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Caseload midwifery is lived relationships



A qualitative study of how caseload midwifery is experienced by couples in Denmark

WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN

- Women appreciate caseload midwifery
- The early phases of labour can be particularly difficult periods for the woman and her partner.

WHAT THIS PAPER ADDS

- Knowledge about the partners' experience of caseload midwifery and how caseload midwifery is constituted.
- Knowledge about how caseload midwifery facilitates the early phase of labour as well as the transition from pregnancy to parent-hood.

1 OBJECTIVE

To follow, explore and elaborate women's and their partner's experiences of caseload midwifery from onset of labor to a few days after birth.

2 DESIGN AND SETTING

The methodology was inspired by ethnography, and applied methods were field observations followed by interviews. The study was set in a tertiary hospital in Northern Denmark

3 PARTICIPANTS

10 couples participating in caseload midwifery

4 FINDINGS

What does this model of care mean for the woman and her partner?"

- The partner is involved
- The partner and the woman are more than numbers
- The couples and the midwife are known to each other
- Disappointment - if expectations are not met

How are the early phases of labor influenced?

- A welcoming first contact by phone
- To be met by a known friend at the hospital

What characterizes the relationship to the midwife?

- A relationship to a professional friend
- A relationship characterised by equality and inclusiveness
- A relationship creating a connecting thread

5 KEY CONCLUSIONS

Attending caseload midwifery meant being individually recognized and cared for. The partner felt included and acknowledged and experienced to work in a team with the midwife.

Caseload midwifery was able to solve problems concerning labor onset and getting access to the labor ward. The relationship to the midwife was regarded as a professional friendship characterized by equality and inclusiveness.

6 IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

In busy maternity wards we need to acknowledge simple things such as what it means for families and their midwives to know each other.

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