

PROTECT LABOR & DELIVERY CARE

Hospitals and Health Systems are committed to working with the state and other providers to improve maternal health care outcomes. Florida has led by implementing programs and collaborative initiatives aimed at improving supports for pregnant mothers and their newborns. Despite these efforts, several concerning factors are converging to place labor & delivery care in crisis.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ In Florida and nationally – maternity care is facing ongoing challenges. Maternal childbirth complications and mortality are more prevalent in the US than anywhere in the world
- ✓ Florida's Government is leading by gathering data, creating collaborative forums, and instituting policies through the Medicaid program and the state health improvement plan to address maternal health.
- ✓ Hospitals are working to increase access to quality, safe labor & delivery services, including crucial prenatal care and advanced treatments to respond when birth complications occur. Current legislative proposals to create Advanced Birthing Centers should contain more rigorous quality standards and emergency protocols in order to preserve the quality of care for mothers throughout the state.

Any Pregnancy Can Turn From Low To High Risk

29% of births identified to be low risk had an unexpected complication

In Florida: 5.8% of births had OB hemorrhage. 20% of obstetric hemorrhage occurs in women with no risk factors

Poor outcomes occur at home and in birth centers. Perinatal mortality rates were 2X that of hospitals

Hospitals are there to treat the most vulnerable patients with the most complicated births

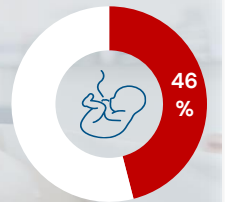


Medicaid covers 46% of all births in Florida. Hospitals are only reimbursed by Medicaid for 35% of their costs.

99.4% of Medicaid-covered births occurred in a hospital

1 in 6 women of childbearing age are uninsured

Medicaid-covered women experience higher rates of preterm and low-birthweight births and have greater medical and social risks.



Florida lawmakers, AHCA, and DOH are leading on maternal health:

- The Live Healthy Act would expand an existing telehealth maternity care program to all Florida Counties
- Goal of the 2022-2026 State Health Improvement Plan to reduce maternal mortality in Florida
- AHCA prioritized reducing c-sections by recognizing quality hospitals and providing incentives to Managed Care Plans
- Through the Department of Health - FPQC and ACOG launched an initiative to encourage hospitals to meet national standards for one of four designated levels of care

Proposals to create advanced birthing centers should align with Florida's existing maternal health goals

- ABCs should first be introduced as a small pilot in an area without access to maternal care
- Add additional minimum standards including MD on-site, on-call pediatrician, and reporting to AHCA consistent with hospital birthing reporting
- Amend transfer requirements to mandate travel time and ensure patients are transferred to a level II NICU or greater. Require malpractice coverage
- Require ABCs to treat a specified number of Medicaid patients

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