

# FETAL INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW

## June 2024 Quarterly Meeting Summary

### What We Do

The Dane County Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) aims to prevent pregnancy loss and infant deaths in Dane County.

FIMR is an evidence-based, community level prevention strategy. The purpose of case review is to identify systems-level problems and advocate for solutions.



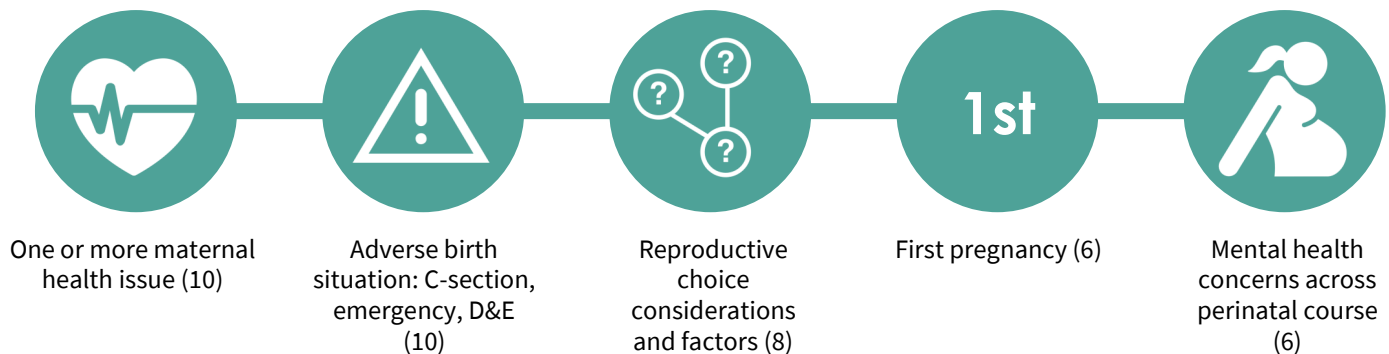
**Stillbirth: 11 Infant: 3**

### Records & Timeline

General timeliness is crucial to case review to identify and illustrate themes, trends, and factors facing individuals and systems in our community. FIMR case review timeliness varies, and we review cases as timely as records are available. The cases reviewed are not a comprehensive record of **all** deaths that occurred during a specific timeframe. During the June case review, the deaths happened during 2023-2024. This does not necessarily mean the pregnancy and birth occurred in the same year.

### Themes

Themes are factors that influence health outcomes and certain themes were consistent in several cases. The number of cases for each theme is in parentheses.



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## Major Case Review Discussion Points

During both Pre-FIMR and Case Review Team meetings, 28 partners participated in comprehensive case review. These points reflect both major discussions and commonalities between cases.

### Insurance type impacted care.

Comparing cases with similar outcomes but different insurance types, people with BadgerCare/Medicaid generally had more emergency visits, limited referral options, inability to seek desired care (i.e., second opinion), delayed mental health connections, and minimally addressed nutrition challenges.

### Reproductive choice was an emerging theme that impacted more than half the cases.

- This included prior abortion, variations with between pregnancy (interconception) counseling, postpartum contraception issues, and completion of Wisconsin abortion paperwork in setting of medical emergency.
- In two cases, mothers/birthing people were not able to access their postpartum contraception of choice due to cost and/or postpartum BadgerCare coverage expired by the time they saw their provider.
- Two stillbirth cases had “recommended termination due to medical necessity” and were classified as medical abortion. Historically, similar FIMR cases have not included this classification and instead were documented as “induced”.

### Five cases involved nutrition challenges, yet only one had a nutrition consult and one had WIC.

Unaddressed nutrition challenges could contribute to inappropriate weight gain or loss, poorly controlled diabetes and other conditions, and food insecurity.

### LanguageLine is available 24/7 but is not inclusive of all languages, dialects, nor cultural and religious contexts.

- Certain medical terms do not translate directly to any other language, as they may only exist in English. This highlights how difficult in general it is to understand medical jargon; there is added difficulty when hearing the information through interpretation.
- Discussion centered on the importance of questioning “how much of what is being interpreted is actually understood by the mother/birthing person?”

### Anticipatory grief may occur prenatally and is exacerbated postpartum, which highlights the need for wraparound support across the perinatal course.

Three particular areas of concern: 1) When a fetal anomaly is diagnosed early, 2) impact of prior loss or birth trauma on both parents, and 3) need for whole family support.

### Mental health concerns continue to be one of the most common themes across FIMR cases.

1 in 5 Black women report postpartum depression compared to less than 1 in 10 mothers/birthing people in Dane County overall ([Wisconsin PRAMS, 2017-2021](#)).

### Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) is used consistently to screen for perinatal depression.

- Two additional assessments are common: Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) and Generalized Anxiety Disorder Questionnaire (GAD-7).
- Discussion revealed that providers are “stuck” with negligible immediate local mental health services, long waitlists, limited perinatal-specific options, and few BIPOC providers.

## FIMR Action Network Topic

Based on these discussions, this quarter’s FIMR Action Network (FAN) will focus on **healthcare provider awareness of community-based resources to increase referrals to services outside of clinical care.**



Fetal and Infant Mortality Review is an important way to honor families that have experienced fetal and infant death. FIMR is a needed process that works toward preventing tragedies, but we also want to acknowledge the heaviness of this work. We thank every FIMR support and participant for being engaged in this difficult work.