



The mission of the Targeted Outreach for Pregnant Women Act (TOPWA) is to reach high-risk women or HIV-infected pregnant women not receiving services. Since 1999, TOPWA has maintained the goal of assisting under-served women in accessing prenatal care and other services that lower their risk for HIV infection or substance abuse.

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| <p>Women encountered by a TOPWA outreach worker can receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV testing • Pregnancy testing • Referrals for substance abuse testing and treatment • HIV prevention education and condoms | <p>Pregnant women enrolled in TOPWA can receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance getting Medicaid coverage • Assistance getting prenatal care • HIV testing • Referrals for substance abuse testing and treatment • HIV prevention education and condoms • Referrals for family planning services • Referrals for other services in the community |
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Many women are encountered by TOPWA through street outreach in housing projects, Laundromats, bars, or public places. TOPWA has served thousands of women over the past 10 years, and many pregnant women are brought to TOPWA by previous clients, who are their sisters, neighbors, or friends. TOPWA works closely with high-risk obstetrical clinics to locate and assist women who miss scheduled prenatal appointments.

Pregnant women living with HIV receive added support, encouraging them to keep taking medications to prevent transmission of the virus to their baby. Due to medical advances, if a woman follows all the doctor's instructions, the baby will be free of HIV over 98% of the time. The number of babies born healthy as a result of TOPWA will never be known, but we know the number of babies born with HIV has dropped dramatically. We look forward to the next 10 years as we continue to reach out to women who may fall through the cracks of our system of care.