**Haitian Challenges**

- 80% of Haitians live below international poverty level
- 50% are food insecure
- Half of children are small for age due to malnutrition
- Lowest Health Care spending in the Western Hemisphere
- Over 5% of the population has HIV/AIDS infection

**Maternal Mortality**

- Maternal Mortality is highest in the Western Hemisphere at approximately 500 maternal deaths per 100,000 liveborn infants.
- Less than ¼ of births occur in hospitals

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Consequences of Maternal Death

• After a maternal death, a family has a 55% increased chance of losing a child less than age 12 while death of a mother from non-maternal causes does not increase child death


Associated factors in maternal mortality

• In rural areas, a 6-7 hour journey may be required to access the next form of transport
• The first part of the journey may cost $10
• Monthly income is frequently $50

Haiti’s forgotten emergency. Chatterjee P. Lancet 2008

Water Supply and Sanitation

• Haiti’s water supply and sanitation is the worst in the Western Hemisphere
• In some areas, sewer and waste water treatment are non-existent
• In urban areas, water supply may be intermittent

Haitian Economy

• One fourth of the Gross National Product is money sent to Haiti from citizens who live abroad
• The next biggest category is International Aid
• Much of the Aid is pocketed by corrupt officials
Goals of the Trip

• Support the growth and development of the Society of Haitian Obstetrics and Gynecology
• Run a mini Management of Obstetric Emergencies and Trauma (MOET) in a teach the teachers format
• Demonstrate a successful teaching exercise in Ob/Gyn which would hopefully inspire similar activities for other specialties

Societe Haitienne d’obstetrique et de gynecologie

• Highly functioning
• Long term interest in public health issues such as maternal mortality
• Long term relationship with Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada


The Conference
Hospital Visits
Health-worker crisis

- Doctors and other health professionals move to other countries for better opportunities. During our trip, we were told there was an 80% relocation rate
- Doctors are targets of kidnappings for money
Medical Volunteerism- Both Helpful and Disrupting

“...the question of how long free foreign doctors should stay, and what will happen when they leave, remains at the heart of a heated debate.”

Health-care dynamics in Haiti. Adams P. Lancet 2010
The Residential Compound
Child mortality

- The mortality rate for children less than 5 dropped from 152 per 1000 births to 80 per 1000 births between 1990 and 2006
- Infant mortality rate declined from 105 per 1000 births to 60 per 1000 births over the same time period
Conclusion