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## ***Maternity Care Services and Culture: A Systematic Global Mapping of Interventions***

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**Background:**

Culture is known to influence women's use of maternal health care services and for this reason the World Health Organization recognizes the need for 'culturally appropriate' health services.

Various interventions have been implemented across different regions of the world to address the cultural factors that affect the use of maternity care services however they have not been synthesised until now.

This paper systematically maps the literature to describe the range of interventions and study designs and identify knowledge gaps.

**Methods:**

- Over 33,000 articles were generated in the searches and were screened. Most did not meet the inclusion criteria for the inventory.
- Ten electronic databases and two websites were systematically searched for articles published between 1990 and 2013.
- Journal articles and grey literature in English, French, and Spanish were assessed against inclusion and exclusion criteria.
- Data from all included documents were extracted for analysis. Intervention categories were inductively developed based on these data.

**Findings:**

- The final inventory includes 96 studies from 35 countries. Countries from all geographical regions and income levels are represented. The authors identify a diverse range of interventions addressing the

cultural factors that affect the use of skilled maternity care. Many successes and examples of good practice are identified.

- Five intervention categories are developed:

1. Service delivery models
2. Service provider interventions
3. Health education interventions
4. Participatory approaches
5. Mental health interventions

The authors define and present interventions within each category. The authors find limited studies measuring intervention impact using experimental or observational-analytic study designs

The inventory includes interventions in five Evidence for Action countries:

- Ghana: a health education intervention
- Ethiopia: a participatory approach and a health education intervention
- Malawi: a participatory approach and a health education intervention
- Nigeria: three health education interventions and one participatory approach
- Tanzania: two studies that describe a participatory approach

### Conclusions and recommendations:

- The importance of incorporating cultural factors when planning and delivering maternal health services is well recognised and can improve maternal and newborn health outcomes
- This study contributes to growing evidence of interventions which aim to address cultural factors and improve the use of skilled maternity care
- It can be used as a resource for researchers, programmers, and policymakers aiming to deliver more responsive, effective maternity care services, particularly to culturally-diverse populations.
- Further research is needed to improve documentation, measurement, and evaluation of interventions; low-income countries should be emphasised

To read the article for free, click [here](#). No subscription required.

To read a summary of the studies included in the inventory that occurred in MamaYe Evidence for Action countries, click [here](#).

To read a blog about the study from the authors, click [here](#).

Coast, E., Jones, E., Portela, A., & Lattof, S. R. (2014). Maternity care services and culture: a systematic global mapping of interventions. *PloS One*, 9(9), e108130.

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### Document type

**Journal article**

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22ND JAN 2015

### **Ebola Crisis: The Unequal Impact on Women and Children's Health**

This article discusses how the Ebola outbreak has disproportionately affected the health of mothers, newborns and children in West Africa. The authors argue that long-term investments are essential for strengthening the health systems of Ebola affected countries, and a crucial means to ending preventable maternal and child deaths.

TAGS: **EBOLA** • **PREGNANCY** • **MATERNAL HEALTH** • **REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH** • **CHILD HEALTH**

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4TH FEB 2015

### **Facility Improvement Team (FIT) Assessment Exercise – December 2014**

The latest Sierra Leone FIT assessment scorecards - December 2014 - are now available! These score selected health facilities, including Government Hospitals, on their readiness to provide quality emergency obstetric and newborn care.

TAGS: **FIT** • **SCORECARDS** • **MATERNAL HEALTH** • **NEWBORN HEALTH** • **PROGRESS**

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2ND JAN 2015

### **Perceptions of the Risk for Ebola and Health Facility Use Among Health Workers and Pregnant and Parturient Women – Kenema District Sierra Leone September 2014**

This study explores factors that may have contributed to declines in maternal and newborn health service use since the Ebola outbreak, as well as potential strategies to increase use of these services.

TAGS: **EBOLA • MATERNAL HEALTH • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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### Keywords

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