

IOM Report Echoes ACOG's MOMS Initiative

Introduction

ACOG's MOMS Initiative calls for federal research to develop, test and implement evidence-based interventions to improve maternal health. A 2010 report released by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), *Women's Health Research: Progress, Pitfalls, and Promise*, agrees and echoes our call for federal research to better understand women's health, including maternal mortality and morbidity.

IOM: Findings

Significant barriers to progress exist in women's health research. In the report, the IOM reviewed conditions on which little progress has been made, including maternal mortality and morbidity; unintended pregnancy; ovarian cancer; autoimmune disease; and non-malignant gynecologic disorders.

The Committee considered a number of potential reasons why progress was seen for some conditions and not others, including:

- The degree of attention and research funding from government agencies, consumer groups, and Congress;
- The availability of interested researchers in a given field;
- How well we understand the underlying pathophysiology of a condition; and
- The availability of diagnostic tests and screenings to identify persons at-risk for or who have a condition.

IOM: Recommendations

The IOM recommends research:

- On maternal mortality/morbidity;
- On sex differences in obesity;
- On preeclampsia, a major cause of maternal mortality;
- On women with the highest risks of disease;
- On wellness;

- To better translate findings into clinical practice; and
- To understand genetic, cellular, and behavioral determinants of disease.

ACOG's MOMS Initiative

ACOG's Making Obstetrics and Maternity Safer (MOMS) Initiative is a multi-pronged campaign to improve maternal and infant outcomes by filling the glaring gaps in research and understanding.

The IOM Report echoes ACOG's MOMS Initiative, which calls for targeted investments in:

- Prematurity causes and interventions;
- Obesity research, treatment & prevention;
- Disparities in maternal/fetal health outcomes;
- Data collection improvements and maternal mortality reviews; and
- Quality improvement measures and initiatives.

For more information on the IOM Report, see: <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/Womens-Health-Research-Progress-Pitfalls-and-Promise.aspx>