

KY-MOMS MATERNAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS RECOVERY (MATR)

2023 FINDINGS AT A GLANCE



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Introduction

The overall goal of the KY-Moms: Maternal Assistance Towards Recovery (MATR) case management program is to increase positive birth outcomes for high risk pregnant women in Kentucky by reducing inter-related risks. These include substance use/misuse, mental health symptoms, and intimate partner violence, which could potentially have a negative impact on the health of the pregnant mother, fetal development, and birth outcomes. KY-Moms MATR case management clients received both traditional case management assistance to meet basic needs such as safe housing, food, and childcare, as well as referrals to substance use and mental health treatment services. Clients also received information and support to facilitate a healthy pregnancy and fetus as well as to meet needs after the baby is born.

Evaluation Method

The KY-Moms MATR outcome evaluation includes a face-to-face baseline interview by program staff from Community Mental Health regions to assess these risk factors. In addition, clients are offered the opportunity to be contacted for a postnatal follow-up interview approximately 6 months after the birth of their baby.

Results for this study include analysis of self-report responses on the evidence-based baseline and follow-up for 37 pregnant women who were not in a jail or controlled environment.

This Findings at a Glance summarizes results from the full KY-Moms MATR 2023 Outcomes Report¹ and is organized into four main sections: (1) changes on the three main factors targeted at prenatal baseline and postnatal follow-up; (2) changes in other factors examined at prenatal baseline and postnatal follow-up; (3) client satisfaction with the KY-Moms MATR program; and (4) birth events and outcomes.

Description of KY-Moms MATR Clients Included in the Follow-up Sample

Thirty-seven clients completed a six-month postnatal follow-up assessment and met criteria to be included in this report. Of those clients, at baseline:

- They were an average of 24 weeks pregnant and were in the program an average of 6.7 months.
- They were an average of 28 years old and predominately White (89%).
- Forty-three percent were not married or currently cohabiting, 43% were married or cohabiting, and 11% were separated/divorced.
- About 62% of clients were not currently employed at prenatal baseline.
- Close to 11% of the clients considered themselves to be homeless.

¹ Findings from the full report can be downloaded from <http://cdar.uky.edu/KY-Moms%20MATR/>

Factors Targeted by KY-Moms MATR

Measures compare 6 months before the client became pregnant and the past 6 months at postnatal follow-up.²



REPORTED ANY ILLEGAL DRUG USE***

79% **18%**

at baseline at follow-up



REPORTED ANY ALCOHOL USE***

44% **12%**

at baseline at follow-up



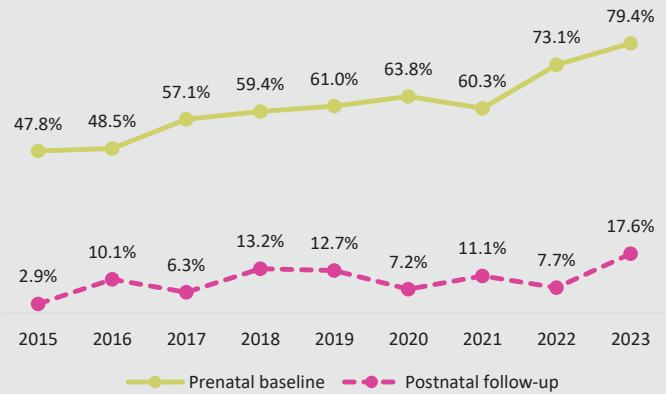
REPORTED SMOKING CIGARETTES

68% **59%**

at baseline at follow-up

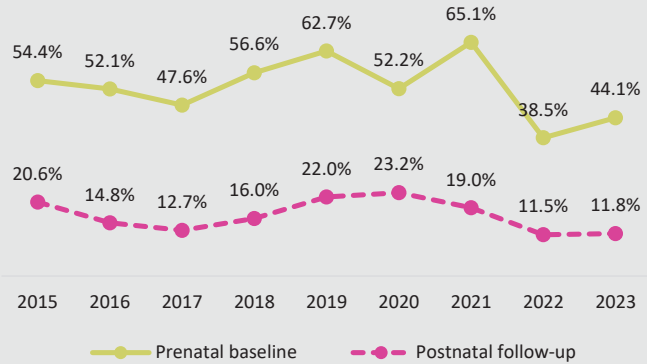
Trends in illegal drug use at prenatal baseline and postnatal follow-up

The percent of women who reported illegal drug use in the past 6 months at postnatal follow-up generally increased as well from 2.9% in 2015 to 12.7% in 2019 before decreasing to 7.2% in 2020. In 2023, 17.6% of clients reported illegal drug use in the past 6 months at postnatal follow-up.



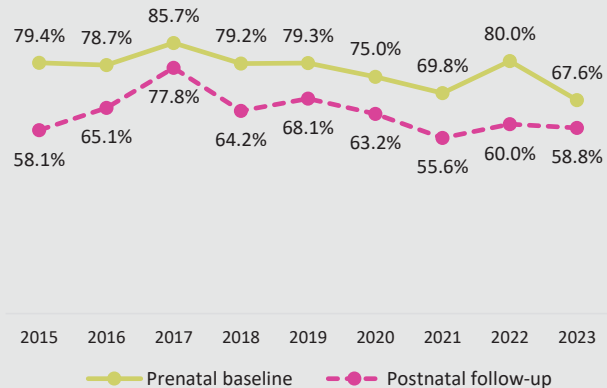
Trends in alcohol use at prenatal baseline and postnatal follow-up

For the majority of the past 9 years, around half of clients reported alcohol use in the 6 months before pregnancy. In 2019 and 2021, however, around two-thirds of clients reported alcohol use at prenatal baseline, and in 2023, 44.1% reported past-6-month alcohol use. In addition, alcohol use at follow-up was between 12% and 23%.



Trends in cigarette use at prenatal baseline and postnatal follow-up

Cigarette use was high at prenatal baseline for each year with well over three-quarters of women reporting smoking cigarettes in the six months before pregnancy. At follow-up, a large number of women continued to smoke cigarettes.



*p < .10, ***p < .01.

² For each trend report presented, the years correspond to years in which the annual reports were published. In addition, all trend analyses present only annual report data at baseline and follow-up and do not include between-year statistical analysis.

Mental Health



MET STUDY CRITERIA FOR DEPRESSION AND/OR GENERALIZED ANXIETY***

60% **24%**

at baseline at follow-up



AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS MENTAL HEALTH WAS NOT GOOD***

7.8 **5.4**

at baseline at follow-up

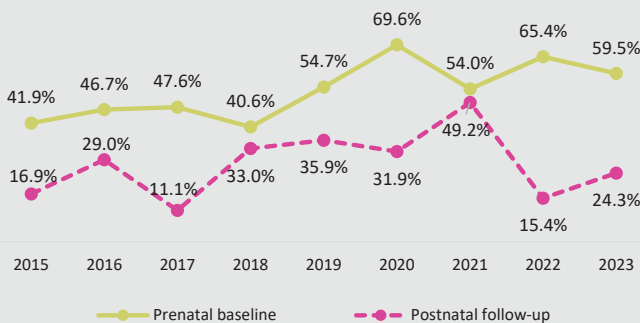


SCREENED POSITIVE FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER SYMPTOMS

32% **38%**

at baseline at follow-up

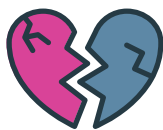
Trends in depression and/or anxiety at prenatal baseline and postnatal follow-up



The percent of clients who met study criteria for depression and/or anxiety at prenatal baseline was fairly consistent from 2015 to 2018. In 2021, the percent of women reporting depression and/or anxiety at prenatal baseline decreased compared to the previous year.

At follow-up, the degree to which the percent of clients who met study criteria for depression and/or anxiety decreased fluctuated from 2015 to 2018. In 2022 and 2023, with smaller sample sizes than in previous years, small percentages of clients met study criteria for depression and/or anxiety.

Intimate Partner Abuse⁵



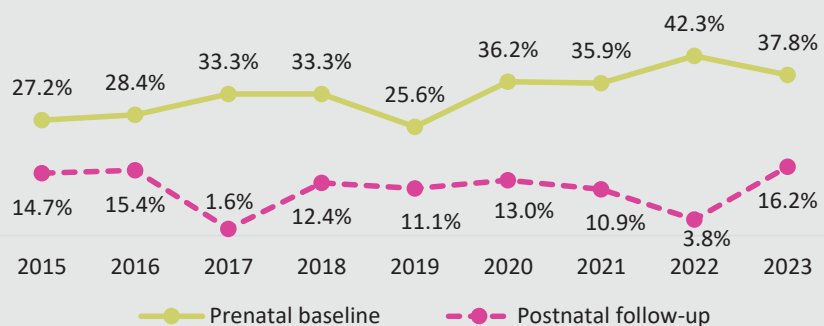
REPORTED ANY INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE**

38% **16%**

at baseline at follow-up

Trends in any intimate partner abuse at prenatal baseline and postnatal follow-up

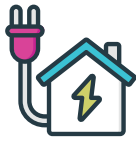
The percent of clients who reported any partner abuse at prenatal baseline was fairly consistent from 2015 to 2019. Since 2019, however, the number of clients who reported any partner abuse has increased. Overall, the percent of clients who reported partner abuse at follow-up was also fairly consistent with about 11% to 15% of clients reporting partner abuse in the 6 months since the birth of the baby (with the exception of 2017 at 1.6% and 2022 at 3.8%). In 2023, the percent of clients who reported partner abuse at follow-up was higher than in previous years.



p <.05, *p > .01.

Other factors examined at postnatal follow-up

Economic Hardship



REPORTED DIFFICULTY MEETING BASIC LIVING NEEDS***

60% **24%**

at baseline at follow-up



REPORTED BEING CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED

62% **51%**

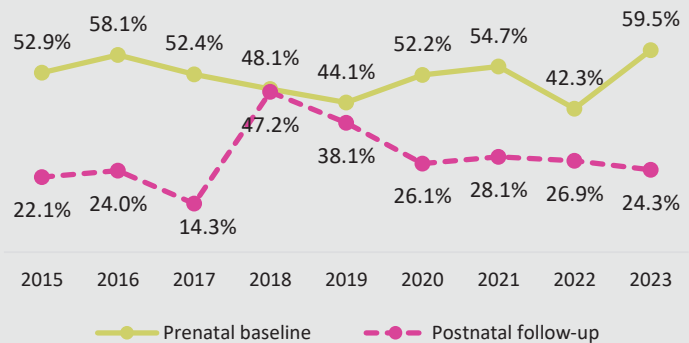
at baseline at follow-up

There's not a lot of programs built to help new mothers or expecting mothers going through recovery. [It] gave me good resources and skills that I wouldn't have had otherwise. They were very respectful and open to helping new mothers.

KY-MOMS MATR FOLLOW-UP CLIENT

Trends in difficulty meeting basic living needs at prenatal baseline and postnatal follow-up

The percent of clients who reported having difficulty meeting basic living needs in the six months before pregnancy remained between 42% and 58% over the past 8 years at baseline. In 2018 and 2019, the percent of clients who reported difficulty meeting basic living needs at follow-up did not decrease significantly from baseline to follow-up.



Ratings of experience with KY-Moms MATR program

At follow-up, clients were asked to rate their experience with the KY-Moms MATR program on a scale of 0 = "not at all right for me" to 10 = "exactly right for me"



8.9

average rating



89%

would refer a family/friend to the program

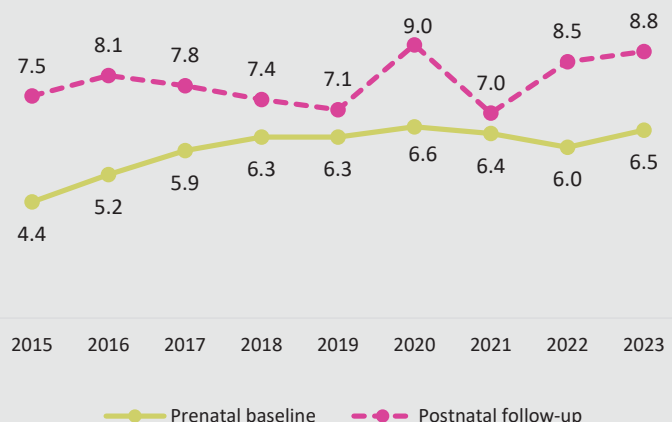


95%

reported that the KY-Moms program worked pretty well or extremely well for them

Trends in ratings of experience with KY-Moms at postnatal follow-up

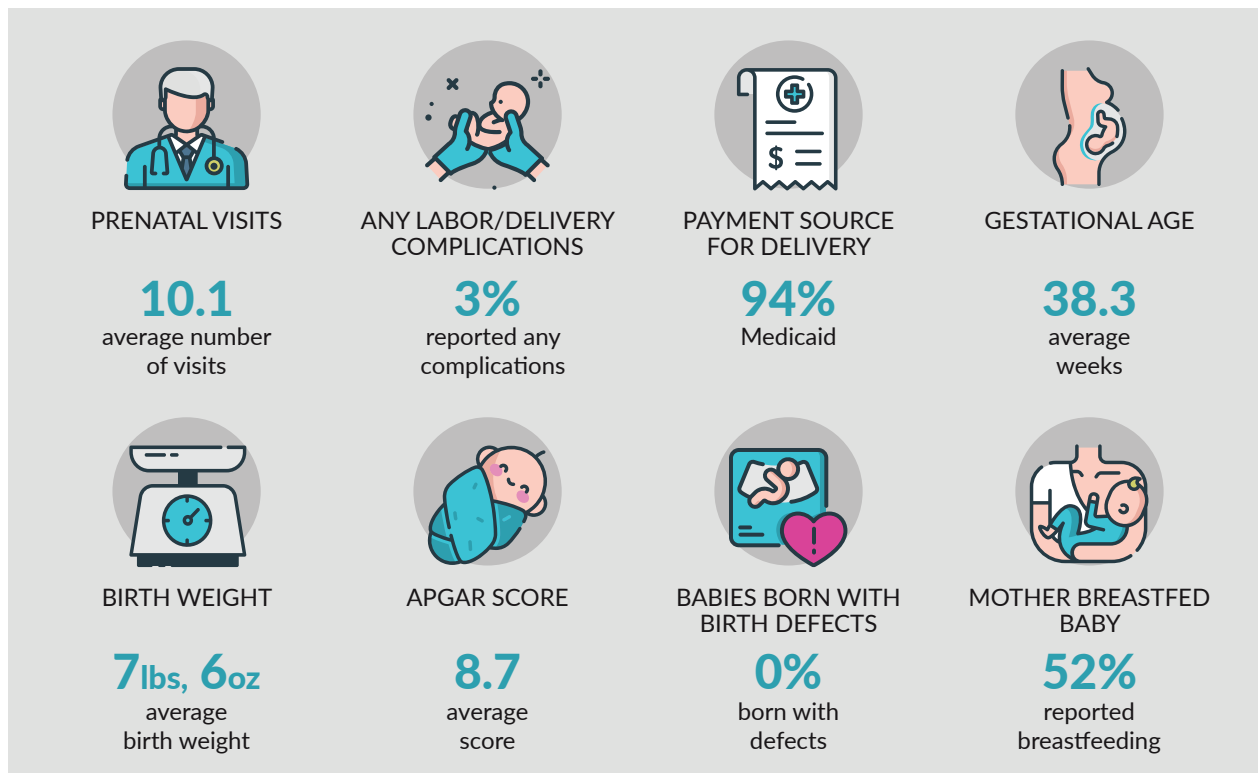
KY-Moms MATR clients have consistently rated their experience with the program as an average of 9.1 or higher over the past 8 years, indicating that they are very satisfied with the KY-Moms program.



**p < .05.

Birth Events and Outcomes

The Kentucky Vital Statistics birth event data set was used to examine birth outcomes for KY-Moms MATR clients who gave birth between January 2021 and November 2021.³



Note: Responses in the birth event data set may vary from responses in the KY-Moms MATR assessments because the time frames are different as well as question wording.

Conclusion

This study provides support of the efforts by the Kentucky Division of Behavioral Health to address the rising statewide and national problem of drug-exposed pregnancies, given the positive changes in the women's substance-using behavior once interventions were initiated. Trend reports provided throughout this report reflect the importance of annual data collection. These data trends over time can show consistency, improvement, or highlight an area which may need further attention in the KY-Moms MATR program. Overall, evaluation results indicate that pregnant women participating in the KY-Moms MATR program significantly improved on a variety of inter-related risk factors including substance use/misuse, mental health symptoms, and intimate partner violence, and had positive birth outcomes.

³ Although 37 clients completed a postnatal follow-up assessment, four clients could not be matched to the birth event data set.