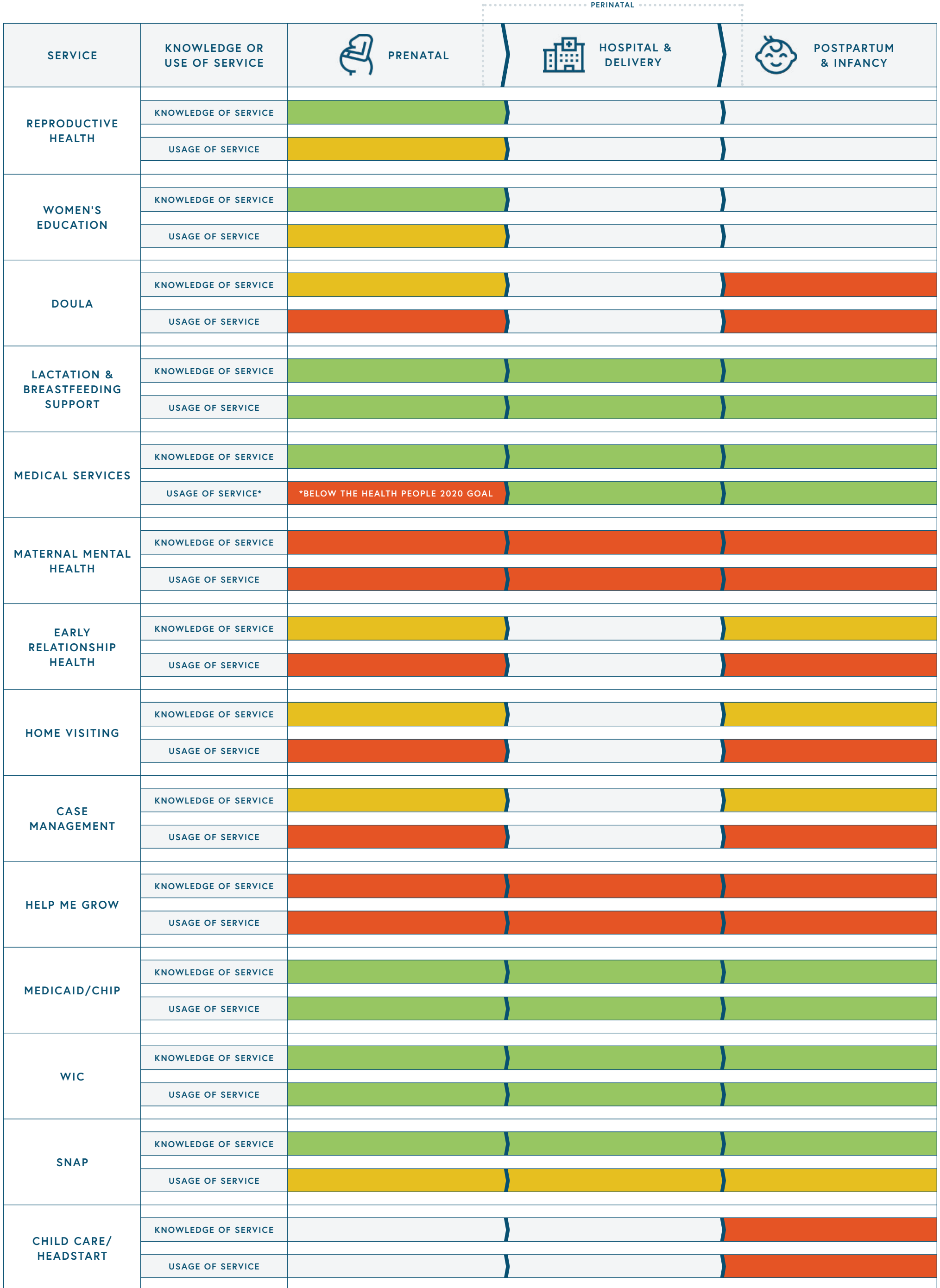
What Factors Impact Mothers' Knowledge & Access of Services?





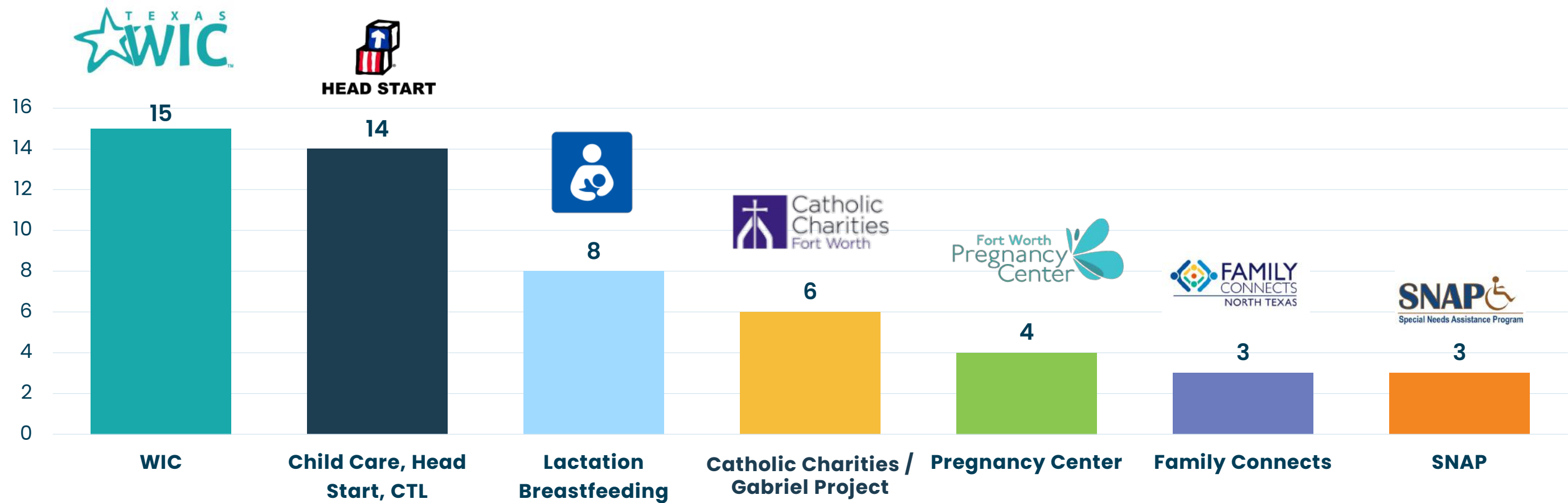
Updated Resource Map: Knowledge & Access

Tarrant County Maternal & Infant Health Coalition | Continuum of Care Resource Map | Updated November 2023



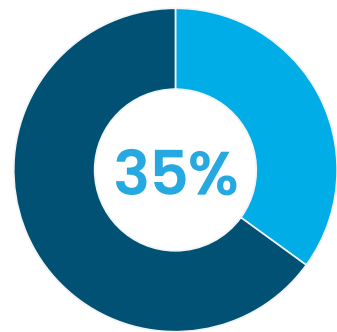
Which Providers Were Cited as Most Helpful?

80% of mothers named a service that was especially helpful

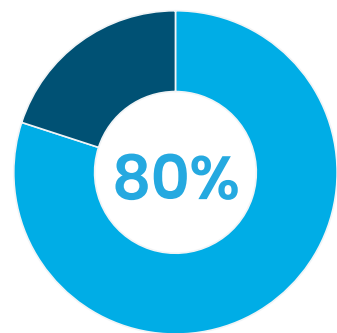


Areas of Concern

Traumatic Birth



While 35% of women reported a traumatic birth, very few received treatment or support for this.



80% (vs. 33%) of women who were treated for hypertension PRIOR to pregnancy reported a traumatic birth.

Disrespectful Treatment*

12% of women in pregnancy

18% of women in labor/delivery

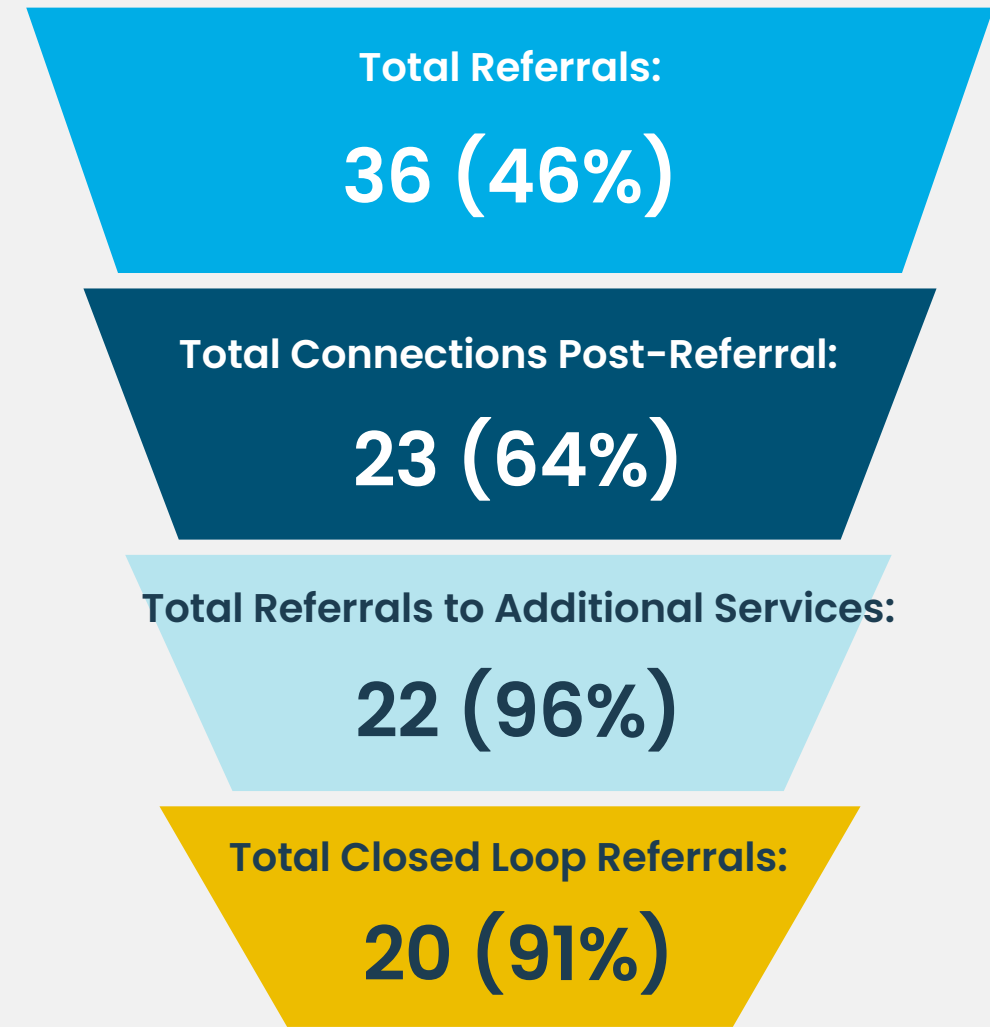
15% of women after the child was born

*Characterized as disrespect based on race, religion, culture, sexual identity, or income level.

How Were the Needs of Mothers Addressed?



All referrals were made directly from the interviewer to the perinatal [Help Me Grow navigator](#) at MHMR.



(Confirmation that they connected with services)



Forward Together: Key Opportunities

Potential Areas to Address Moving Forward



Awareness & Access

- **56% of mothers want more support**, especially after the birth of a child.
- **39% of mothers wished they had known** about all the services they were asked about in the interview.



Usage & Connectivity

- **Less than half** of mothers who felt they needed mental health support in pregnancy saw a professional.
- **84% of Medicaid recipients with health conditions** make it more likely that a family received services.



Mental Health

- **31% of mothers** described wanting more proactive / **preventative** mental health and emotional support.
- **44%** of the mothers who identified feeling lonely also met the PHQ cutoff for **depression**



Health Care as Entry Point

- **96%** of mothers accessed **prenatal care**
- **89%** of mothers had taken their child for a **well visit**
- **Medical facilities** account for **50%** of referrals

Potential Areas to Address Moving Forward

Awareness & Access

*"I have **so many questions**. I wasn't sure what was right or wrong at the end. It felt like the **only solution was calling his pediatrician** ...which is a great service to have obviously, but not always knowing like if that's the best thing to do."*

Usage & Connectivity

*"I feel like a lot of the resources that we have are great, **we just need more of them**. They are **limited on the capacity** that they can take on for new patients and everything. I just, you know, it'd be nice if there are more, just for everyone."*

Mental Health

*"[Someone should] like, actually prescribe them a therapist so they can **come to their house to see them** and help them. Cuz some mothers don't want to get out or are embarrassed by it. Tell them that it's normal, that they are no different. I'd just say **more help for the mom going through postpartum**".*

Health Care as Entry Point

*"I appreciated **ECl**, because it kind of opened up a **gateway for other things**....And you know...hey I'm looking for employment, so she'd say here are the places that are hiring or different work programs. Same things with **food, you're in between jobs, so go ahead and apply for SNAP**, you know, the different things like that. She'd give me a referral, like she was amazing."*

Forward Together: Key Opportunities

1



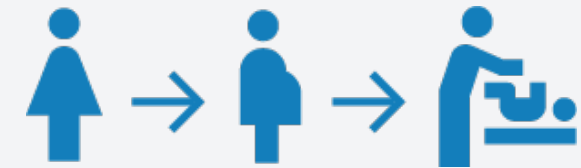
Help Me Grow as referral resource navigation for maternal health providers

2



Parent Pass™ free app provides vetted maternal health resources to 8K local parents

3



Aligned outreach & messaging to those populations most at risk

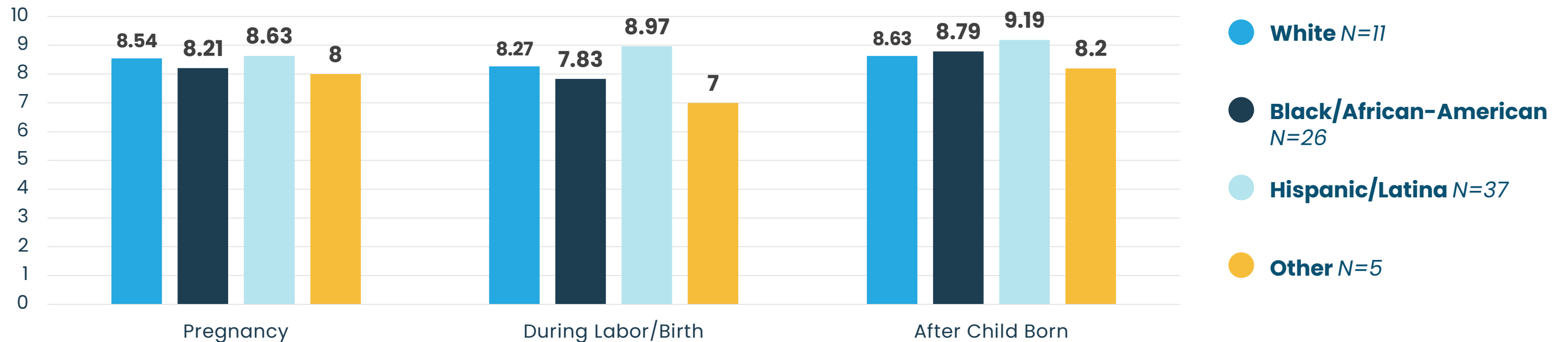


Appendix

Overall, how do mothers' pregnancy and parenting journeys vary by race in Tarrant County?

Black/African American mothers and those who identify as "other" report lower satisfaction overall, while Hispanic/Latina mothers report higher overall satisfaction

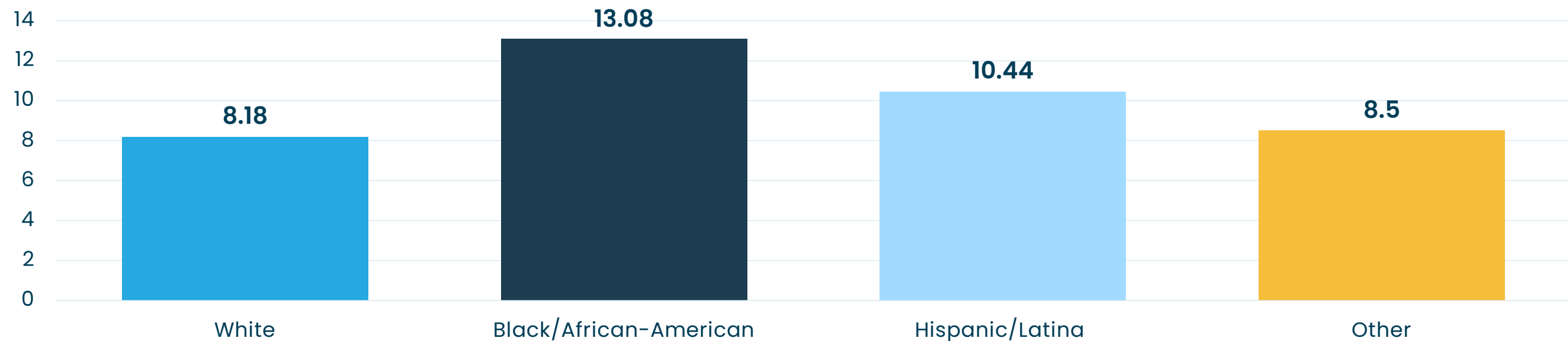
Tarrant County Overall Satisfaction by Race/Ethnicity



Prenatal Care

97% of Mothers had at least 1 prenatal visit
Variation exists across race, medical home, and IPV Status

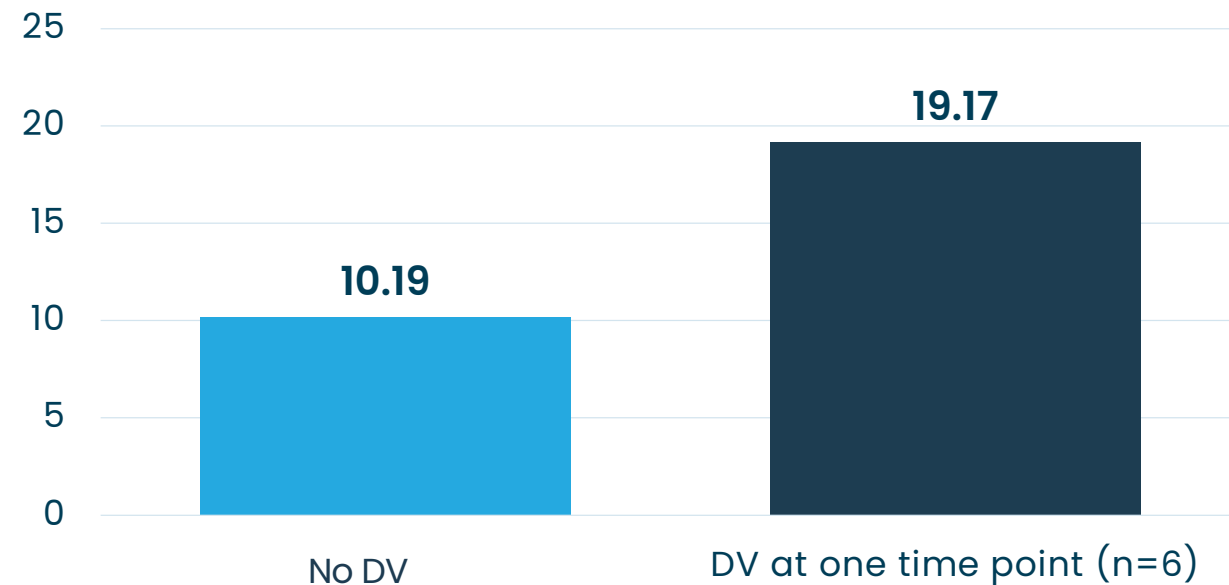
First Prenatal Visit Weeks Gestation | Race/Ethnicity



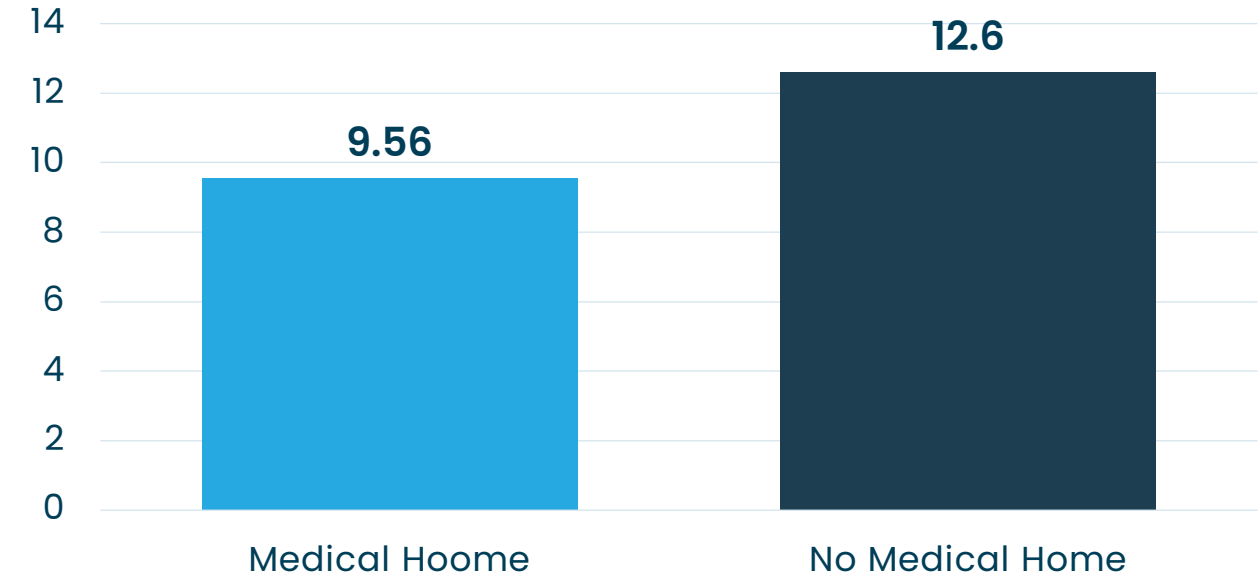
Prenatal Care

97% of Mothers had at least 1 prenatal visit
Variation exists across race, medical home, and IPV Status

First Prenatal Visit | IPV Status



First Prenatal Visit | Medical Home



What factors affect whether a mother **KNOWS ABOUT** services?



Less Likely:
Spanish Language Speakers

Childbirth Classes
17% vs. 64%

Family Ed/Prep
21% vs. 68%

Lactation Support
36% vs. 69%



More Likely:
Preexisting Health Condition (Non-Mental Health)

Family Ed/Prep
48% vs. 22%

WIC
90% vs. 39%

SNAP
84% vs. 63%



More Likely:
Child with Medicaid

WIC
86% vs. 44%

Family Connects
26% vs. <1%

Lactation Support
95% vs. 75%



Varies by
Race/Ethnicity

Lactation Support

100% of Black/African-American mothers knew

70% Non-Hispanic

46% Latina/Hispanic

What factors affect whether a mother **USES** services?

1



More Likely:
Intimate Partner
Violence (IPV) n=5

Childbirth
Classes

4 out of 5 used

2



More Likely:
Anxiety & Depression

Lactation
Support

3



More Likely:
Child with Medicaid

WIC
86% vs. 44%

SNAP
84% vs. 43%

SNAP
No Insurance

4



More likely:
By Race/Ethnicity

WIC
Black/African
American & Hispanic
are more likely to use

What factors affect whether a mother uses services?

“I was hesitant to apply for food stamps as well, because my immigration process made me think they might cancel it or not grant me residency.”

(Translated from Spanish)



How do mothers rate what's important to them in a provider?

*"My doctor, like, you could talk and joke with her. She was funny, very knowledgeable. I absolutely **loved being that I am African American woman and childbirth for us is very, very, like very real**, because childbirth can lead to death. So me having some high blood pressure, **it was important that I found an African American OB**. And she was just very like real. She kept it very 100. Like, told you what was wrong, tells you how we can fix it."*

