

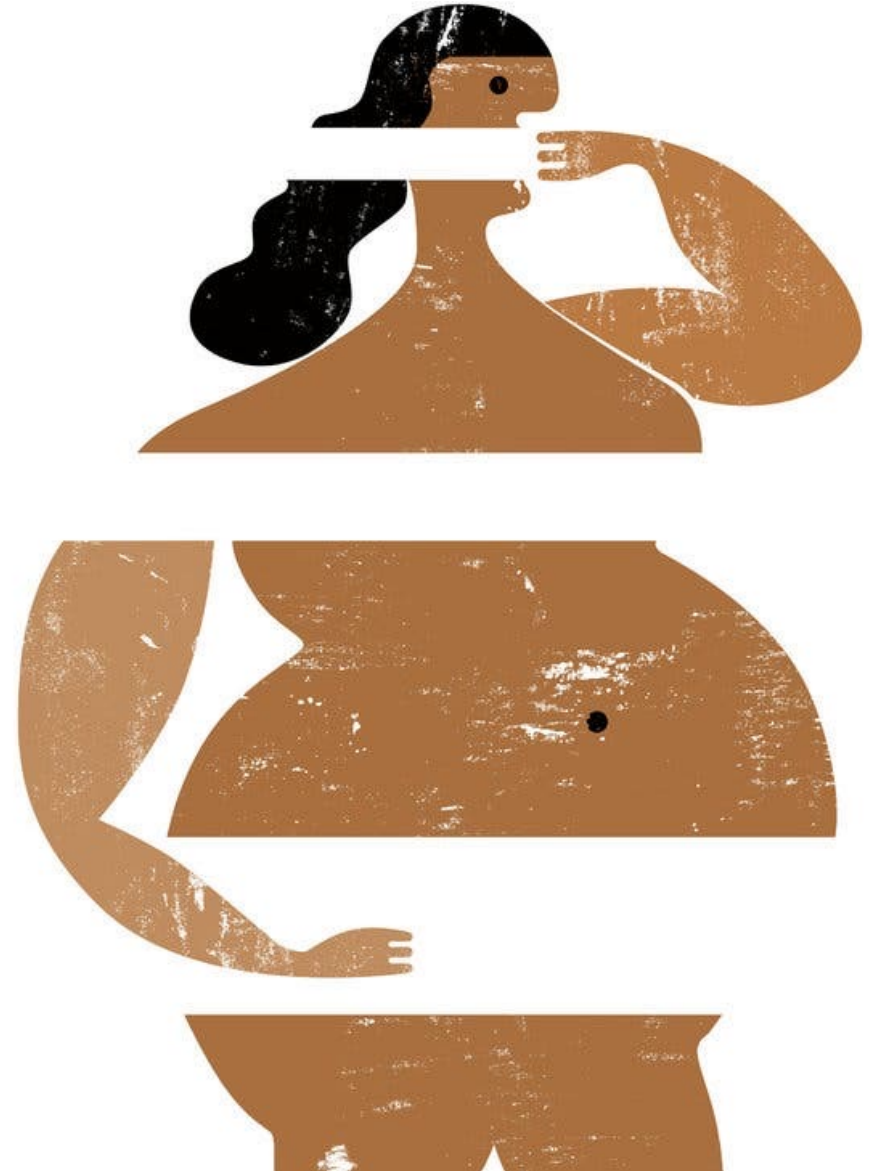
OBSTETRIC VIOLENCE



ORIGINS

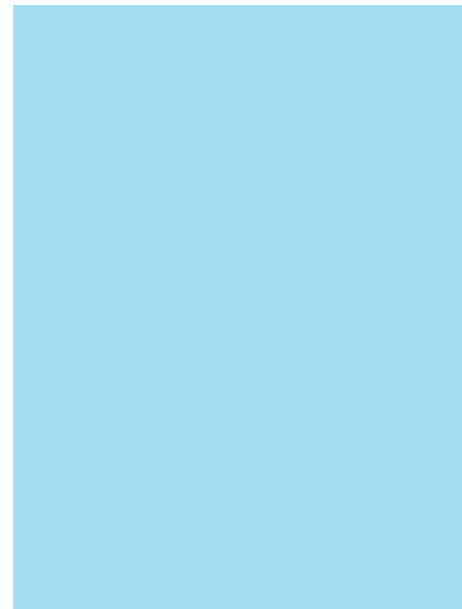


- Term originated from activists in South America.
- Obstetric violence now carries legal penalties in Argentina, Venezuela, and Mexico.
- Recognised by WHO.



WHAT IS OBSTETRIC VIOLENCE?

- Abusive and disrespectful behaviour, actions, or practices by healthcare providers towards pregnant women during prenatal care, childbirth, and postpartum.
- Is anything that can leave lasting emotional and physical scars.





MANIFESTATIONS

Physical abuse

Unnecessary or excessive medical procedures.

Verbal abuse

Belittling, shaming, or ignoring preferences and concerns.

Emotional abuse

Bullying, humiliation, or intimidation.

Lack of informed consent

Unclear information, risks, and alternatives, or coercion into procedures without full understanding or consent.

Disregard for cultural and personal preferences

Ignoring cultural, religious, or personal beliefs and practices.

Neglect

Inadequate monitoring or care, lack of pain management options, insufficient attention to physical and emotional needs.

Non-confidentiality and privacy breaches

Sharing personal medical information without consent or failing to ensure privacy during examinations.

CONSEQUENCES

Physical Health Implications

- Physical injuries and complications.
- Postpartum complications, infections and delayed healing.
- Long-term health problems such as chronic pain and sexual dysfunction.

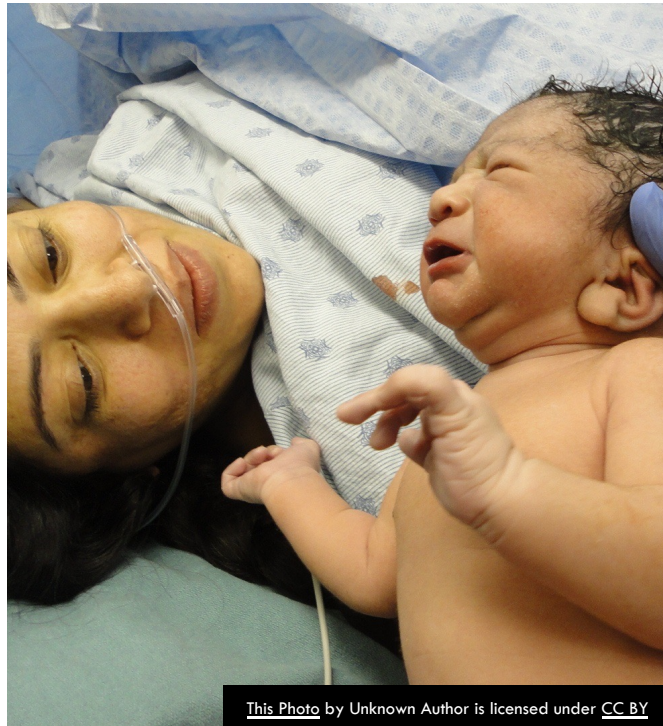
Mental Health Effects

- PTSD, characterized by flashbacks, nightmares, and severe anxiety related to the traumatic birth experience.
- Feelings of anxiety, depression, and emotional distress.
- Erodes self-esteem and self-worth.



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CONSEQUENCES



Impact on Bonding and Attachment

- Disrupt bonding between mother and newborn, affecting the emotional connection and early parenting experience.

Deteriorated Trust in Healthcare

- Lose trust in healthcare providers and the healthcare system. Less willingness to seek necessary medical care in the future.

Barriers to Future Reproductive Healthcare

- Discourage people from seeking future reproductive healthcare, including prenatal care for subsequent pregnancies.

CONSEQUENCES

Social and Economic consequences

- Exacerbates social and economic disparities, as marginalized communities more vulnerable to mistreatment. Contributes to health inequities.

Impact on Partner and Family

- Can affect emotional well-being of partners and family members who witness or support the birthing person during the traumatic experience.





DOES OBSTETRIC
VIOLENCE OCCUR
IN AOTEAROA?
