Ensuring Safety for Expectant Mothers

The program provides sensitive and effective services to women experiencing intimate partner violence.

Description: Launched in 2005 with OAC implementation funding, the **Expanding and Sustaining the Safe Mom, Safe Baby Project** was designed to improve perinatal health and safety outcomes for pregnant women and new mothers at risk for intimate partner violence through abuse responsive services, education, prenatal care and advocacy.

Results: The Safe Mom Safe Baby program developed and tested an evidence-based collaborative model of care between Aurora Health Care and Sojourner Family Peace Center in the Greater Milwaukee area for providing sensitive and effective services to pregnant women experiencing intimate partner violence. This program was expanded during the second three-year funding cycle (2008–11), serving 558 women who were predominantly African American (63%) and Latina (11%), living in Milwaukee zip codes with the highest infant mortality rates in Wisconsin.

Partnerships: The academic partner and nurse leaders have presented findings at state, local and national health care conferences and published articles in the *Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing*.

Next Steps: The program worked with the Center for Urban Population Health to develop a resource database, and Aurora Sinai Medical Center adopted the project’s evidence-based Abuse Assessment Screen. The Safe Mom Safe Baby program has secured sustainable funding for continued services to this vulnerable population.