

NPQIC BRIEF: FINDINGS FROM THE NEBRASKA PROVIDER SURVEY

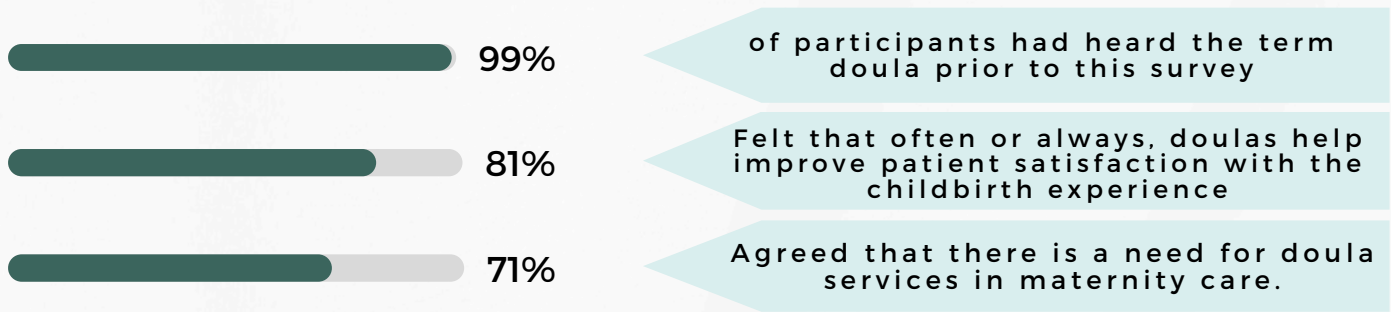
2023



BACKGROUND

In Nebraska, birth outcomes for mothers and babies are marked by significant racial disparities. Culturally congruent doula support is one evidence-backed approach to reducing inequities in birth outcomes and experiences. ***Our 2023 survey explored the attitudes, knowledge, and beliefs about doulas among providers, nurses, and staff who interface with pregnant patients in Nebraska.*** Below is a summary of our findings.

WHEN SURVEYING CLINICIANS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH DOULA CARE IN THEIR FACILITIES:



	AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE:	In my facility, doulas are welcome	I provide information on doulas to my patients	I want to learn how to integrate doulas
Overall		84%	28%	52%
RURALITY OF FACILITY	Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy	96%	32%	60%
	Small counties: In/near Metros	66%	22%	44%
	Small counties: Not adjacent	81%	26%	46%

THE FOLLOWING THEMES AROSE FROM THE OPEN-ENDED QUESTION:
 “IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, WHAT CAN YOU INFER ABOUT A PATIENT
 WHO USES A DOULA?”

THEME & SUB-THEMES

PROVIDER QUOTES

High Socioeconomic Status Patient

- Educated
- Empowered
- High socioeconomic status

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“Typically, the patients are white, upper middle class and are partnered.”

“Wealthy... educated”

Engaged Patient wanting additional support and the best outcome

- Prioritizes the best outcome
- Wishes for additional support
- Engaged in their pregnancy care
- More satisfied with birth experience
- They want a safe/ comforting presence
- Looking for a safeguard/advocate

“They are usually engaged in their care and have reviewed choices they may face.”

“Usually able to ‘own’ her labor, expressing herself even through doula, and has been more empowered by her strength getting through the difficult parts of labor.”

High Maintenance Patient that Desires Little Medical Intervention

- They wish for a specific birth experience
- Wants an unmedicated/natural birth
- Desires less medical interventions
- High maintenance

“These patients usually have a specific birth plan and are not open to feedback from the healthcare team.”

“They typically do not want any interventions including vaccines for their children.”

Uninformed, Anxious, and Resistant Patient

- Lacking knowledge about birth
- Mistrust towards healthcare providers
- Resistant to medical care
- Improperly informed
- Anxious

“Patients who use a doula are more often jaded to medical staff and trust is harder to gain from them.”

“They are often willing to trade maternal and fetal risk for the perception of control over the birth experience.”

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The results of the provider survey and recommendations from the doula focus groups should be utilized by hospitals to identify opportunities for provider education and quality improvement.