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Access to Clinical Supervision by midwives in Queensland Australia.

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Background and context

Clinical Supervision (CS) is the opportunity for health professionals to engage in regular structured discussion and reflection on their practice

Aim

This study aimed to identify the extent to which midwives, in Queensland, have access to and are involved in Clinical Supervision as part of their everyday practice.

Methodology

The study consisted of an online survey, with all nurses and midwives currently registered with the Queensland Nursing Council, with an active email address, invited to participate. The study was approved by the University Human Research Ethics Committee.

Analysis

Descriptive statistics were used to analyse demographic data and responses to information about Clinical Supervision.

Key Findings.

A total of 5007 surveys were completed. Of this sample 9% identified as midwives. The majority of respondents were female (98%) and aged over 40 years (71%). Only 32.7 % worked full time.

Over 67% of midwives were familiar with the concept of CS but 44% said they had never had CS during their career. While 57% indicated that their workplace offered CS, only 15% indicated that they were currently receiving CS. The majority of midwives responding indicated that they would be interested in receiving CS if it were offered (69%).

Participants were also asked about professional development, with 87% indicating that there were able to access professional development and 69% indicating that

the workplace provided financial support. However, 73.5% of respondents indicated that there was little or no support for professional development.

Conclusion and implications

As midwifery develops and models of care are expanded in Queensland, access to continuing professional development and Clinical Supervision will be important to develop a well supported midwifery workforce. As the majority of respondents are involved in professional development and are interested in Clinical Supervision, exploring ways to facilitate this support and ongoing development is timely.