



Keywords: Neonatal screening programs; Equity in healthcare; Early diagnosis; Health disparities; Public health initiatives; Genetic disorders

Introduction

Neonatal screening is a vital public health intervention aimed at detecting genetic, metabolic, and endocrine disorders in newborns

This paper explores the equity challenges in neonatal screening programs, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that all newborns regardless of their socio-economic background, ethnicity, or geographic location have access to timely and effective screening services [3].

Methodology

This study employs a mixed-methods approach to explore the equity in neonatal screening programs, focusing on identifying disparities in access, implementation, and outcomes across various regions and populations. The research combines both qualitative and quantitative components to gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with ensuring equitable access to neonatal screening services [4].

Literature Review: A thorough literature review was conducted to gather existing data on neonatal screening programs worldwide. This review included peer-reviewed articles, government and public

health reports, and international guidelines that discuss the scope, effectiveness, and barriers to neonatal screening. The aim was to identify common challenges in achieving equity, such as socio-economic factors, healthcare infrastructure limitations, and geographic disparities in access to screening. This review also helped uncover case studies of successful models that addressed these barriers and improved access to screening in underserved populations.

Data Collection: Quantitative and qualitative data were collected to examine disparities in neonatal screening access. The quantitative component involved gathering data on screening coverage, health outcomes, and demographic factors, including socioeconomic status, geographic location (rural vs. urban), and ethnicity [5]. Public health databases, government reports, and data from health agencies across both high-income and low-income countries were analyzed.

This allowed for comparison of neonatal screening rates and health outcomes between different groups. For the qualitative component, semi-structured interviews and focus groups were conducted with healthcare providers, policymakers, and parents from diverse backgrounds. The interviews sought to understand barriers to screening access from the perspectives of those involved in the healthcare system, while focus groups with parents explored their experiences and perceptions of neonatal screening, particularly in disadvantaged or underserved communities. This combination of data helped to identify both structural and personal obstacles to screening [6].

Data Analysis: The analysis of quantitative data focused on comparing screening coverage and health outcomes across different demographic groups. Statistical methods such as regression models

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