Monday, May 1, from 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 – 3:00 p.m.  
WAPC 2017 Poster Session

Educating Indigenous Guatemalan Midwives on Management of Postpartum Hemorrhage and Neonatal Resuscitation Using the "Helping Mothers Survive" and "Helping Babies Breathe" Training Programs, a pre- and post-test study

Innovative Program/Project

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Faculty Disclosure: Nothing to disclose

Introduction/problem statement: Purpose statement  Guatemalan midwives require education in management of postpartum hemorrhage and newborn resuscitation to improve maternal and newborn outcomes. Guatemala has high maternal, infant, and neonatal mortality rates and has performed poorly on Millennium Development Goals Four and Five (reducing child and maternal mortality, respectively). Due to cultural and systemic challenges, the midwives have received low-quality training that is not culturally sensitive. Improved training and continuing education is necessary to address the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Three and Five targets, and improve maternal and neonatal outcomes.

Objectives/purpose/goals: Implementing Helping Mothers Survive (HMS) and Helping Babies Breathe® (HBB) (a train-the-trainer model) combined training for indigenous midwives in three Guatemalan departments was completed in order to improve confidence, knowledge and skills competency scores.

Intervention/practice: Confidence, knowledge, and skills were assessed before and after HMS and HBB one day low-dose, high-frequency trainings. The seminars utilized hands-on simulators (mannequins) and pre- and post-tests to teach concepts and evaluate learning.

Results: Helping Mothers Survive and Helping Babies Breathe combined training implementation resulted in significant improvement in confidence and knowledge scores for 95 Guatemalan birth attendants. High levels of skills competency scores were also demonstrated and participants expressed satisfaction with the project training. Nine master trainers were trained and equipped with mannequins and training materials to promote project sustainability.

Conclusions: This project of Helping Mothers Survive (HMS) and Helping Babies Breathe® (HBB) combined training provided specialized tools which addressed the learning needs of the midwives in culturally appropriate ways and is a positive step in the continuing education of Guatemalan midwives. This project was the first implementation of combined Helping Mothers Survive-Helping Babies Breathe training held outside of facilities for traditional birth attendants. These combined low-dose, high-frequency trainings may result in improved skills retention and improved outcomes for mothers and newborns in low-resource areas.