



Maternal Health

Why is maternal health important to Iowans?

In 2019, 9.5% of all live births in Iowa were preterm. Premature and low birthweight babies have a higher risk of death and disabilities and the cost for caring for these babies is up to 15 times higher than full-term babies. The total cost for one woman to receive all of the maternal health program services is one-fifth the cost of one day in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Pregnant women with a “medical home” (a regular source of medical care) are more likely to access early and adequate prenatal care. Domestic and sexual violence have a major impact on health conditions. Research shows when women are provided with support and information about their safety options, they are more likely to seek safety in their interpersonal relationships.

Women from low-income households tend to have poorer birth outcomes. Iowa’s maternal health programs work to improve birth outcomes through preventive health services.

Did you know?

In 2019, there were 3,563 preterm infants born in Iowa. That’s 180 kindergarten classes!

A focus on health equity

Title V Maternal Health Agencies prioritize low-income and minority mothers and infants, as well as families with limited access to health services (rural Iowans). The agencies work to reduce cultural isolation and geographic and racial/ethnic barriers to services by providing gap-filling, preventive health services and collaborating with community partners to address the social determinants of health that impact these populations (e.g., access to healthcare coverage, transportation, interpretation).

What does the department do?

- Provides funding to [24 maternal health agencies](#) to build maternal health infrastructure and provide enabling and direct services to pregnant and postpartum women with a focus on vulnerable populations.
- Provides funding to the [Iowa SIDS Foundation](#) to implement programming to reduce the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome (SUIDS). The foundation provides emotional support to Iowa SUIDS families, educates professionals and the general public about SUIDS and risk reduction, and funds medical research on the causes of SUIDS.
- Provides leadership to the Iowa Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (IMQCC). The IMQCC’s mission is to improve the quality, safety, and culture of maternity care provision for all Iowans by partnering with healthcare and community stakeholders, supporting data-driven and evidence-informed quality improvement initiatives, and promoting patient- and family-centered care.
- Through funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, provides funding to the University of Iowa Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology to implement strategies to improve maternal health outcomes, such as improving data collection, increasing access to OB care through workforce initiatives and telehealth services, and improving provider training and competency through a statewide mobile OB simulation training program.

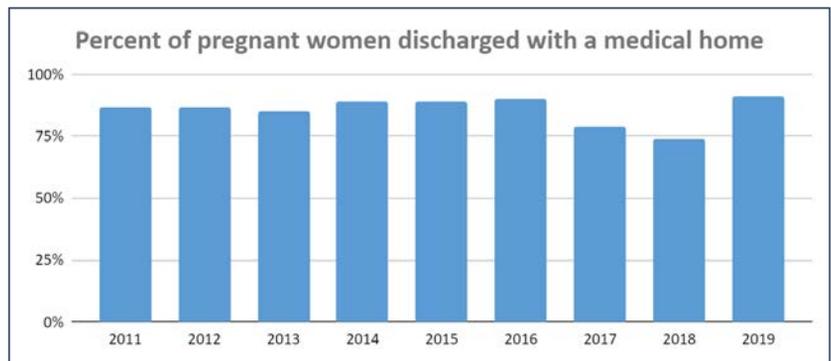
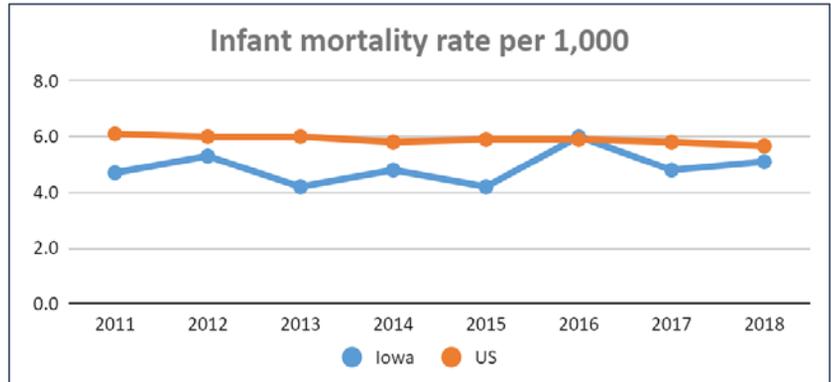


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What does the department do? (cont.)

- Partners with Medicaid to ensure quality of care for members through the Iowa Medicaid Maternal Health Task Force.
- Provides training and develops standards/guidelines of care for all 64 of Iowa's birthing hospitals through the [Statewide Perinatal Program](#).
- Provides support to ensure reviews on all maternal deaths to identify cause of death and methods for prevention. Iowa currently reviews all deaths related to pregnancy and up to one year after the end of the pregnancy.
- Partners with the [Title X Family Planning](#) program to incorporate preconception care guidelines for women who use Title X clinics as their medical home.
- Administers the [Barriers to Prenatal Care program](#) (Barriers) to obtain brief, accurate information about Iowa women's experiences getting prenatal or delivery care during their current pregnancy.
- Utilizes data from Barriers and the [Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System](#) to identify needs and inform maternal health priorities.

How do we measure our progress?



What can Iowans do to help?

- Healthcare professionals can refer Medicaid-eligible/low-income women to maternal health services. Call the Healthy Families Line at 1-800-369-2229.
- To improve your chances of a healthy pregnancy and baby, plan to improve your health before you are pregnant.
- Learn more about preventing family violence at www.futureswithoutviolence.org.

Resources	SFY 2019 Actual	SFY 2020 Actual	SFY 2021 Estimate
State Funds	\$186,500	\$168,358	\$168,358
Federal Funds	\$1,963,184	\$2,630,398	\$3,868,979
Other Funds	\$0	\$84,267	\$66,302
Total Funds	\$2,149,684	\$2,883,023	\$4,103,639
FTEs	5.91	6.34	7.14