

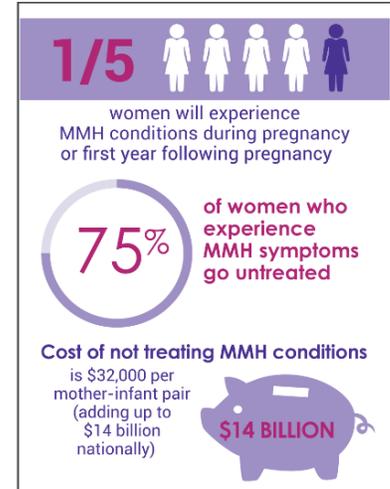
2022 FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Mental health conditions – primarily anxiety and depression – are the most common complications of pregnancy and childbirth, affecting 1 in 5 pregnant or postpartum people (800,000 families each year in the United States). Up to 75% of those impacted remain untreated.

Tragically, suicide and overdose combined are the leading cause of death for women in the first year postpartum.

Left untreated, these conditions can have long-term negative impact on parent, child, family, and society. The cost of not treating these conditions is \$14.2 billion due to poor health outcomes of mother and infant and lost wages and productivity of the mother.

Individuals facing economic or racial inequities are MORE likely to experience these conditions and LESS likely to get help.



MMHLA is leading policy initiatives to address the mental health of new parents, including

- **Increasing federal funding for MMH programs.** MMHLA is leading efforts to increase federal funding for existing MMH programs, including a dedicated MMH hotline and grants to states for MMH programs. The FY22 federal budget included an increase of \$2.5 million for these programs, and MMHLA is advocating for an increase of \$7 million in FY23.
 - *The President’s FY23 budget included the following statement: “Recognizing that maternal mental health conditions are the most common complications of pregnancy and childbirth, the Budget continues to support the maternal mental health hotline and the screening and treatment for maternal mental depression and related behavioral disorders.”*
 - *The President’s FY23 budget also includes an increase of \$7 million for these programs.*
- **Into the Light Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Act of 2022 (S.3824 / H.R. 7073).** *Into the Light* was introduced in Congress on March 14 and has two key provisions to be authorized and funded for fiscal years 2023-2028:
 - **Expanding HRSA’s Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression and Related Behavioral Disorders Program (\$24 million).** This program was introduced in 2016 and provided \$20 million over five years (FY2019-2023) to states to develop programs to address maternal mental health. Thirty states and territories applied for these grants, with seven states selected for funding. *Into the Light calls for increasing funding to \$24 million a year (increase from \$5 million a year) and will provide technical assistance non-grantee states.*
 - **Establish and fund a dedicated Maternal Mental Health Hotline (\$10 million).** The 2022 federal fiscal year budget included \$3.5 million to establish a maternal mental health hotline to provide dedicated support 24 hours a day. *Into the Light will authorize and fully fund the hotline at \$10 million a year, expanding the hotline’s services to include culturally and linguistically appropriate voice and text support, along with funding for public awareness.*

- **Showcasing prevention programs.** Three evidence-based programs exist to prevent and mitigate the impact of maternal mental health conditions. *MMHLA is partnering with the Department of Health and Human Services to host a summit bringing together the prevention programs and organizations which might implement them.*

MMHLA is supporting policy initiatives to address the mental health of new parents, including.

- **TRIUMPH for New Moms Act.** This legislation will create a federal inter-department task force to increase federal coordination for maternal mental health and to create a baseline national assessment of maternal mental health and national strategy to address maternal mental health.
- **Black Maternal Health Momnibus** to comprehensively address every dimension of the maternal health crisis in America. Of particular focus is the **Moms MATTERS Act** which specifically addresses maternal mental health with a focus on racial and ethnic minority groups. *Note: The entire Black Maternal Mental Health Momnibus passed the House of Representatives as part of the Build Back Better Act.*
- **Extending pregnancy-related Medicaid coverage** for a full year postpartum to ensure that new parents have access to healthcare throughout the full year following pregnancy.