



## SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

# Maternal Health Services and Outcomes: Health Policy and Health Systems Approaches to Improvement

Thursday, May 16, 2019

12PM – 1PM

OHSU Richard Jones Hall 4340

**Ifeoma Muoto, MS, PhD**  
**Health Policy Analyst and Health Care Administrator**  
**Kaiser Permanente, Obstetrics and Gynecology**

Maternal health outcomes are currently a top public health priority. Maternal health is influenced by a variety of factors including individual, cultural, institutional, systems, and policy factors. Given that maternal health services are needed and utilized by a significant proportion of the population in every society, maternal health outcomes are important indicators of the ability of any health system to effectively meet society's health needs.

Despite high levels of utilization of costly pregnancy and birth services in the US, maternal outcomes in the US have continued to lag those of other industrialized countries. In contrast, a significant proportion of pregnancies and births around the globe occur in settings with fragile health systems, and high maternal mortality remains a major issue for many nations in the developing world. It is clear that access to pregnancy and birth-related health care services does not automatically translate to high-quality care or optimal maternal outcomes. Together, this highlights the complex nature of maternal health at a population level and the strong influence of health system and non-health system factors on population health.

This presentation will focus on maternity care and maternal outcomes in Oregon and how various facility-, state-, and federal-level policies over the past decade have impacted quality of care, maternal outcomes, and disparities. The presentation will also highlight a health systems approach to characterizing and tackling the challenge of maternal mortality, using the health system and maternity care services in Nigeria as a case study. Implications for future health services, systems and policy research will be discussed.

