

Maternal Mortality Initiatives

Objective 1.2: By 2030, reduce the number of pregnancy-related deaths from 18 per 100,000 live births to 14.

Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy AIM Bundle

According to KMMRC data from 2016-2022, cardiovascular conditions, including HDP, were the leading cause of pregnancy-related death in Kansas. To address this, in January 2025, the Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative (KPQC), in partnership with KDHE, launched the Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy patient safety bundle and began enrolling Kansas hospitals, including both birthing and non-birthing facilities. See the P/I report for details on the Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy AIM bundle.

In collaboration, P/I Consultant efforts will continue to focus on supporting this work in the public health/community setting by further developing resources to be included in the PHTN Provider/Patient Education Guide and its associated toolkit, as well as by continuing support for the Kansas Cuff Kit Project. See P/I Plan for more details.

Cross-Sector Maternal Mortality Prevention

Kansas MCH will collaborate with partners through ERASE MM and the Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) initiative to address leading causes of pregnancy-related deaths, including behavioral health conditions, substance use, and cardiovascular disease. Efforts will focus on improving screening, referral, and care coordination across systems.

Maternal Anti-Violence Innovation & Sharing (MAVIS)/CUES Training

KDHE will continue implementation of the MAVIS Project, ending in September 2026, to address maternal deaths related to suicide and homicide through strengthening perinatal behavioral health and intimate partner violence (IPV) response systems.

Efforts will include expanding delivery of CUES (Confidentiality, Universal Education, and Support) training to providers, local health agencies, and community organizations. Activities will be integrated into existing Title V infrastructure, including KPQC, KCC, and KPCC, to support sustainable, cross-sector approaches to screening, referral, and care coordination.

Doula Training and Sustainability

Doulas play an important role in reducing the risk of maternal mortality by offering a high level of support, particularly when it comes to patient advocacy and navigating relationships with providers in the clinical setting to achieve better birth outcomes.

Through funding from the Maternal Health Innovation program, two community-based organizations that provide doula trainings have scaled up their work to reach a wider population and to support the training and credentialing of doulas, particularly to cross-train community health workers, and communities that the Maternal Mortality Review Committee has identified as being higher risk for adverse health outcomes, including women in rural areas. A doula workgroup began meeting in 2026 and will continue into 2027, focusing on sustainability for newly trained and credentialed doulas. Topics for

discussion and action include challenges with billing, data collection, and provider education and advocacy.