



Maternal Morbidity and Mortality in Iowa

ROOT CAUSES AND KEY OPPORTUNITIES



As the State of Iowa continues to prioritize addressing severe maternal morbidity and mortality, the work must consider the full spectrum of women's health and the root causes that impact it in order to identify opportunities to improve outcomes. Iowa HHS updated the [Maternal Health Strategic Plan in 2023](#) to capture the work being done in the state to

address maternal health and continues to use the Strategic Plan to prioritize efforts to improve maternal health outcomes.

The following initiatives are supported by HHS.

Resources



Title X Family Planning Program

<https://opa-fpclinicdb.hhs.gov/>

The Title X Family Planning Program is the only Federal program dedicated to providing comprehensive family planning and preventive health services. The family planning clinics offer reproductive health services and community education across the state of Iowa. These services include broad range of family planning methods as well as the HPV vaccination, provision of HIV pre exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), breast and cervical cancer screening, and screening for obesity, smoking, drug and alcohol use, mental health, and intimate partner violence.

Iowa's Healthy Pregnancy Program

(referred to as Maternal Health Programs)

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/Bureau-of-Family-Health/Maternal-Health/Pregnancy-Resources>

The Healthy Pregnancy Program provides education, resources and support to pregnant and postpartum women

Doula Services for African American/Black Identifying Pregnant Women

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/Bureau-of-Family-Health/Maternal-Health/Pregnancy-Resources>

Limited Doula Services are currently available through a pilot project in Polk, Black Hawk, Scott and Dubuque Counties. A doula is a trained, non-medical professional who will provide continuous emotional and physical support before, during, and after childbirth.

Iowa Maternal Quality Care Collaborative

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

The Iowa Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (IMQCC) is a multi-disciplinary task force that serves as the principal oversight body responsible for improving communication and collaboration among groups addressing obstetrical care in Iowa.

In 2023, the IMQCC will launch a subcommittee for Preconception and Prenatal Care to share resources with providers related to preconception and prenatal care and inform Iowa HHS on strategies to support the Maternal Health Strategic Plan. The subcommittee will also focus on ensuring Family Medicine practitioners who provide prenatal care have resources and support to continue to provide this essential service.

Iowa AIM Program

<https://www.imqcc.org/iowa-aim-program>

The Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) is a national data-driven maternal safety and quality improvement initiative. Iowa enrolled in the AIM Program in October 2020, and the program officially launched in May 2021.

Family Support Programs

<https://www.iafamilysupportnetwork.org/families/family-support/individual/>

Family support programs, also known as home visiting programs, share information, education and champion families.

Breastfeeding and Nutrition/Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/wic>

WIC is a supplemental nutrition program for babies, children under the age of 5, pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and women who have had a baby in the last 6 months

I-Smile™

<https://ismile.idph.iowa.gov/find-my-coordinator>

I-Smile™ is a statewide program that connects lowans with dental, medical, and community resources to ensure a lifetime of health and wellness. I-Smile™ is for kids and pregnant women.

Iowa HHS STI Program

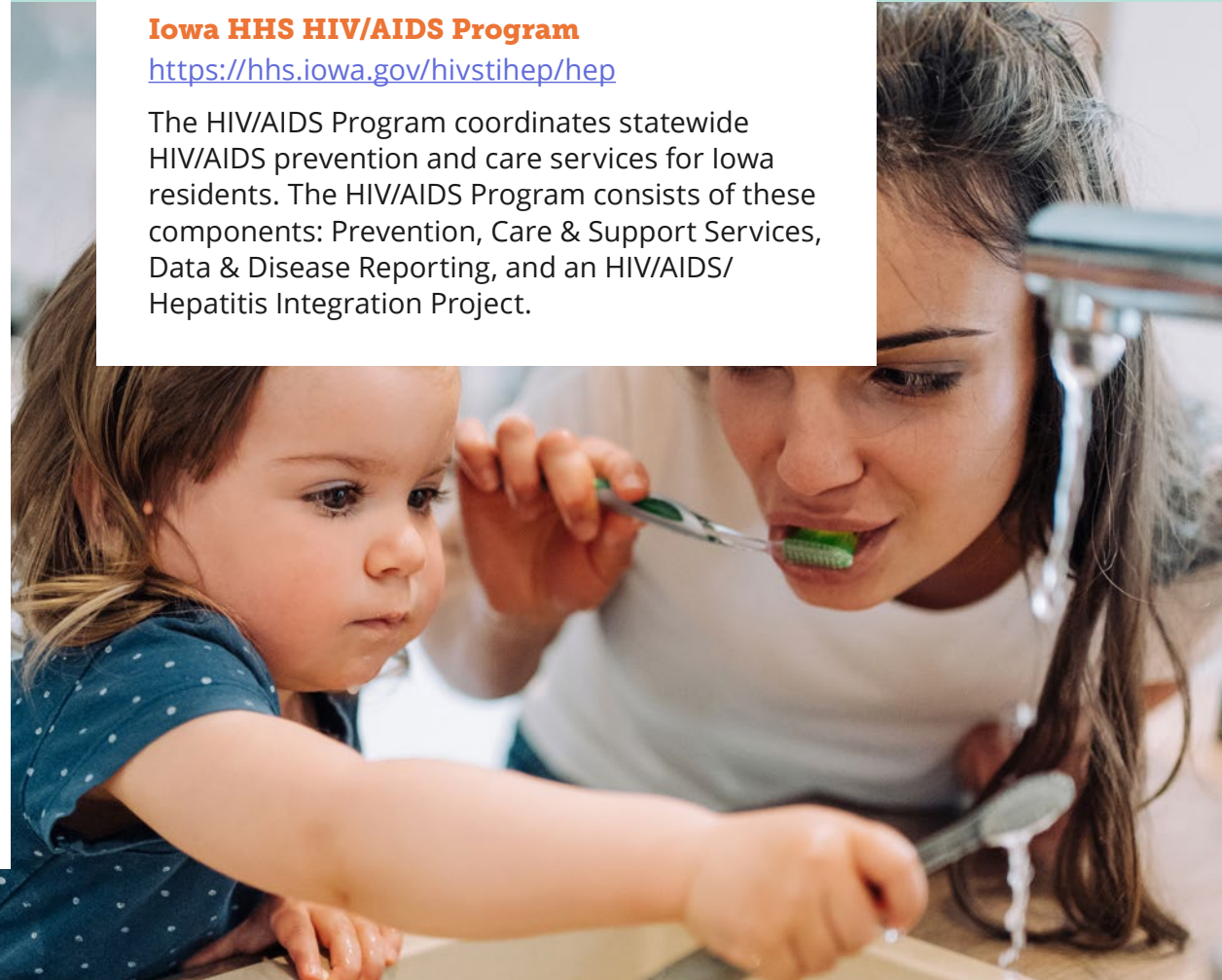
<https://hhs.iowa.gov/hivstihep/sti>

Works to mitigate the effects of sexually transmitted infections among lowans, including through partnerships with other groups, agencies, and organizations for the delivery of information and services. The STI Program has established 58 provider sites for gonorrhea and chlamydia testing and treatment through a network of local health departments and medical providers that work to control these infections.

Iowa HHS HIV/AIDS Program

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/hivstihep/hep>

The HIV/AIDS Program coordinates statewide HIV/AIDS prevention and care services for Iowa residents. The HIV/AIDS Program consists of these components: Prevention, Care & Support Services, Data & Disease Reporting, and an HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis Integration Project.



Severe Maternal Morbidity and Maternal Mortality

- ▶ ACOG Committee Opinion #736 May 2018 Optimizing Postpartum Care <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Obstetric-Practice/Optimizing-Postpartum-Care?IsMobileSet=false>
- ▶ Berg C, Daniel I, Atrash H, Zane S, Bartlett L, editors. Strategies to reduce pregnancy –related deaths. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2001
- ▶ Berg C, Harper M, Atkinson S, Bell E, Brown H, Hage M, et al. Preventability of Pregnancy-Related Deaths, Obstet Gynecol 2005;106:1228-1234.
- ▶ Centers for Disease Control, Preventing and Managing Chronic Disease to Improve the Health of Women and Infants, 2010.
- ▶ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) “If your pregnant seat belt recommendations for drivers and passengers safety”. <https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/pregnant-seat-belt-use.pdf>
- ▶ CDC Hear Her Campaign Clinical Resources and Tools: <https://www.cdc.gov/hearher/healthcare-providers/clinical-resources-tools.html>
- ▶ IMQCC Website <https://www.imqcc.org/>
 - Resource tab – COVID Resources
 - [COVID Vaccine During Pregnancy Flyer](#)
 - [COVID Vaccine Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Provider Considerations for Engaging in COVID Vaccination Counseling](#)
- ▶ Maternal Patient Safety Bundles: <https://saferbirth.org/>
- ▶ Post Birth Warning Signs Education Program: <https://www.awhonn.org/education/hospital-products/post-birth-warning-signs-education-program/>
- ▶ Recognize Postpartum Warning Signs RHNTC Poster: <https://rhntc.org/resources/recognize-postpartum-warning-signs-poster>
- ▶ Iowa Maternal Mortality Review Committee Reports can be found at the following link: [Maternal Health Data and Reports | Iowa Department of Health and Human Services](#)

Maternal Mental Health

- ▶ Crisis Services <https://hhs.iowa.gov/mhds/crisis-services>
- ▶ 2023 Perinatal Mental Health Strategic Plan <https://hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/idphfiles/2023%20Perinatal%20Mental%20Health%20Strategic%20Plan%20%281%29%20%284%29.pdf>
- ▶ Postpartum Support International Iowa chapter site includes support for Moms, Partners & Families and Support for Professionals
<https://psichapters.com/ia/>
<https://www.postpartum.net/mind-the-gap/>
- ▶ Iowa Primary Care Association: <https://iowapca.org/why-chc/chc-locations>
- ▶ White House Blueprint for Addressing Maternal Health Crisis <https://www.womenshealth.gov/>
- ▶ Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health info@PolicyCenterMMH.org
- ▶ Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance <https://www.mmhla.org/>
- ▶ Perinatal Mental Health Toolkit- Resources and facts about mental health for individuals considering pregnancy, currently pregnant or postpartum as well as Practitioners. American Psychiatric Association <https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/professional-interests/women-s-mental-health/maternal-mental-health-toolkit>
- ▶ Medicaid has a provider list for mental health providers that provide therapy services. The link is here: [Find a Provider | Iowa Department of Health & Human Services](#)
- ▶ Title V Maternal Health Services – Listening Visits
<https://hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/portals/1/userfiles/88/mh%20map%20october%202019%20-%20ffy%202020.pdf>