

Improving the Health of Our Communities: Maternal and Child Health



Catholic healthcare is advancing health outcomes for mothers and babies.

Catholic Healthcare in Action

Catholic healthcare has a long-standing commitment to supporting mothers and babies, before, during, and after pregnancy. Guided by its mission to serve the most vulnerable, Catholic healthcare organizations improve maternal and infant health outcomes, through care coordination, telehealth, patient navigator programs, and targeted support for high-risk pregnancies, and services that address social, behavioral and cultural needs.

This work reflects Catholic healthcare's commitment to its mission and communities—addressing both the clinical needs of mothers and babies and the social factors that shape whether families can thrive.

Why This Matters

This work is especially important as the United States continues to face high maternal mortality rates and significant disparities in outcomes by race, income, and geography. Black women, rural women, and families with limited access to care experience higher rates of maternal and infant health complications.

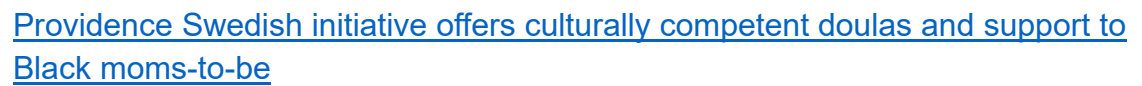
By combining high-quality clinical care with efforts to address the social factors that influence health, Catholic healthcare helps ensure mothers, babies and families have the support they need to thrive.

Improving maternal and child health requires going beyond clinical walls to address the social, behavioral, and systemic factors that shape outcomes for mothers and their babies.

By the Numbers: A National Snapshot on Maternal and Child Health

- 32.9 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in the U.S. ([CDC](#), 2021).
- Black women are two to four times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related causes ([KFF](#), 2023).
- 1 in 10 infants is born preterm due to a mother receiving inadequate prenatal care ([March of Dimes](#), 2024).
- Rural women were at twice the risk for mortality when compared to their urban counterparts ([RHI Hub](#), 2023)

Articles from Catholic Health World featuring community health programs from across the ministry



[Mercy program provides addiction and mental health treatment to expectant and postpartum moms in St. Louis area](#)

Avera Health uses remote monitoring to improve health outcomes for new moms in eastern South Dakota

['They just showed me so much compassion': Rise Up program treats pregnant women with substance use disorders](#)

Ascension Florida expands navigator program for expectant and new moms who are marginalized

