

Finger Lakes Perinatal Forum Survey Results

The Finger Lakes Perinatal Forum survey was sent out in April 2006 to all 215 Forum members. We posted the link to the survey on surveymonkey.com and 52 people responded on line. For those who did not want to be contacted through e-mail, we mailed 45 surveys and 5 were returned and entered into Survey Monkey.

1. How would you describe your job? (Total respondents: 57)

- Hospital Based: 38.6%
- Community Agency: 33.3%
- Research/Academia: 15.8%
- Insurance: 3.5%
- **Other 19.3%**
 - Government
 - Public Health
 - Facilitate Rural Health Network
 - Family Planning Trainer
 - Home Care
 - Independent Childbirth Educator
 - Nurse Midwife
 - Private Practice

2. Do you have direct patient or client contact? (Total respondents: 57)

- Yes: 73.7% (42)
- No: 26.3% (15)

3. What county do you work in? (Total respondents: 57)

- Monroe: 50.9%
- Yates: 12.3%
- Ontario: 12.3%
- Wayne: 10.5%
- Steuben: 10.5%
- Livingston: 8.8%
- Chemung: 5.3%
- Seneca: 5.3%
- Allegany: 3.5%
- Wyoming: 3.5%
- Schuyler: 1.8%
- 17 county region: 1.8%
- 27 county region: 1.8%

4. Have you ever attended the Finger Lakes Regional Perinatal Forum? If no, skip to question 7. (Total respondents: 56)

- Yes: 78.6%
- No: 21.4%

5. How many Forum meetings have you attended? (Total respondents: 45)

- 1-2: 37.8%
- 3-4: 28.9%
- 5 or more: 33.3%

6. Have you attended a Forum meeting in the last year? If yes, skip to question 8. (Total respondents: 47)

- Yes: 70.2%
- No: 29.8%

7. If no, why haven't you attended? (Total respondents: 24)

- Scheduling conflict: 83.3%
- Location is inconvenient: 45.8%
- Meeting topics are not relevant to my work: 16.7%
- Send other staff: 12.5%
- Meetings are too long: 8.3%

Other:

- Usually inconvenient.
- I was off on an extended leave due to illness.
- I indicated an interest in being part of a breastfeeding related work group and was never contacted.

8. If yes, what are some of the reasons why you attend the Forum? (Total respondents: 40)

- The presentations are interesting, relevant, or useful: 82.5%
- I am interested in the topics covered: 70%
- I am involved in a working group: 32.5%
- I am required to attend: 20%

Other:

- I was interested in seeing what this Forum is as I had recently become involved as supervisor of the Medicaid program.
- I am pleased to be able to act as a liaison between Albany DOH and the Finger Lakes Forum.
- I always hope they will cover something that will benefit my students, as well as the larger community. I think education is the key and would like to see more on the importance of nutrition. Also a community referral list/website needs to be created.
- I enjoy collaborating with other institutions.

9. What part of the Forum do you find the most useful? Check all that apply.

(Total respondents: 51)

- Presentations: 89.1%
- Networking: 54.3%
- Work Group: 28.3%

Other:

- I felt the meeting I attended was informative, but not relevant to my job simply because of the nature of the job.
- Encourages perinatal health care providers to realize that they are taking part in a larger picture than their day to day work with clients.
- I have not been able to attend, but plan on in the future.

10. Have you ever participated in a working group? If no, skip to question 12.

(Total respondents: 51)

- Yes, regularly: 33.3%
- Yes, sporadically: 33.3%
- No: 33.3%

11. Have you found the working group time worthwhile? (Total respondents: 33)

- Yes: 42.4%
- No: 21.2%
- Somewhat: 36.4%

12. If you have not participated in a working group, why not? Check all that apply.

(Total respondents: 22)

- I have never attended a Forum meeting: 40.9%
- I have too much work to do: 22.7%
- The working group is not very productive or effective: 18.2%
- The Forum meeting is too long: 4.5%

Other:

- Distance to travel.
- I have not seen any outcomes from the work groups.
- I have only attended one Forum and I had to leave before the work groups began.
- The group is composed of people from Rochester and the meetings are a long ways for me to go for a short meeting, but at the Forum we just don't get anything done there and it seems that the same people don't always come, etc.
- At the time I didn't know if I could commit to an on-going project.

13. How likely are you to attend a Forum meeting in the next year (2006)? (Total respondents: 57)

- Very likely: 47.4%
- Likely: 19.3%
- Somewhat likely: 15.8%
- Not very likely: 19.3%

14. What topics would you like to see presented at the Forum?

- Parenting skills
- Child abuse prevention
- Domestic violence counseling
- Care of complete placenta previa
- Vaccination studies in relation to autism
- Effects of medical intervention to mother and baby as opposed to natural non medical birthing.
- Teratogen exposure would be a great topic for all WIC programs in the counties you serve.
- Group prenatal care and outcomes.
- Low birth rates due to early scheduled C-section delivery
- Most recent state of the science on causes of prematurity and low birth weight.
- The importance of good nutrition, how to assess nutritional needs, how to encourage dietary improvement for pregnant women.
- A recap and update on scientific basis for emphasizing smoking cessation for the health of mother and baby.
- An overview of how prenatal care has changed in the past 10 years.
- Community education on specific ways to reduce the C-section rates.
- Review of New York State regulations.
- Cancer and pregnancy update on substance abuse – information on what’s currently out there.
- Topics relevant to the Mennonite population I serve, community prenatal resources.
- Breastfeeding promotion.
- Shaken baby information.
- More presentations like the dental one, more on the statistics that are gathered for the region.
- Need to know more about the Forum’s mission standardization of documentation of health care provided. May make health care more portable especially for the underserved who may be more mobile and feel less support from system.
- Updates on birth control and STDs, free family planning programs.
- Exploration of the effects of epidurals on labor and post partum with recommendations from the group regarding area practice.
- Working with pregnant teens and their families. How do we encourage the use of birth control in the teenage group? Working with fathers. How widespread is single parenting? What is the STD rate in pregnant women? What are the implications?
- Regional birth statistics compared to other regions of the state/nation.
- JCAHO tracer survey.
- Pregnancy and diabetes.
- Any new and exciting information on breastfeeding, obesity and pregnancy, infant sleep (bed-sharing, co-sleeping, sleeping alone) – and not just ‘don’t do it’, but helpful information for advising women on why’s and why not of different sleep choices, and how to bed share safely.

- Smoking cessation.

15. What topics would you like to see the Forum address in a working group?

- Pre-term labor, pre-eclampsia.
- Life diet changes.
- Insurance coverage for breastfeeding consultations.
- I am relatively new to the Forum and so far, I am not sure about the value of working groups. I feel like most people do not have time to spend on work group activities between meetings. I wonder if some type of newsletter with contributions from members of the group would be valuable. The newsletter could include services available, continuing education opportunities, etc. The Perinatal Forum is the best for those living in the Rochester area in some instances. I gain much information by participating in the Forum – I really enjoy going.
- To be honest, I dislike the working group time and would prefer presentations only.
- I think that smoking cessation is hard to address since the money has been cut at least in my county.
- Patient safety, although most relevant to inpatient settings, should be applicable to any area where patient care is delivered.
- Managers meeting: policy discussion, physician problems, working as a team (i.e. inter-shift, inter-department like NICU with OB, nurse retention, competencies, etc.
- Access to family planning services after delivery.
- I think the topics are good – I'd like to see more implementation of working group ideas. People are too busy in their work lives to follow through with work group ideas outside of the Forum, so we need more resources to have staff time to be able to follow through with ideas (it would be nice to see some ideas besides brochures).
- Smoking cessation.

16. What would make the Forum more relevant to your workplace?

- Natural, alternative approaches.
- Everything that I've seen is relevant.
- Nothing, it's very relevant. It is just a distance for me to travel and with the time to get there, plus the meeting, it's a whole day away from the office.
- Truly addressing the needs of all birthing women – not just those who are poor. All women need to know ways in which they can stay healthy and low risk, and prevent complications.
- All the meetings I've attended so far have been relevant to my workplace.
- I'd like to see some locally or regionally based research projects on any variety of topics.
- Educational strategies for college students.

- Most of the emphasis as I understand it has been on promoting healthy pregnancies. Some focus on the childbirth process, current medical and nursing practice, and post partum issues would be nice.
- I think the Forum is very relevant but cannot attend meetings at a distance in the morning.
- No work groups as I feel that nothing is accomplished in mine and it is also not very relevant to my work. The Forum itself is great, but I sometimes feel there should be more information pertinent to rural counties as sometimes the presenters talk about a lot of Monroe county services.
- Demonstrate or talk about programs that each county may find useful, how can we fund it and has it worked previously. Ideas for home visitors when dealing with pregnant teens or young adults.
- Presentations on research projects.

17. Have you ever used any information from the Forum in your workplace? If yes, please specify.

- Dental health in pregnancy.
- Breastfeeding guide.
- Yes, all in services for my staff.
- Information from the last session was integrated into home care education for OB/MCH patients.
- Data to continue internal growth patterns.
- SIDS, Oral Health, Motivational Interviewing.
- Absolutely! I use the phone numbers for the various agencies which would be useful to my pregnant moms, and I love being able to meet and network with others who do my work! As I mentioned, the dental health was a great asset to my work, and we incorporated this information into our quarterly newsletter.
- Smoking cessation efforts.
- Always enjoy Dr. Chris G's statistic reports.
- Making the workplace more breastfeeding friendly.
- Networking has been critical. Presentations are usually 'food for thought' or interesting.

18. Do you know someone we should add to our distribution list who would be interested in attending the Forum?

Lauri Smith (Breastfeeding Coordinator)

Deb Strollo (Monroe Plan)

Joyce Fromm (Clinical Coordinator, Family Birth Place, Park Ridge Hospital)

Dr. Sema Hart (Already in data base)

Amy Blodgett (Already in data base)

19. Have you ever accessed the Forum's website for meeting minutes or other information? (Total respondents: 55)

- Yes, regularly: 1.8%
- Yes, occasionally: 23.6%
- No: 74.5%

Comments

- I have attended other Forum's meetings and yours by far, much better attended with more relevant topics and far superior networking. I think your network does a fantastic job! I really want to try to get to more of your meetings. Thanks for all your efforts.
- I think the biggest drawback to my attending or sending staff is the meetings are too far away from Rochester.
- I get the minutes already. Didn't even know that there was an actual website. I will access it now that I know it exists.