

BRIDGING THE GAP

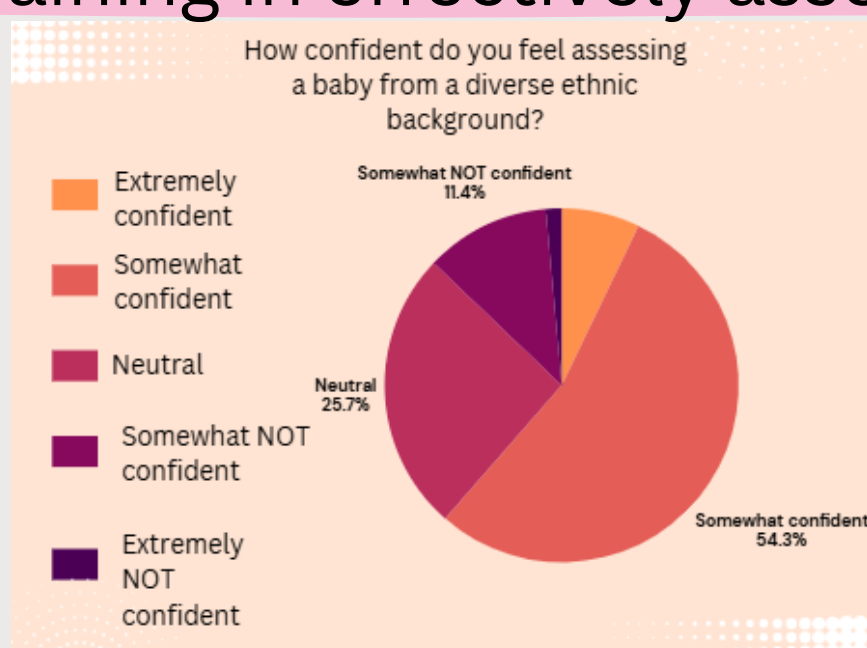
Raising awareness of neonatal assessment within diverse ethnic populations

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Aim - The aim of this work was to ascertain if providing a one hour presentation on neonatal assessment in diverse ethnic populations would improve awareness and confidence amongst maternity health professionals.

An initial scoping exercise was conducted to understand how confident maternity staff felt when assessing neonates from diverse ethnicity and what were their current practices to support this. Staff were asked if they had received any training on this specific topic during their careers.

The scoping exercise found that just under 50% of staff felt some lack of confidence in assessing neonates from diverse ethnicity. 96% of staff have never received any training in effectively assessing neonates from diverse ethnicity.



Methods - Guided by the Race and Health Observatory report (RHO, 2023), a one hour powerpoint presentation for staff training was developed. This included current literature on disparities in health outcomes of neonates from diverse ethnicity as well as discussions on the limitations of some medical devices. Practical advice for implementing evidence-based, family-centered neonatal care for all was discussed. This session was included within all maternity study days. A 'train the trainer' model was utilised to support dissemination.

Outcomes - Following attendance at this training, staff were asked if they felt the session had improved their awareness and confidence with their approach to assessing a neonate from diverse ethnicity. 100% of staff surveyed found this session helpful and 100% felt the session had improved their confidence when assessing a baby from diverse ethnicity.

Conclusion- The provision of a one hour training session on neonatal assessment within diverse ethnicities is helpful in raising awareness and improving confidence within our maternity workforce.

