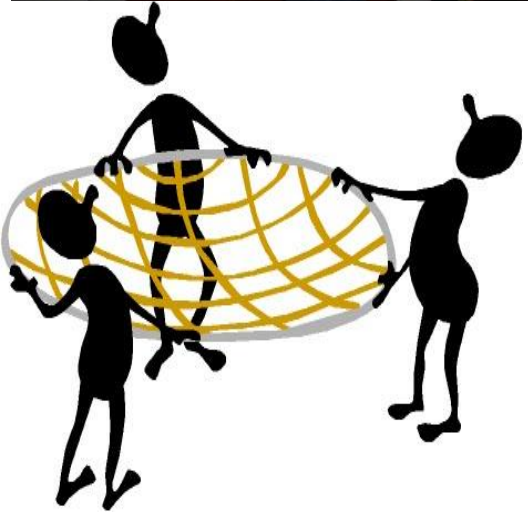


51%



**GENDER**

**&**

**GENERATION**

Jill Demilew

Consultant Midwife Public Health & Supervisor of Midwives

May 20<sup>th</sup> 2016

# Pregnancy & Homelessness

- ❑ Gendered - biology
- ❑ Generational - critical developmental time
- ❑ How many - counted + 'hidden'
- ❑ Complexity - history, systems & people
- ❑ Safety - mother & baby
- ❑ Timescale - less than 9 months
- ❑ **Opportunity - Motivation & Prevention**

# How many? No published stats ?

## DCLG 2014/15

- 45% increase homeless families
- 68,650 households
- 103,430 children or expected children

## CHAIN London 2014/15

- 1096 female rough sleepers (14% of all)

## Rebuilding Shattered Lives St Mungo's 2012

- 2013 26% accessing homelessness services 10,000 bed spaces

**HOW MANY ARE PREGNANT / CONTINUE PREGNANCY?**

# Who, How are they?

## UK evidence

“ severe, interrelated, exceptionally complex problems”

- Nearly half DV
- 19% abuse as child (1 in 5)
- Nearly 1/2 are mothers
- 79% child in care/adopted
- 70% mental health needs
- No qualifications, literacy
- No or limited English
- Prostitution > 1/3<sup>rd</sup>
- Almost ½ offending history
- 27% combination mental/physical + substance misuse needs
- ‘No recourse to public funds’
- Different culture

REVOLVING DOOR

# How many in your service?

## King's Denmark Hill 2007

### Health Equity Audit Access

- 5800 booked
- **34** 'homeless' women
  - 10 street
  - 12 'visiting'
  - 12 refugee/asylum seeking
- 0.6%

## King's Denmark Hill 2015

### E3 Maternity Database

- 6056 births
- 64 booking + (44 PN) = **100**
  - 9 street
  - 47 hostel
  - 6 refuge/sheltered
  - 2 B&B
- 1.6%

**Almost tripled number and %  
TWO women EVERY WEEK**

# Who are they? King's 2015 = 100

## Identification of 'homelessness' requires skill & trusting relationship. How many not in database?

- All registered with GP (by time gave birth)
- 28% on own, no support
- 1 in 5 disclosed DV
- 30% mental health problems
  - 11 referred Perinatal Psychiatry Team
- 5 substance misuse (at booking)
- 16 still smokers at booking
- 32% asylum seeker/refugee
- 32% require interpreting services (18 Albanian)
- 44% born outside UK
- 51% black British or Caribbean or African
- 14% white British or other

4 to 5 in 10 of homeless women did not disclose until on postnatal ward

## Homelessness

### 2014 ONS England

- 661,496 live births
- 0.6% 3,969
- 1.6% 10,584

### 2014 ONS London

- 127,399 live births
- 0.6% 764      $\times 2 = 1528$
- 1.6% 2038      $\times 2 = 4076$

Kings 100 women + 100 babies + wider families IMPACT

## Increased risk of maternal and infant mortality & morbidity

- Late presentation, poor attendance, maintaining contact
- Antenatal screening
- Prematurity
- Poorly grown babies
- Maternal mental health
- **TOXIC stress** impact on baby
- Variance in thresholds for access to services
- Variance in responsiveness of services /agencies
- Stigma, judgement, self esteem
- Complex navigation, advocacy – cross boundaries
- UK status, NRPF
- **'CONTRACEPTION PLUS'** (AN & PN: FDAC, PAUSE)



# Hallo my name is... it's PERSONAL

- Provide women friendly services
- Respect
- Relationship continuity & trust
- Social complexity has parity to 'medical' complexity
- Reduce toxic stress
- Timely access to all required
- Support for bereavement/loss
- Continue intensity input postnatally

Safety net – as fast as mend, new holes appear  
**MIDWIVES MUST BE PART OF THE LONDON TEAM**

# Resources

1. An unstable start All babies count: Spotlight on homelessness NSPCC and Anna Freud Centre [www.nspcc.org.uk/allbabiescount](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/allbabiescount)
2. Rebuilding shattered lives St Mungo's <http://rebuildingshatteredlives.org/read-the-report>
3. Better Evidence for a Better Start [www.betterstart.dartington.org.uk](http://www.betterstart.dartington.org.uk)
4. Excessive stress disrupts the Architecture of the developing brain Working Paper 3 <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/wp3>
5. Women Rough Sleepers [www.womenroughsleepers2.eu](http://www.womenroughsleepers2.eu)
6. NICE Pregnancy & Social complex factors <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg110>
7. NICE Antenatal and Postnatal Mental Health <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg192>
8. NICE Domestic Violence and Abuse – Multiagency working <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph50>
9. Healthcare needs and pregnancy dispersal policy [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/496911/new\\_Healthcare\\_Needs\\_and\\_Pregnancy\\_Dispersal\\_Policy\\_EXTERNAL\\_v3\\_0.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/496911/new_Healthcare_Needs_and_Pregnancy_Dispersal_Policy_EXTERNAL_v3_0.pdf)
10. When maternity doesn't matter dispersing pregnant women seeking asylum <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/maternity>  
<http://www.maternityaction.org.uk/2013/11/when-maternity-doesnt-matter-dispersing-pregnant-women-seeking-asylum/>

# MESSAGE FROM DELLA

another chance .....



I didn't think when I was 6 years old...

I want to be a druggie

I wanted to be a ballet dancer.....

I was broken and hurt by the people I trusted most