**INTRODUCTION**

- In the US, mental health is a major contributor to maternal morbidity and mortality.\(^1\)
- An indigenous identity increases the risk of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders by 62%.\(^2\)
- Historical and continued trauma has made it more critical that greater efforts towards improving mental health for this community be prioritized to improve health equity.\(^3\)
- The purpose of this scoping review is to synthesize literature that highlights unique considerations to improve mental health equity for indigenous birthing individuals.

**METHODS**

- We used the JBI framework with PRISMA scoping review extension.
- Keywords were taken from model studies and used to translate MeSH terms.
- Full search strategy databases included MEDLINE (PubMed), PsycINFO (EBSCO), Cochran Library (CENTRAL), Scopus (Elsevier), SocINDEX (EBSCO), Sociological Abstracts (ProQuest) and CINAHL (EBSCO).
- A two-step screening process was implemented followed by data extraction.
- Themes relevant to scoping review inquiry presented in narrative and image format.

**RESULTS**

<table>
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<th>Identification of studies via databases and registers</th>
<th>Identification of studies via databases and registers</th>
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<td>SocINDEX (n=25)</td>
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<td>Sociological Abstracts (n=14)</td>
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<td>Records excluded (n = 426)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reports not retrieved (n = 0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reports excluded: (n=19, ongoing)</td>
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**DISCUSSION**

- Indigenous populations are under-represented in perinatal mental health equity research.
- Preliminary review of the literature indicates these disparities require centering indigenous populations and methodology in the inquiry, development, and implementation of perinatal mental health equity interventions.
- Greater efforts to help increase Indigenous voices in perinatal mental health care delivery, policy development, and research inquiry.
- Allies must remain intentional in their pursuit of cultural competence to improve the delivery of perinatal mental health care and support a more equitable allocation of resources.
- Limitations: Missings interventions targeting teens with perinatal mental health disorders due to 18 years and older inclusion criteria, did not obtain unpublished research, missing indigenous community perspective on unpublished interventions/programs.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

In recognition of indigenous researchers’ role as the leaders in the work towards health equity for indigenous populations, we have highlighted two researchers below as well as 22 Indigenous led organizations working towards social justice!

- Dr. Autumn Asher BlackDeer  
  [https://www.autumnasherblackdeer.com/](https://www.autumnasherblackdeer.com/)
- Dr. Jennifer Richards  
  [https://caih.jhu.edu/about/our-people/jennifer-richards](https://caih.jhu.edu/about/our-people/jennifer-richards)
- [https://foodcorps.org/22-indigenous-led-organizations-shaping-social-justice](https://foodcorps.org/22-indigenous-led-organizations-shaping-social-justice/)

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**US**

- Health Equity Inside and Outside Health System
- Inclusion Criteria
- Perinatal Mental Illness
- Indigenous Population
- Pregnancy To 1 year PP
- 18 Years and Older

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**Notes:**

1. Source: National Vital Statistics Reports, 2018
2. Source: National Health Interview Survey, 2017
3. Source: National Center for Health Statistics, 2019