Current Issues in Pregnancy and Birth: Spring 2017

Description of final project:

We are working with the Northwest Mothers Milk Bank (NWMMB) on three projects this term. The first focuses on reducing the overall footprint of materials and donor milk processing. The second focuses on outreach to the community to better understand the disproportionate rates of milk donation by various ethnic and racial groups to help formulate lactation support and outreach on behalf of the NWMMB. Lastly, we had a group working on survey analysis of a survey conducted during Winter term that asked currently approved milk donors about their pumping and hygiene processes.

The reduction in footprint groups worked closely with the milk bank and the milk bank in NY to identify recycling and reuse options for milk banking. They additionally completed a cost analysis. A second group looked at replacing the insulated cardboard boxes currently used to transport donor milk to the NICU’s and hospitals with an insulated reusable bag that could then be passed on to families to transport milk bank and forth to the NICU, or to take pumped milk home with them after discharge.

The community outreach group examined potential barriers among communities of color to working with the milk bank via interviews and emailed surveys with cultural coalitions, WIC centers, lactation consultants and an on-line survey.

The survey team interpreted the results of the survey, some of which overlapped with the goals of the community outreach team, including zip code analysis and sources from which families receive information about milk donation.