

# REDUCING STRESS, ANXIETY, AND DEPRESSION FOR NICU PARENTS



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### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

Lack of parent engagement in the NICU

Search

strategy

developed

with UTHSC

librarian

Identification of barriers to engagement

Need to determine best practices for reducing barriers

# REVIEW PROCESS

PICO question created with instructor & mentor approval

Databases searched for relevant articles

Articles appraised & instructor review of CAP forms

CAT synthesis developed & reviewed by peers & instructor

# PICO QUESTION

What practices are effective for reducing stress, anxiety, and depression for parents with infants in the NICU?

# SEARCH METHODOLOGY

Databases & Sources Search S Searched	Strategy	Limits Used	
Embase, Scopus, BioMed Central, Medline @ OVID (treatments) OR practice) OR anx	(parent OR father) AND ent OR OR program AND (stress iety OR ssion)	Last 10 years, Humans, RCT, Meta-analysis, Systematic Review, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit	
<ul> <li>Inclusion Criteria</li> <li>Occupational therapy interventions</li> <li>Interventions for parents</li> <li>In the NICU</li> <li>Quantitative or mixed-methods design</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Exclusion Criteria</li> <li>Nursing interventions</li> <li>Not in NICU</li> <li>Qualitative designs</li> <li>Published &gt; 10 years ago</li> <li>d: 205 → Excluded by title and abstract:</li> </ul>		

176 → Full-text excluded: 23 → Included in CAT: 6

#### MAIN FINDINGS

Intervention	Stress	Anxiety	Depression				
LEVEL I							
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)	0	0					
Educational Programs	0	0	0				
Kangaroo Care (KC)	0	0	0				
LEVEL II							
Activity-Based Group Therapy (ABGT)		+					
Family-Centered Care (FCC)	+	+	+				
LEVEL III							
HUG Your Baby Program (HYB)	+						
Mindfulness-Based Intervention (MBI)	+	+					
	LEVEL I Creating Opportunities for Parent Empowerment (COPE) Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)  Educational Programs Kangaroo Care (KC)  LEVEL II Activity-Based Group Therapy (ABGT) Family-Centered Care (FCC)  LEVEL III HUG Your Baby Program (HYB) Mindfulness-Based	LEVEL I  Creating Opportunities for Parent Empowerment (COPE)  Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)  Educational Programs  Kangaroo Care (KC)  LEVEL II  Activity-Based Group Therapy (ABGT)  Family-Centered Care (FCC)  LEVEL III  HUG Your Baby Program (HYB)  Mindfulness-Based  +	LEVEL I  Creating Opportunities for Parent Empowerment (COPE)  Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)  Educational Programs  Kangaroo Care (KC)  LEVEL II  Activity-Based Group Therapy (ABGT)  Family-Centered Care (FCC)  LEVEL III  HUG Your Baby + Program (HYB)  Mindfulness-Based + +				

Key: (0) Non-statistically significant (+) Statistically significant result

# LIMITATIONS

Levell	Small	sample	sizes
	_		

- Fathers not included
- Only two of four phases of COPE implemented

#### Level II

Confounding variables not assessed

No long-term follow-up assessment

- High attrition rates
- Studies conducted in single NICU

#### Lack of control and randomization

- Self-reports used
- Limited assessment of confounding variables

#### CLINICAL BOTTOM LINES

All interventions, except for the educational programs and KC, resulted in a statistically significant reduction of either stress, anxiety, and/or depression.

Only 3 studies measured all 3 outcomes, and of those studies, FCC and MBI reduced all barriers of interest.

There is strong, high-quality evidence for the effect of CBT on depression, moderate evidence for the effect of ABGT on anxiety, and promising evidence for the effect of HYB on stress.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Monitoring Barriers

Self-report Likert scale can be used to informally track parents' feelings of depression, stress, & anxiety.

Monitoring Engagement

parent

Monitoring Relationship

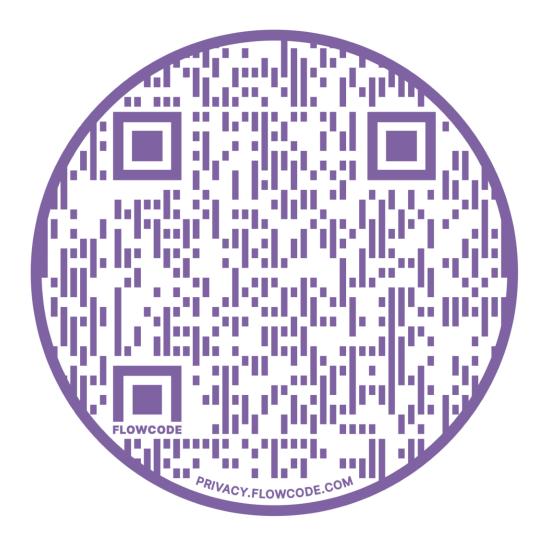
A weekly log can be used to track performance of infant-care behaviors.

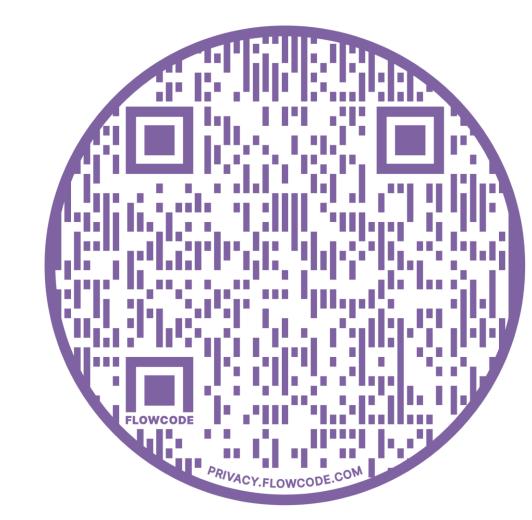
A bar graph can be used to visually depict the expected inverse relationship between barriers and engagement.

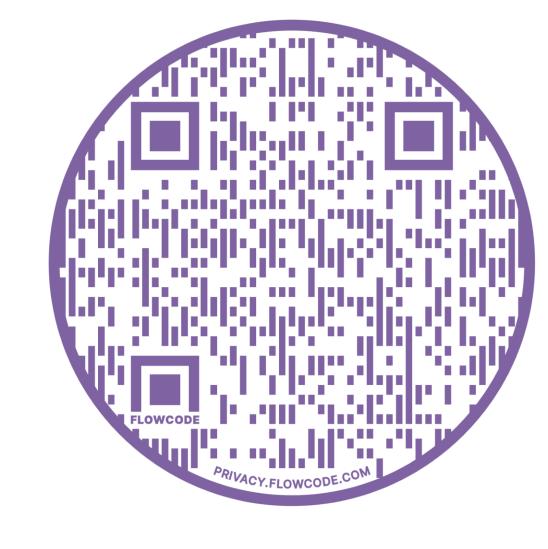
# REFERENCES

## **HANDOUT**

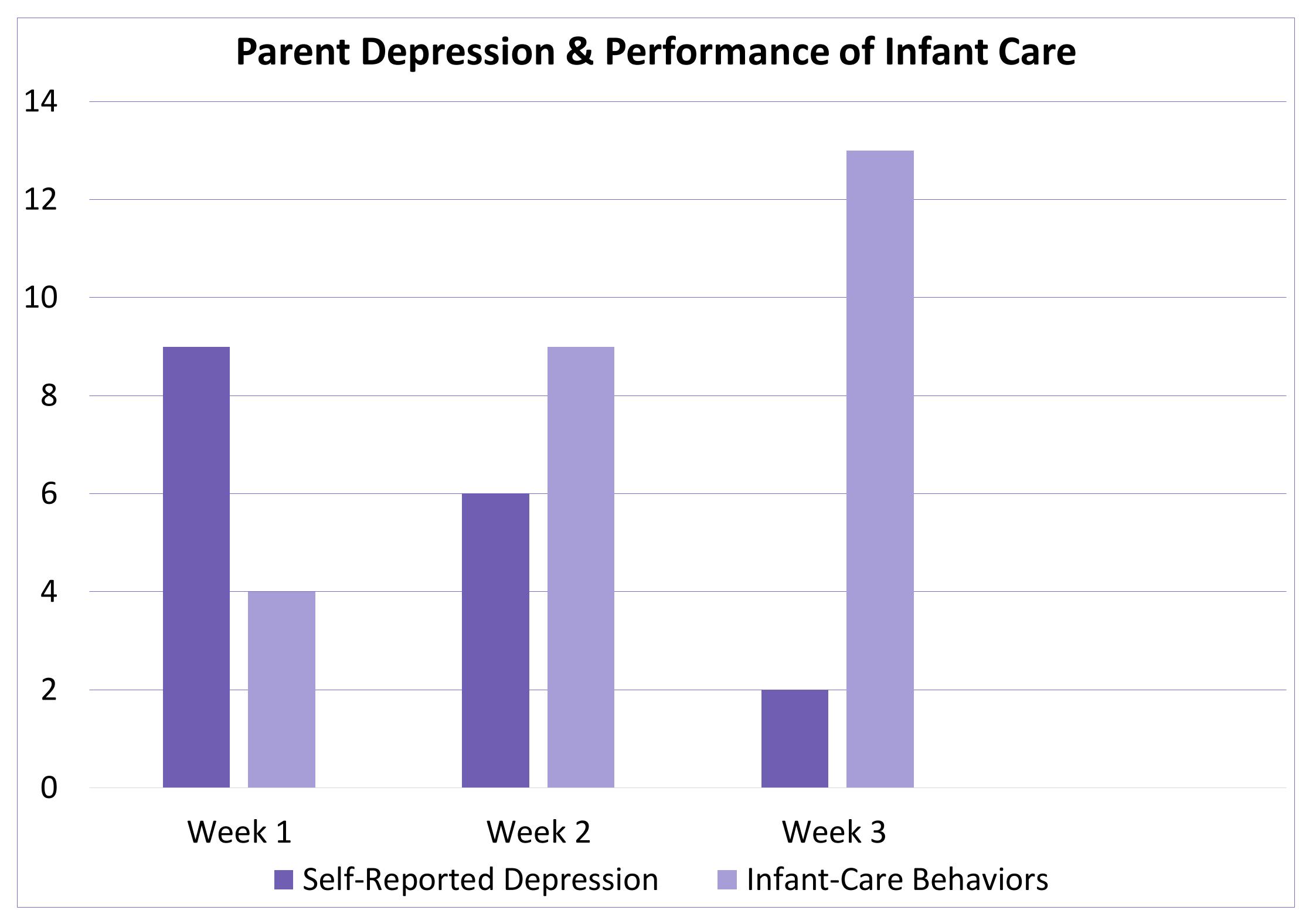
## **PRISMA**



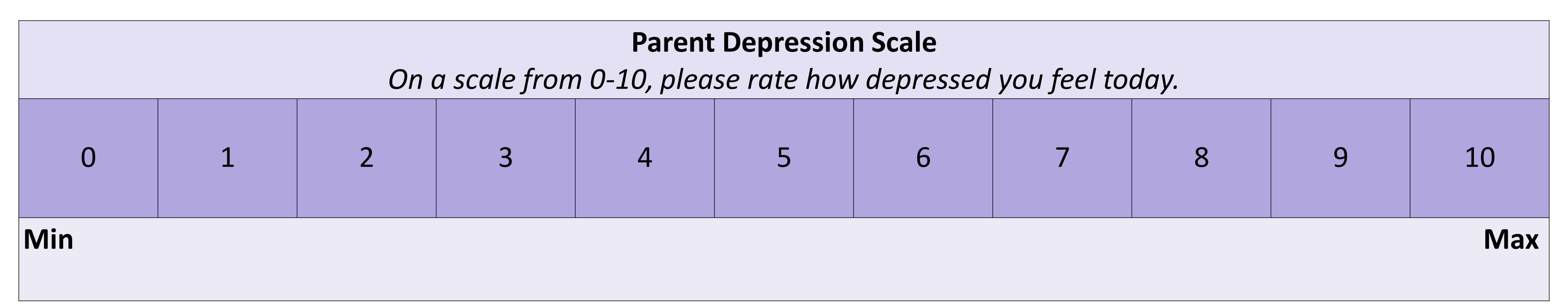




Parent Performance of Infant-Care Behaviors Weekly Log					
	Feeding	Bathing	Kangaroo Care	Pain Management	Reading
Sunday					
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					
Saturday					
*Insert a tick mark for each parent behavior observed to monitor engagement					



\*As barriers (stress, depression, anxiety) are reduced, engagement is expected to increase \*The graph above is an example of monitoring parent depression and engagement in infant care



<sup>\*</sup>The scale above is an example strategy for monitoring parents' feelings of depression daily