



Mothers First Toolkit
Story 4: Domestic Violence During Pregnancy
December 8, 2020

Release Date

December 8, 2020

Mothers First Landing Page on Houston Public Media

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/mothersfirst/>

Story 4 YouTube Video Direct Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgTD8UgRUUE>

Story 4 Direct link on Houston Public Media

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/series/mothers-first/2020/12/08/387386/domestic-abuse-during-pregnancy/>

Suggested Hashtags

#maternalhealth #blackmaternalhealth #improvingmaternalhealth
#imhhouston

Sample Social Media and Newsletter Copy

Content warning/trigger warning: For each of the posts, if you are linking to the YouTube video directly, you may wish to start with a content warning/trigger warning at the top of your social media/newsletter post. The video cover does have a warning stating it is about domestic violence and contains images and subject matter that some viewers may find disturbing.

In episode four of Mother's First, hear Dr. Conte Terrell's heartbreaking story of domestic abuse, loss of her baby at four months pregnant at the hands of her ex-husband, and her journey to leave that relationship. Tianca Gillard, a community care coordinator for Healthy Women Houston, shares how the organization offers support to pregnant women who are experiencing hardships, such as domestic violence.

Violence and intimate partner violence were among the most frequently identified contributing factors to death at the community factor level. Violent deaths, including suicide and homicide, accounted for 13 percent of pregnancy-related deaths in 2013. The Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee's 2020 Biennial Report recommends we improve statewide infrastructure and programs to address violence and intimate partner violence at the state and community levels.

More than one in three women in the United States has experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Pregnancy can be an especially dangerous time for people in abusive relationships, and abuse can often begin or escalate during the pregnancy. Dr. Conte Terrell didn't think she would be a victim of domestic abuse, but at four months pregnant, she lost her baby at the hands of her ex-husband.

There is no excuse for domestic violence. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1.800.799.SAFE (7233)

Social Media Handles (should you wish to tag)

Improving Maternal Health Houston

- Facebook: @imhhouston
- Instagram: @imhhouston
- LinkedIn: @imhhouston
- Twitter: @imhhouston

Houston Public Media

- Facebook: @houstonpublicmedia
- Instagram: @houstonpubmedia
- LinkedIn: @houstonpublicmedia
- Twitter: @HoustonPubMedia

If you have any questions, please contact Alicia Lee, Director, Improving Maternal Health at alicia@imhhouston.org.

Improving Maternal Health

Harris County has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among metropolitan areas in the United States. Further, between 2008 and 2015, Harris County's incidence of maternal morbidity increased 53 percent, compared with a 15 percent increase for Texas overall. The Improving Maternal Health initiative addresses the various and complex drivers of maternal mortality and other adverse outcomes through a comprehensive, long-term strategy. The initiative is funded with support from Houston Endowment, Episcopal Health Foundation, Cullen Trust for Health Care and others, and includes more than 100 area maternal medical leaders and community leaders committed to increasing maternal survival and improving women's pre- and postpartum wellness by shifting healthcare norms and societal attitudes. More at www.imhhouston.org.