Children's Hospital of Philadelphia PolicyLab

Addressing Postpartum Depression in Pediatric Settings

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Untreated postpartum depression drives health disparities and can negatively interfere with a caregiver's attachment and engagement, significantly affecting the mental health, development and safety of their child. While pediatric offices often have a consistent, positive connection to families and their young children, the way care is currently delivered and paid for in this setting is not designed to meet the mental health needs of postpartum birthing individuals.

In this policy brief, we provide recommendations for state policymakers to improve pathways to care and a vision for a pediatric health system that—in partnership with the adult care system—addresses health disparities in the postpartum period and ensures that all birthing individuals and their children have access to the care they need during this crucial time in their lives.

For a full list of references for this resource, click here.

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