

Legislative Efforts to Reduce Maternal Mortality

Continue reading for more information about inequities as they relate to birth outcomes and the local & national legislative work being done to reduce maternal mortality rates,



Alarming Statistics



In 2021, the maternal mortality rate was 32.9 deaths per 100,000 live births



Black women face a rate 2.6 times higher than the national average

CDC, 2021

Overall, there has been a rise in the US mortality rate of birthing persons with BIPOC individuals being a particularly vulnerable population.



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Why Does This Occur?

A variety of social factors contribute to pregnancy complications for BIPOC individuals including but not limited to: historical racial trauma, discrimination, marginalization, systematic barriers in healthcare settings, socioeconomic status, etc.

Njoku et al., 2023

Local Efforts to Improve Birthing Outcomes and Address Inequalities

The Doula Benefit - Los Angeles

As of February 2023, **Medicaid coverage for doula services** has been extended to 10 states, **including California**. Presently, an additional 5 states are actively working towards including doula services under Medicaid coverage.

[Click Here](#) to learn more about services provided through this program



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Los Angeles County Doula Hub

Following the enactment of the Doula Benefit, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors created the Doula Hub to increase doula accessibility and healthcare services for birthing persons. Spearheaded by Supervisor Holly Mitchell, the Doula Hub helps doulas navigate the complex Medi-Cal system to ensure people within hospitals and clinics have access to doula support.



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Recent Legislative Work to Promote Health Outcomes of Birthing Persons

Justice for Incarcerated Moms Act & Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2019

Goals: to provide improved care and protection to **incarcerated mothers**, and to improve maternity care coordination provided by the Department of **Veterans Affairs**,

The California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act of 2019

Goal: To ensure that BIPOC pregnant people receive the appropriate medical attention by requiring healthcare facilities to administer **anti-bias training** to healthcare providers.

The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2020

Goal: To address a variety of maternal health issues, including health equity, payment reform, data collection, **social determinants of health**, maternal mental health, workforce development, telemedicine, and Veterans' care **via community investments**.

Mamas First Act of 2019

Goal: To provide coverage under the **Medicaid** program for services provided by **doulas and midwives**.



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Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act of 2021

Goal: To **improve obstetric care** and maternal health outcomes in **rural areas**, provide rural obstetric network grants and telehealth network grants, and authorize funding for innovation from and training for healthcare providers.



Excellence in Maternal Health Act of 2019

Goal: To improve maternal healthcare quality and perinatal care, training of health professionals and prevent discrimination in healthcare services (training in implicit bias). Establishes a program to **award grants** for the purposes of identifying/disseminating best practices **to improve maternal health**.

