The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Injury and Violence Prevention Program Partnership Program to Reduce Maternal Deaths Due to Violence

The VDH Division of Population Health Data and Injury and Violence Prevention Program team working to enhance Virginia’s capacity to sustain implementation of evidence-based interventions that significantly improve health outcomes and reduce deaths of pregnant and postpartum women resulting from suicide and homicide.

Data and Evaluation
- Expand data surveillance and evaluation to review,
- identify, and track maternal deaths due to violence.
- Includes development of data products, data source gap assessment, data linkage, and inclusion of questions in population health surveys.

Training and Technical Assistance
- Train clinical practices, organizations, and VDH home visitation program in screening and clinical management of intimate partner violence (IPV) and suicide risk.

Linkages of Care
- Linkage and referral between OB-GYN and pediatric clinic if pre- or post-natal patient screens positive for perinatal depression and/or IPV.

Health System Collaboration
- Implement and launch pre/postnatal community-level class with one health system, focused on mental health, substance use, IPV risk, resilience skills, and connections to social support.

Policy and Communications
- Develop statewide communications campaign.
- Create policy tracking tool for current and proposed legislation about pregnancy-associated deaths due to violence.

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