



WHAT FAITHS SAY ABOUT MATERNAL HEALTH

Buddhist

“Just as with her own life, a mother shields from hurt her own son, her only child, let all-embracing thoughts for all beings be yours.”

Karaniya Metta Sutta, verse 7

Christian

“A woman, when she is in labor, has pain because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.”

John 16:21

Hindu

“We are born in the world of nature; our second birth is into the world of spirit.”

Bhagavad Gita

Jewish

“Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, ‘Don’t despair...’”

Genesis 35:16-17

Muslim

“Heaven lies under the feet of your mother.”

Prophet Muhammad

Sikh

“In the mother’s womb, life was enshrined and cherished. You were blessed with body and soul.”

Granth Sahib, p. 1004



The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy advocates economic, racial and social justice in Virginia’s policies and practices through education, prayer, and action. VICPP is a non-partisan coalition of more than 700 faith communities working for a more just society. Learn. Pray. Act.



This pamphlet is a resource of our Health Care Hope program. Visit our website or follow us on social media to learn about our health equity work.



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PREGNANT & NURSING MOTHERS

HOW YOUR CONGREGATION CAN SUPPORT THEM



SUPPORTING MATERNAL HEALTH

PRENATAL CARE

Effective July 1, 2021, Virginia's CHIP/FAMIS coverage of prenatal care will be available to expectant immigrant mothers who meet all eligibility criteria regardless of citizenship status. Continual education is necessary to reach these women. Share resources and information within your congregation and community year-round.

PREGNANCY & POSTPARTUM

Anxiety and/or depression during pregnancy and the first year after giving birth affects up to 1 in 5 mothers. Work with a professional to start a support group. Contact Postpartum Support Virginia at (703) 829-7152.



NURSING

Every woman has a right to nurse in public. Help foster awareness and acceptance of nursing as normal by putting up signage welcoming nursing in your place of worship. Get details on materials available from the Consortium for Infant and Child Health at CINCH@evms.edu.

HOME VISITING

Home visiting programs coordinate professionals to bring information and support to families in their homes during their children's first five years. Ask a program in your area about supplies always in need such as diapers, formula, pack 'n plays and books. Organize a donation drive. To learn more, visit Families Forward Virginia online at: www.familiesforwardva.org

MATERNAL HEALTH DISPARITIES IN VIRGINIA

Black women are dying three to four more times than other women from factors related to pregnancy or childbirth. In its 2020 Scorecard on maternal health, the March of Dimes graded Virginia a "C" on preterm birth rates, which are 54% higher for Black women among all other women. This is not a problem of poor women who lack access to quality care. Maternal mortality rates for Black women with a college education were higher than all other women who have less than a high school diploma.

It will require a coordinated effort with the community, patients, providers, elected officials, government agencies and health institutions to eliminate these disparities. Join Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy's Health Care Hope Ambassador network to become an empowered maternal health advocate.

EVERY WOMAN
SHOULD BE ABLE
TO GIVE BIRTH
AND LIVE
TO TELL IT

