

Maternal Health and Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a public health concern that negatively impacts maternal and infant health. In addition to the direct consequences of IPV, research has shown that women who have experienced IPV are less likely to use maternal health services.¹

4.4% of Michigan moms report physical violence within 12 months prior to pregnancy.

Physical violence before pregnancy

- Approximately **4,553** moms in 2019.
- **71.3 %** of violence in the 12 month prior to pregnancy was perpetrated by a partner or ex partner.

Pregnancy²

2.9% of Michigan moms report physical violence during pregnancy.

Physical violence during pregnancy

- Approximately **3,000** moms in 2019.
- **61.6 %** of violence during pregnancy was perpetrated by a partner or ex partner.

7

7.2 % of maternal deaths listed IPV as a contributing factor.

29

29.2 % of homicide deaths of moms were due to IPV.

46

46.7 % of deaths with IPV as a contributing factor were due to homicide.

Maternal Mortality³

1. Leight, J., Wilson, N. Intimate partner violence and maternal health services utilization: evidence from 36 National Household Surveys. *BMC Public Health* **21**, 405 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-10447-y>

2. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2019

3. The maternal mortality data is out of maternal deaths between 2017 and 2021 that have complete Michigan Maternal Mortality Review Committee Review. Data Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal Mortality Surveillance System, 2017-2017

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Dynamics of Abuse⁴

Relationship abuse can include:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial abuse
- Digital/ Technology abuse

Implications for Women's Health⁵

- IPV is a hidden risk factor for many common health problems of women.
- Screening provides an opportunity for women to make the connection between victimization, health problems, and risk behaviors.

Addressing IPV within Michigan's Pregnant & Parenting Population

Michigan's Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) reviews all maternal deaths during or within one year of pregnancy. The MMRC identifies contributing factors leading to the woman's death and develops recommendations which, if implemented or altered, might have prevented the death from occurring. The following are priority recommendations that address maternal deaths with IPV as a contributing factor.

Maternal Mortality Review Committee Recommendations

Improve access to care:

- Ensure all women are screened for IPV and identify creative solutions to conducting a screening when a partner is present.

Partner with healthcare professionals:

- Assure healthcare professionals are educated on signs and symptoms of intimate partner violence (IPV).
- Partner with Domestic Violence & IPV organizations (internal and external) to increase educational capacity for the general public and healthcare providers designed to support and believe survivors, educate on IPV, safety planning, and promoting awareness of services.
- Require Social Work consultations for all pregnant or postpartum patients with Substance Use Disorder, IPV, past trauma and/or mental health disorders. Including referrals to appropriate follow up care and support, such as the Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP).

Improve access to care:

- Ensure all Domestic Violence & IPV Survivors are linked to agencies which provide services such as advocacy, peer support, resources, and crisis intervention.
- Advocate for sustained funding of hospital social workers and case managers who are integral to the interdisciplinary team to connect women to resources and referrals for needed services.

Increase awareness of resources:

- Promote the National Domestic Violence Hotline to increase awareness of services and programs in Michigan.

IPV Resources

National:

- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) - 800-799-SAFE (7233) or Text LOVEIS to 22522
- [Love is Respect National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline](#) - 866-331-9474 or TTY 866-331-8453
- [Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network's \(RAINN\) National Sexual Assault Hotline](#)
- [National Resource Center on Domestic Violence](#)
- [Futures Without Violence](#)

Statewide:

- [Michigan Legislature: Domestic Violence & Sexual Violence Prevention Resource Guide](#)
- [MDHHS Division of Victim Services: Assistance for Crime Victims](#)
- [Michigan Sexual Assault Hotline](#) – 855-VOICES4 (864-2374) or Text 866-238-1454.

4. National Coalition Against Domestic Violence "Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) Social Media Promotion Guidance." National Domestic Violence Hotline, 2021. [Online] [The-Hotline-DVAM-2021-Social-Media-Guidance.pdf \(thehotline.org\)](#)

5. Futures Without Violence, National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence "IPV Health Toolkit." Futures Without Violence, 2013. [Online] [Domestic violence survivor health, safety and empowerment - IPVHealth](#). The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will not exclude from participation in, deny benefits of, or discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, gender identification or expression, sexual orientation, partisan considerations, or a disability or genetic information that is unrelated to the person's eligibility. MDHHS-Pub-1509 (1-22)

