Background

Asylum seekers: Vulnerable with respect to sexual and reproductive health

Epidemiology

Asylum specific indicators: very scarce

Data Netherlands:

- **Perinatal mortality**: 11.3/1000 live births
  RR=2.0; 95% BI: 1.3-3.1 (I. van Oostrum)
- **Maternal mortality**: 69.3/100,000 live births
  RR=10.1; 95% BI: 8.0-12.8 (I. van Oostrum)
- **Severe acute maternal morbidity**: 31.0/1000 pregnancies
  RR=4.5; 95% BI: 3.3–6.1 (J. Zwart)

Needs

Pregnant asylum seekers express a need for:

- information about pregnancy
- information about health system
- bridging the language gap
- empathic health professionals
- continuity of care
- pregnancy groups to meet other women and share information

Recommendations

Policy and practice are recommended to ensure:

- access to and continuity of health care
- use of interpreters
- availability of culturally competent professionals
- a health networks approach
- information provision about pregnancy and health system
- screening for risk factors
- supporting the women in their strengths and coping factors
- perinatal audits

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