

Fetal and Infant
Mortality Review (FIMR)
Home Interview:
Process and Issues

Webcast
Tuesday, July 11, 2006
2:00-3:30pm Eastern

Moderator:

Johannie G. Escarne, MPH

Fetal and Infant Mortality
Review



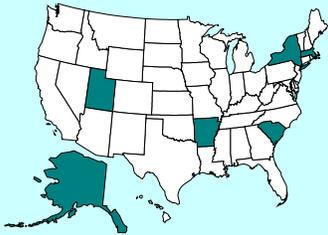
Kathleen Buckley, MSN, CNM
National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Program

National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (NFIMR)

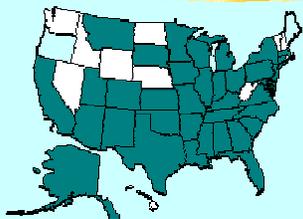
NFIMR is a collaborative effort between the:

- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
- Federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration (MCHB)

FIMR 1988



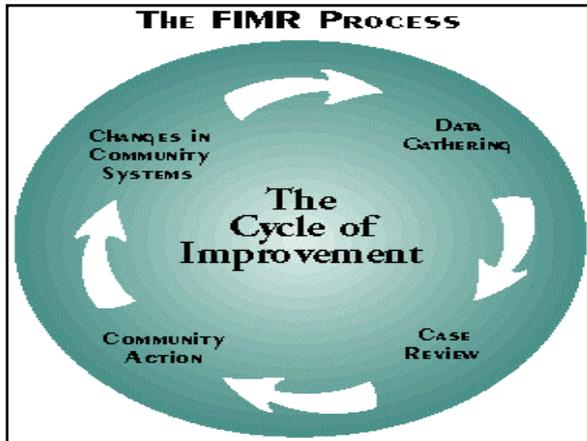
FIMR Today



Rationale for FIMR Reviews

“Infant mortality is the most sensitive index we possess of social welfare.”

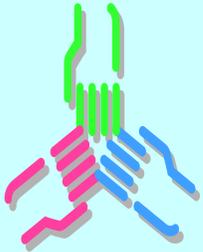
Julia Lathrop, MD
1913



2001 Johns Hopkins University Study Validates Components of FIMR.

“[The FIMR program] ...also creates a setting and a set of concrete activities wherein everyone has a contribution to make and everyone learns from the process. The case study findings indicate that because the FIMR process extends beyond problem identification to promote problem solutions, observable changes in practice and programs occur; ‘things get fixed’ and participants are inspired to take further action.”

Source: Women's and Children's Health Policy Center, Johns Hopkins University. The evaluation of FIMR programs nationwide: early findings. [Online, 2002]. Available from: <http://www.fimr.edu/wchpcpub/Brochure.pdf>



Selected Components of FIMR

1. Confidentiality Is Key!

- FIMR cases are de-identified so that the names of families, providers and institutions are confidential – the FIMR focus is on improving systems NOT assigning blame.

2. FIMR Focuses on Systems



- Each FIMR case review provides an opportunity to improve communication among medical, public health and human service providers and develop strategies to improve services and resources for women, children and families.

3. FIMR Includes a Family Perspective



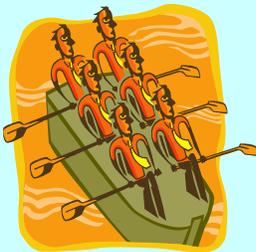
The FIMR process includes a home interview with the mother who has suffered a loss and the mother's story is conveyed to the FIMR team members.

4. FIMR Promotes Broad Community Participation

- FIMR is a community coalition that can represent all ethnic and cultural community views and becomes a model of respect and understanding.



5. FIMR is Action-Oriented.



FIMR leads to multiple creative community *ACTION* to improve resources and service systems for women, infants and families.

National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (NFIMR)

Since 1990, NFIMR has been a resource center working with states and communities to develop fetal and infant mortality review programs.

For more information about FIMR, call (202) 863-2587, e-mail us at NFIMR@acog.com, or visit us at <http://www.acog.org/goto/nfimr>.

Maternal Home Interviews: Process and Issues

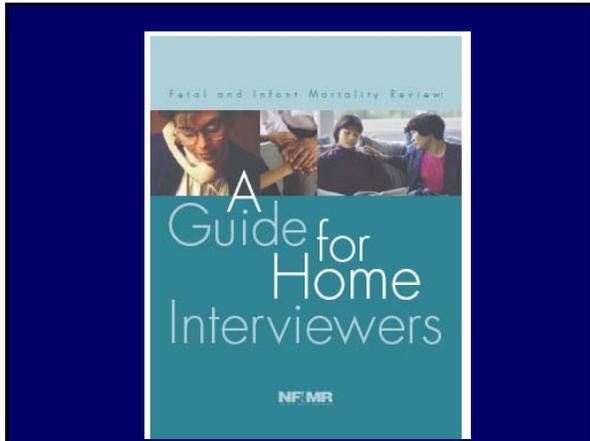
Jodi Shaefer, RN, PhD

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing
and
Health Care Answers

Community Advantage

“Maternal interviews give a voice to the disenfranchised in my community, those without clout or power. FIMR provides a rare opportunity for the ‘providers’ in a community to hear from the ‘consumers.’”

—Patt Young, FIMR Interviewer,
Alameda/Contra Costa Counties, CA



A Guide for Home Interviewers
Chapter Headings

- The FIMR Process
- Conducting the FIMR interview
- Understanding the grief experience
- FIMR interviewer skills and training
- Summarizing the FIMR interview
- Self-care for the FIMR interviewer

Interviewer should know how to:

- Track, contact, & engage mothers
- Review & explain consent form
- Prepare to conduct interview
- Provide culturally sensitive bereavement support during the interview
- Listen and record, not interpret
- Conduct interview

Interviewer should know how to: (con't)

- Maintain confidentiality
- Comply with public health & safety codes including reporting requirements
- Handle difficult encounters & maintain personal safety
- Screen for suicide risk
- Avoid implications of mismanagement & liability
- Refer to needed services when requested

Purpose of FIMR Maternal Interview

- To learn about mother's experiences
- To identify community assets & deficits
- To convey mother's story to FIMR team
- To assess family's needs & referrals
- To facilitate bereavement process

Conducting the interview

- Interview preparation
- Working with interpreter
- Ethical considerations
- The NFIMR interview Tool
- The interview
- Protecting confidential information
- Caregivers need care too

Conducting FIMR Interview Interview Preparation

- Who is interviewed?
- Maintaining confidentiality
- When interviewing is *not* recommended
- Reporting child abuse
- Interview consent form
- Locating mothers

The art of being prepared

- Physical preparation
- Mental preparation
- Professional preparation
- Hints before and after

Why is it so hard?

Challenges of the first call & home visit

Mother's want to talk...
and tell the story of their
child's life and death.

Interview Topics

- Prenatal Care
- Nutrition, Weight Gain & Health Habits
- Delivery of Baby
- Other Babies
- Information on Mother
- Information on Father
- Living Situation
- Life Changes/Social Support

Understanding the Grief Experience

- Factors Affecting Grief Experience
- Expressions of Grief
- Health Care Provider Responses at Time of Death

Tasks for Bereaved

- Understand
- Grieve
- Commemorate

Loss during pregnancy and infancy encompasses many circumstances

- Early miscarriage, fetal death
- Relinquish for adoption
- Birth defects, neonatal loss
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome(SIDS)
- Chronic disease
- Unintentional injury/homicide

All perinatal losses or infant deaths can be considered **sudden and unexpected**

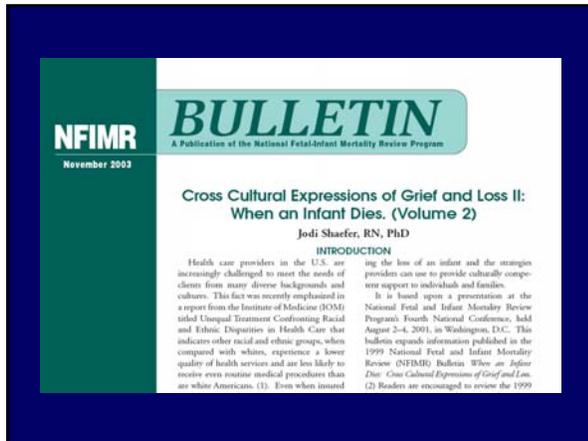
- Pregnancies are supposed to be carried to term
- Children are not supposed to die before their parents.

Factors Affecting a Families' Grief Response

- Age of deceased and survivors
- Relationship to survivors
- Prior experience with death
- Faith foundation
- Family traditions and customs
- Historical background of cultural group
- Education
- Economic status
- Geographic region

Grief Response

- Hostility and anger
- Depression
- Guilt
- Anxiety and fear
- Sadness, crying
- Mood swings
- Physical symptoms
- Disorganization, difficulties making decisions
- Anniversary reactions



Cross Cultural Expressions of Grief and Loss: When an Infant Dies

- FIMR Educational Bulletins include information on:
 - American Indian
 - Chinese
 - Muslim Families
 - African American
 - Latino

Questions Providers Can Ask to Assist the Bereaved

- I am so sorry for your loss. How can I help you?
- What are your traditions when an infant dies?
- Is there someone I can call for you?
- Has your family ever had this experience before? How did they handle it?
- Did you have a funeral service? Was it helpful?

Support

- Offer words of comfort and compassion in the family's own language.
 - Translators may be needed.
- Refer parents to support systems, such as faith community
- Maintain clear communication with all family members, respect family communication pattern
- Reassure parents that their expressions of grief and the intense feelings are accepted.

'Words' from Compassionate Friends

The do's and don'ts in working with bereaved families

- Don't try to find magic words that will take away the pain. There aren't any.
- A hug, a touch, and a simple "I'm so sorry" offer real comfort and support.
- The easy/hard job of listening to the bereaved.

Phrases to avoid

- **Avoid saying, "I know how you feel."**
Appropriate only if you also have had a child die.
- **Avoid saying "It was God's will"** and using other clichés that attempt to minimize or explain the death.
- **Don't try to find something positive in the child's death, such as, "At least you have other children."** There are no words that make it all right that a child has died.

'Words' from Compassionate Friends

The do's and don'ts in working with bereaved families

- Parents with religious convictions may struggle with God's role in this event.
- Listen! Let them express the anger, the questions, the pain, the disbelief, and the guilt they may be experiencing
- There is no standard timetable for recovery.

Summarizing the home interview

- Methods are specific to your program
- This is the voice of the mother

Take Care of Yourself

- Support each other as FIMR home interviewers
- Know your strengths and limitations
- Be aware of your reactions
- Take responsibility for your own needs
- Learn to receive as well as give

Adapted with permission from the California SIDS Program: A Practical Guide to the SIDS Home Visit, 2001

"May You be strengthened
by yesterday's rain,
walk straight in tomorrow's wind
and cherish each moment
of the sun today."

Ojibiwa Prayer

Lessons Learned

Patt Young
Program Coordinator
Perinatal Council
Oakland CA



Qualities of FIMR Interviewer
