

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative

Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative is a state-licensed maternal and child health consortium that strives to protect the health of birthing individuals, infants, and families. They offer an extensive list of resources and programs that are focused on preventing maternal and fetal mortality and supporting the families of South Jersey.

<https://www.snjpc.org/>

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT



Bringing awareness of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) may help lower the rate of unexpected and preventable infant deaths. New Jersey has one of the lowest rates of SIDS in the country. Proper health education can continue to significantly reduce this number.

TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

First project: Reducing the Rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

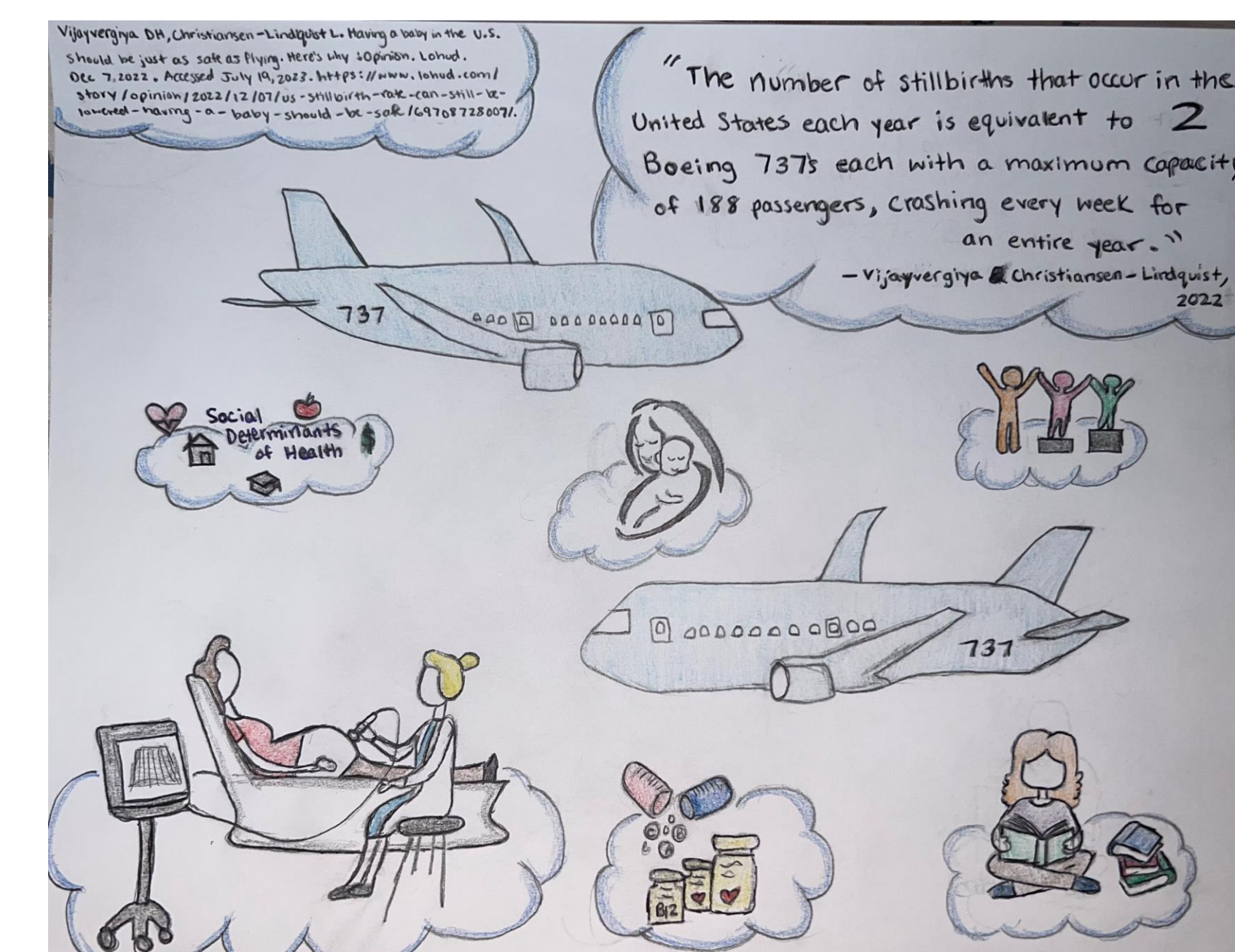
- SIDS is the sudden and unexplained death of an infant. To spread awareness of this syndrome, the intern developed SIDS prevention programs with the SNJPC director of clinical education and the SIDS Center of New Jersey. Along with prevention strategies, additional resources were provided to increase compliance for safe sleep such as cribs/bassinets.

Second Project: Legislature Review of Maternal Levels of Care

- The intern developed a detailed document comparing the new legislature policies and the previous regulations to highlight any significant changes. They also presented the findings to the SNJPC policy review staff to aide in establishing new hospital regulations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CHALLENGES/ JOYS

- Organizing a SIDS education event at a free clinic
- Interviewing a dedicated SNJPC member about their passion to serve underserved communities
- Meeting with the director of the SIDS Center of New Jersey
- Developing an in-depth legislature review



REFLECTION

Interning at BTG was an inspiring and valuable experience where I had the opportunity to learn how to be a better community advocate. Attending the weekly BTG sessions gave me the necessary tools and skills to build meaningful and trustworthy relationships with community members. From this, I was able to effectively communicate with the Southern New Jersey community about health education in efforts to reduce the rate of SIDS. I also had the pleasure of working alongside dedicated and compassionate SNJPC members who inspired me to continue working with underserved communities. From interacting with patients to attending healthcare policy meetings, I was able to gain different perspectives on the responsibilities and impacts of SNJPC. BTG has been a valuable experience that I will carry through my medical training to become a strong community advocate as a physician.