

Respectful maternity care

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Respectful maternal care

AWHONN's definition:

- A basic human right.
- An optimal strategy to make sure all women receive equitable maternity care, that is free from abuse and disrespect.

Current state nationally

Conflicting points of view

- National Vital Statistics System (data supported by the CDC)
 - 2018-2023, the maternal death rate increased from 17.4 per 100,000 births to 32.9 per 100,000 births.
- Study by Joseph et al. (American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology)
 - 2018-2022, the maternal death rate was 10.4 per 100,000 births.

The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists published a [statement](#) on March 13 about the study researchers did, stating, "This publication paints an incomplete picture and fails to highlight what we should be focusing on regarding maternal deaths — preventability,"

Current state nationally

- The majority of these deaths are with women who are in a minority or socially marginalized population.
- Reports of mistreatment, disrespect, and abuse by providers have been linked to poorer childbirth outcomes and experiences (Bohren et al. 2015).

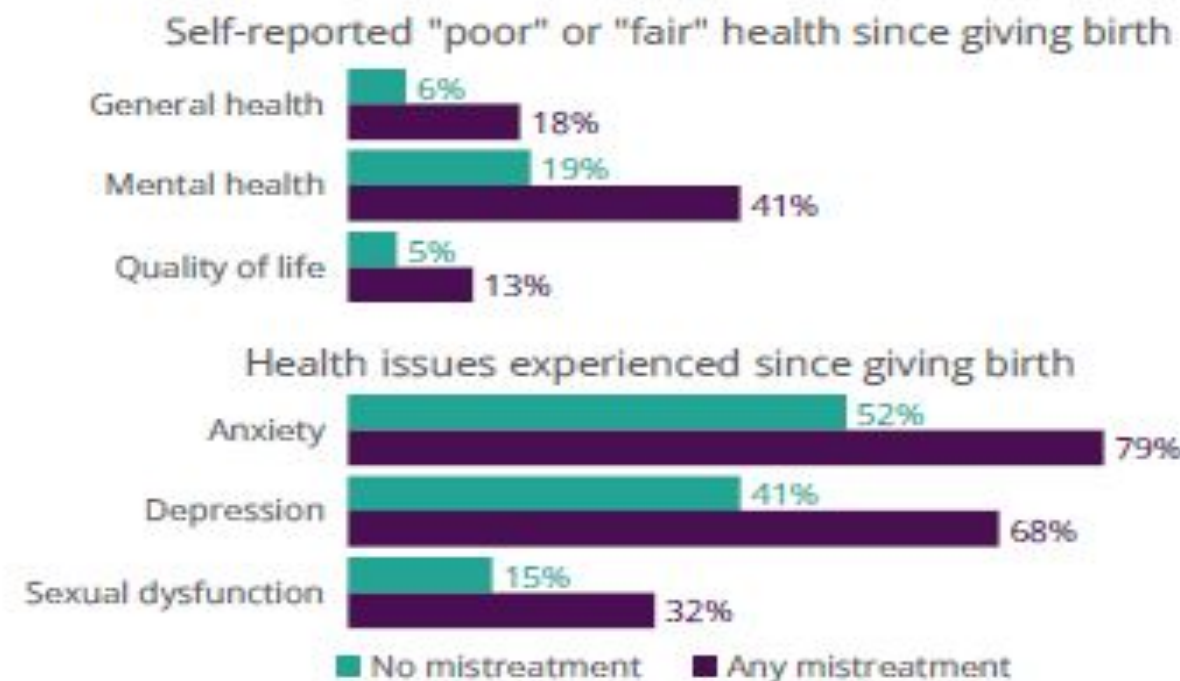
Postpartum Assessment of Health, Utah 2020

- 11% of women who participated in this survey reported mistreatment during labor and delivery.
- 41% of those women rated their post delivery mental health as “fair” or “poor.”
- 52% of those who experienced mistreatment reported either delaying or not receiving necessary healthcare.

Utah health status update (2023), Utah Department of Health & Human Services

Percentage of women reporting "poor" or "fair" health and other health issues since giving birth by mistreatment experience, Utah, 2020

Figure 1. Women who experienced mistreatment were more likely to report "poor" or "fair" health as well as anxiety, depression, and sexual dysfunction since giving birth than women with no mistreatment.



Source: Utah results from the Postpartum Assessment of Health Survey (PAHS), conducted by Columbia University

Social determinants of health

The conditions in the environment in which people are born, live, work, and age play an important role in shaping health outcomes.

Data source: [ACOG Importance of Social Determinants of Health and Cultural Awareness in the Delivery of Reproductive Health Care Committee Opinion #729.](#)

Health disparities and health equity

- **Health disparity:** differences in health outcomes that are closely linked to economic, socio-cultural, environmental, and geographic disadvantage.
- **Health equity:** principle underlying the commitment to reduce and, ultimately, eliminate health disparities by addressing its determinants. The pursuit of health equity means striving for the highest possible standard of health for all people and with special attention to the needs of those communities at greatest risk for health disparities.

Data source: [Maternal Mortality & Morbidity among Utah Minority Women 2021](#)

Table 1: Health Disparities in Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and Related Indicators among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders (NHPIs) in Utah

| Health Indicator* | NHPIs in Utah | Utah Overall |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Severe maternal morbidity (SMM) rate, 2013–2015 | 204.3 | 115.0 |
| Percentage of preterm births (Total Births <37 Weeks/ Total # of Live Births), 2019 | 13.2% (10.3–16.7%) | 9.7% (9.4–10.0%) |
| Percentage of women who became pregnant within 18 months of their last birth, 2018–2019 | 41.5% (36.6–46.5%) | 29.8% (29.4–30.3%) |
| Percentage of women with signs of postpartum depression (# with signs of postpartum depression/# of women with live birth), 2017–2019 | 35.5%* (29.0–42.1%*) | 14.8% (14.4–15.1%) |
| Obesity (BMI \geq 30) among Utah adults, 2018–2019 | 49.4% (38.5–60.3%) | 29.0% (28.3–29.8%) |
| Obesity (BMI \geq 30) among Utah female adults, 2018–2019 | 48.2% (32.1–63.7%) | 28.4% (27.3–29.5%) |
| Percentage of live births to Utah women with gestational diabetes (GDM), 2019 | 11.6% (8.5–14.8%) | 6.1% (5.9–6.4%) |
| Percentage of live births to Utah women with BMI \geq 30 prior to pregnancy, 2018–2019 | 52.7% (47.9–57.4%) | 22.9% (22.6–23.2%) |
| Percentage of Utah infants who received 1st trimester prenatal care, 2019 | 44.8% (40.3–49.4%) | 75.9% (75.5–76.3%) |
| Age-adjusted rate of individuals without health insurance, 2018–2019 | 23.1% (15.0–33.8%) | 12.7% (12.1–13.3%) |
| Adults reporting cost as a barrier to care in past year, 2017–2019 | 29.7% (21.9–38.9%) | 13.5% (13.0–14.0%) |

Data source: [A Utah Health Disparities Profile: Maternal Mortality and Morbidity among Utah Minority Women.](#)

Health disparities in Utah

Minority women in Utah often face the following healthcare disparities:

- Healthcare access and utilization
- Delivery method
- Preterm birth
- Obesity in pregnancy
- Gestational diabetes
- Postpartum depression
- Substance use

Data source: [Maternal Mortality & Morbidity among Utah Minority Women 2021](#)

Call for action

- World Health Organization (WHO): [Standards for Improving Quality of Maternal and Newborn Care in Health Facilities](#) (2016)
- Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI): [Achieving Health Equity](#) (2016)
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG): [Importance of Social Determinants of Health and Cultural Awareness in the Delivery of Reproductive Health Care Committee Opinion #729](#) (2018)
- Alliance for the Innovation of Maternal Health (AIM): [Reduction of Peripartum Racial and Ethnic Disparities: A Conceptual Framework and Maternal Safety Consensus Bundle](#) (2018)
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN): [Respectful Maternity Care Framework and Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline](#) (2022)

Nursing's role

- Nursing is a value-laden practice where nurses deal with ethical, moral, and legal dilemmas every day (Neuman & Forsyth).
- Nursing was rated as the most respected profession for the 21st year in a row according to a [2023 Gallup poll](#).

Nursing's role continued

- Teaching organizational values can influence nurses' performance.
- This can influence a patient's perception of the quality of care they get.
- An organization's values are ultimately displayed in staff behaviors (Van Valkenberg & Holden).

CDC Hear Her campaign



Benefits of the practice of respectful maternity care

- Develop an environment for shared decision making.
- Work toward a culture of respect for all patients, at all times, and in all settings.

What does Respectful maternity care mean to you?

| Across the continuum | During prenatal care | During birth | Postpartum |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|
| | | | |

Would your facility like a poster?

Please email: Morgan Harris | morganlh@utah.gov

Freedom from
harm &
mistreatment

"I have concerns"

Shared
decision-making

"Tell me more"

Dignity

Privacy
&
confidentiality



Thank you

Email: jafisher@utah.gov

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