

# Maternal Health Task Force Survey: Findings & Recommendations

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## OPPORTUNITIES AND UNMET NEEDS

*Which opportunities or unmet needs do you feel are of the highest priority for this Task Force to advance?*

- Expanding support and resources for maternal health deserts
- Promoting maternal mental health
- Addressing substance use, especially cannabis use, during pregnancy
- Building partnerships and collaborations among public and private service providers
- Ensuring early access to care and 4<sup>th</sup> trimester care
- Ensuring financial resources for pregnant women and new mothers

## POLICY AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

*What specific policy or programmatic actions would you recommend to address these opportunities or unmet needs?*

- Allocate funding to support maternal health in rural areas
- Allocate funding to ensure transportation and childcare for pregnant women in underserved areas
- Expand and invest in workforce development
- Create a public awareness campaign about the work of midwives, doulas, and how to access their services
- Create a public awareness campaign around cannabis use during pregnancy
- Create educational resources for maternal health providers about substance use and screening
- Create a program or use an existing program (e.g. the Emergency Department of Care Coordination program) to streamline efforts and ensure continuity of care between hospitals, obstetricians, midwives, and community providers
- Implement presumptive Medicaid for pregnant mothers, and ensure protection of Medicaid

## INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

### **WHAT INFORMATION WOULD YOU RECOMMEND ON A CENTRALIZED MATERNAL HEALTH RESOURCE WEBSITE?**

- An up-to-date, searchable list of providers
- A list of maternity case management agencies
- A list of mental health and crisis hotlines
- A directory of funding resources
- Information on Medicaid and steps to sign up
- Educational resources on all areas of pregnancy
- Educational resources on cannabis use
- Current guidelines for maternity care
- Updates on maternal policies and legislation
- Maternal health statistics in Virginia, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, geography, insurance status, provider type, and outcomes

### **WHAT DATA COULD BE BETTER UTILIZED OR PUBLISHED TO IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH IN VIRGINIA?**

- Longitudinal studies tracking maternal health outcomes
- Hospital / ED visits (not including labor)
- In-hospital and out-of-hospital birth rates and outcomes
- C-section rates
- Findings of a statewide community needs assessment
- Postpartum coverage gaps
- Maternal mortality and morbidity rates
- Infant health outcomes
- In-depth information on successful programs

### **METHODOLOGY**

Findings were collected via an online survey sent to all Task Force members; the survey was open from July 15 - August 1, 2025. There were a total of 26 responses, including 2 legislators, 7 nonprofit staff members, 4 out-of-hospital providers, 8 in-hospital providers, 4 government agency representatives, and 1 insurance company representative.