Study of Associated Risks of Stillbirth (SOARS)
Nicole Stone, MPH; Laurie Baksh, MPH; Barbara Algarin; Patty Smith, B.S.

What is SOARS?
The Study of Associated Risks of Stillbirth (SOARS) is a surveillance project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Utah State Health Department. SOARS is an ongoing, state-specific, population-based survey designed to collect information on maternal experiences and behaviors prior to, during, and immediately following pregnancy among mothers who have recently experienced a stillbirth.

Objectives
- To collect population-based data of high scientific quality on topics related to stillbirth.
- To conduct comprehensive analysis to further the understanding of relationships between behavior, attitudes, and experiences related to stillbirth.
- To translate results from analyses into useable information for planning and evaluation of public health programs and healthcare policies related to stillbirth.

Approach
- Convened a steering committee
- Established a protocol
- Developed materials
- Created the survey (65 questions)
- Partnered with Vital Records
- Obtained IRB approval
- Obtained bereavement support training
- Press release and social media

Methods
- Population sample selection 2-4 months after delivery
- Day 1 - mail introductory notecard with our condolences
- Day 11 - mail first survey and a beautiful incentive
- Day 21 - mail a reminder letter
- Day 31 – mail a second survey
- Day 59 - telephone follow up
- Day 94 – end data collection

How SOARS Assesses Women’s Experiences of Care After Stillbirth

Did any of the following things happen before you left the hospital?

- a. I felt adequately supported by my doctor or midwife in my grieving process
- b. I felt adequately supported by the hospital nursing staff in my grieving process
- c. I felt adequately supported by the grief counseling staff in my grieving process
- d. I was given information about my breast milk coming in
- e. I was given information about what to do when my breast milk came in
- f. I was given a bereavement packet with information on where to seek support
- g. The hospital staff gave me the opportunity to ask questions
- h. My healthcare provider discussed with me what might have happened to my baby

Utah Data

What SOARS Participants Say...

- “It is my hope that my participation with this survey will help provide answers to the reasons why this happens... Thank you for this program and helping to find answers!”
- “I would have liked to have been told I could dress and bathe my baby. I also desperately wish they had taken hand prints of my son”
- “Go save these babies! Data is powerful.”
- “We’re so grateful you’re taking these surveys because we don’t want anyone else (especially those without a proper support system) to experience this. I hope I’ve been helpful”
- “Our hospital was great! I had a lot of support from the Drs and nurses as well as family and friends. I loved the keepsakes the hospital gave me.”

Success!

Questions? 801-273-2873