

Evaluation of Midwife-led Ultrasound Clinics: Quality Improvement Initiative

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BACKGROUND

A midwifery sonography service was established to:

- Meet the demand of increasing fetal surveillance
- Improve detection rate of small for gestational age (SGA) fetus
- Reduce stillbirth due to undiagnosed SGA.

DESIGN & METHODS

Between April 2022 and October 2022, the following data was collected from clinics each month:

- number of women scanned
- number of scans that successfully detected SGA fetus
- patient feedback

Those referred to the midwife-led scan clinics and undergoing an ultrasound during the third trimester of their pregnancy were included.

Data was collected daily and used to quantify:

- the number of missed SGA using the perinatal GAP/GROW audit tool
- to assess the level of accuracy achieved each month in detecting those with SGA.

RESULTS

Between April and October 2022, 997 ultrasound scans were performed in the clinic.

- Average accuracy for detecting SGA was 85%
- Five missed cases of SGA
- All patients were satisfied with the service and felt that midwives put them at ease and answered their concerns

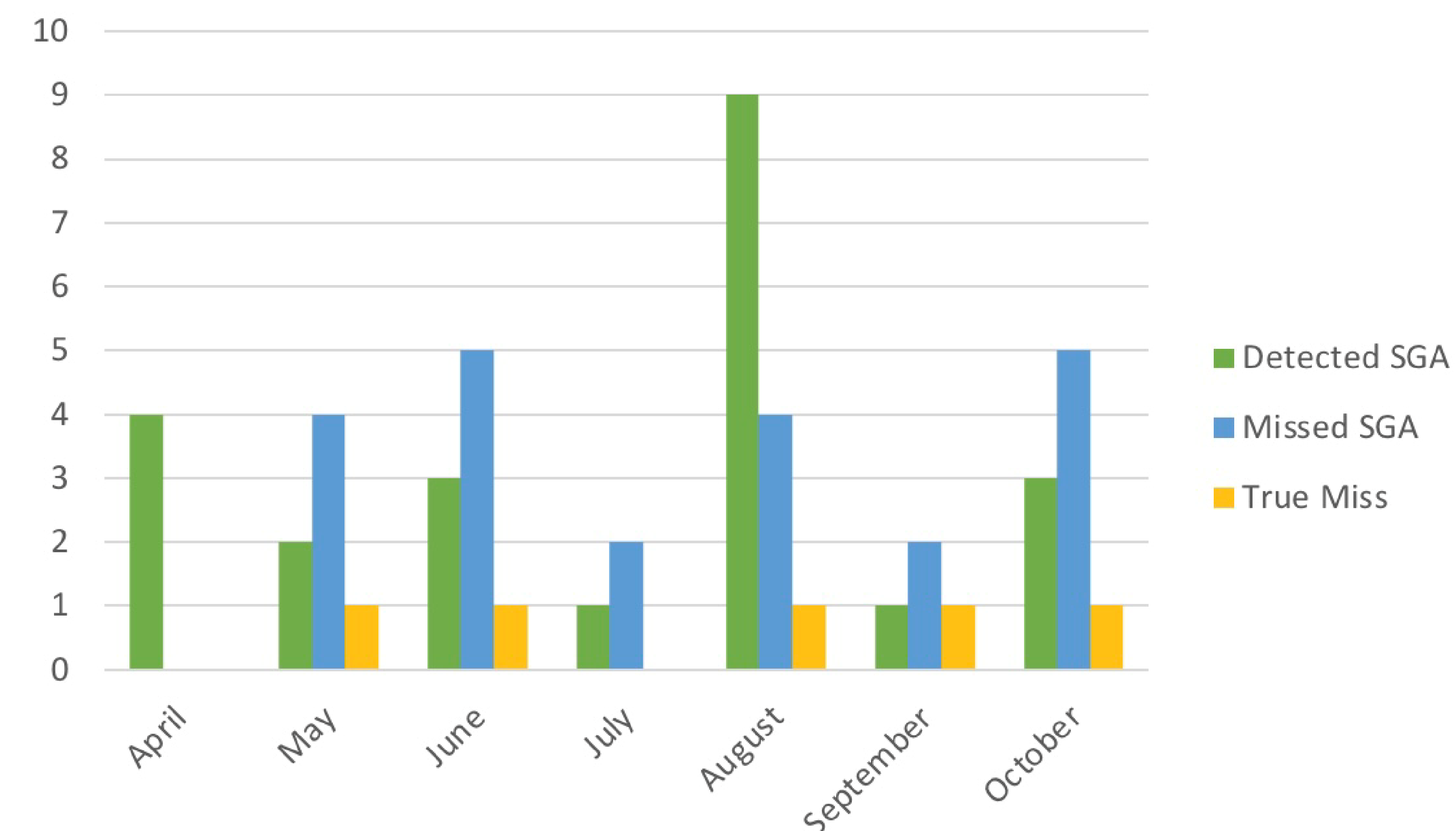


Fig. 1. The number of small for gestational age fetuses detected and missed in a midwife-led ultrasound clinic from April 2022 to October 2022.

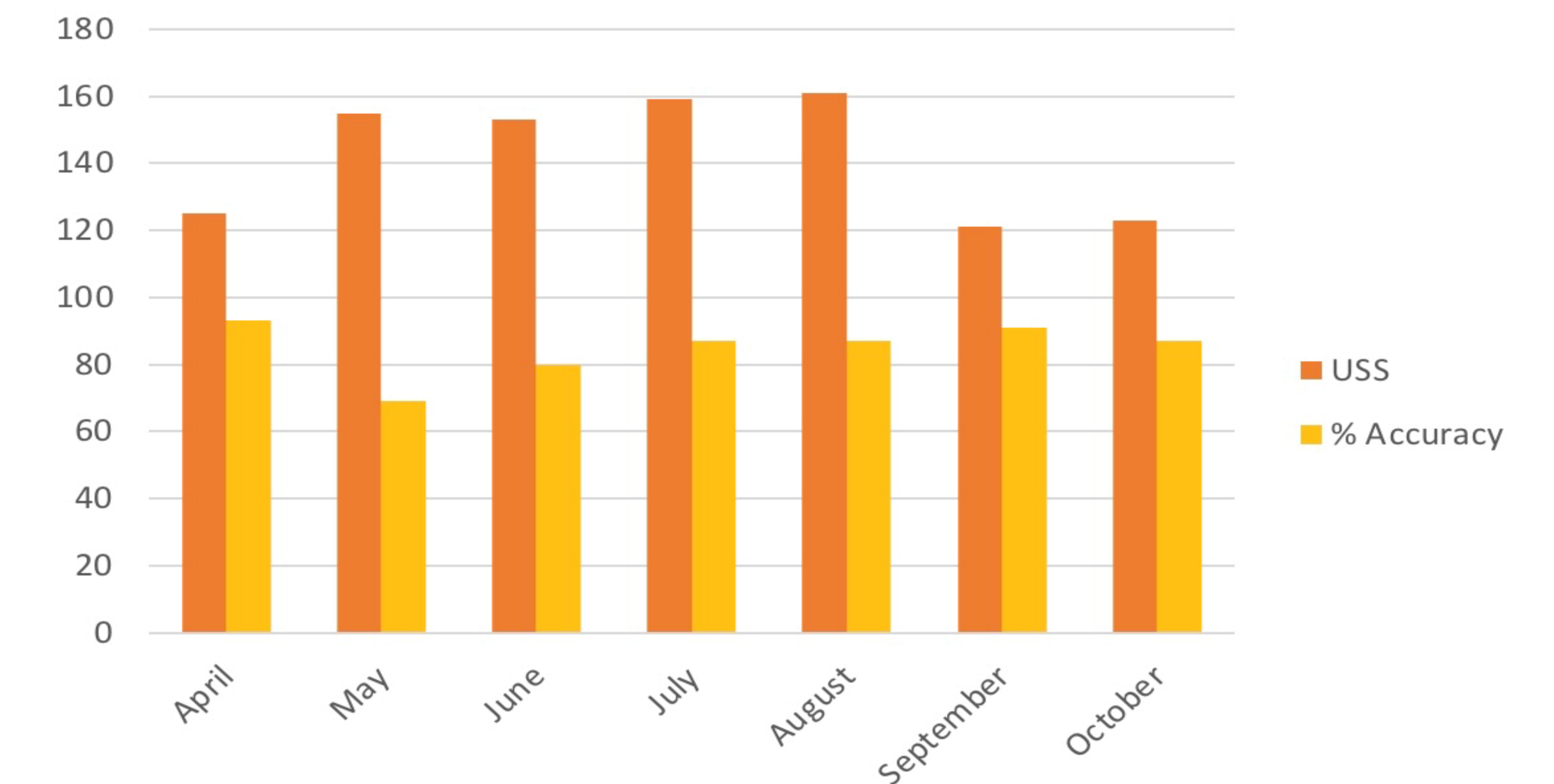


Fig. 2. The number of ultrasounds performed in a midwife-led ultrasound clinic and the percentage accuracy of detecting small for gestational age fetuses from April 2022 to October 2022.

CONCLUSIONS

- The service was accepted in a positive manner
- There was improvement in detection of SGA

Findings are similar to other evaluation studies, which have found that a midwifery sonography service reduces multiple appointments, improves the women's experience and establishes a continuity of care.^[1]

REFERENCES

- [1] Mark Allen Group Online Library. 2022. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://doi.org/10.12968/bjom.2022.30.2.72>. [Accessed 16 December 2022].