

**DETERMINANTS OF POOR CHILD OUTCOMES: MENTAL HEALTH
AMONG LOUISIANA MOTHERS**

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3:15PM – Monday, March 26, 2007

Classroom D, UNO Advanced Technology Center,

2021 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans

Abstract

Background: Perinatal depression (PD) impacts a mother's ability to care for her infant. Maternal perception of infant behavior (MP) also impacts the quality of care received and may negatively impact the quality of the mother-infant attachment relationship. Identifying risk factors for PD and negative MP may help target mothers and infants at risk for poor attachment relationship quality and poor child outcomes.

Study Question: What risk factors and markers are associated with MD and with negative MP?

Methods: A 26-item self-report questionnaire was completed by 912 mothers of newborns who receive WIC benefits. MD was assessed through a single item survey question. An infant mental health specialist recoded the question "Tell us about the baby's behavior" into negative versus positive or neutral responses. Associations between PD or MP and maternal age, education, marital status, number of times moved in past 12 months, pregnancy intention, maternal problems during pregnancy, and infant problems with sleeping, eating, or colic (IPSEC) were assessed using descriptive frequencies with chi square tests and multivariable logistic regression.