

Closing the Gap: How Doulas Can Help Support DV Advocacy

Presented by: Amber Twyne & Zakiya Machado

Organization: Concrete Rose Holistic / Doulas for DV

hello@ConcreteRoseHolistic.com | www.ConcreteRoseHolistic.com | @ConcreteRoseHolistic

This workshop explores the intersection of intimate partner violence (IPV) and pregnancy/postpartum health, with a focus on how trained doulas can serve as trusted allies in both prevention and healing.

Why This Matters

- Domestic violence (DV) impacts over 20% of pregnant women in the U.S.
- Pregnant and postpartum women face a 35% greater risk of homicide compared to their nonpregnant counterparts.
- Pregnancy-associated homicide rate rose 32.4% between 2018–2019.
- Underreporting of DV is common, especially among Black communities.

DV Risks During Pregnancy:

- Late or missed prenatal care
- Poor nutrition
- Higher rates of interventions and substance abuse
- Increased risk of miscarriage, hemorrhage, placental issues, hypertension, suicide, or homicide

DV Risks to Postpartum & Fetal Health:

- Postpartum hemorrhage, depression, PTSD
- Preterm birth, fetal injury, SIDS, long-term cognitive impacts

How Doulas Can Help:

- Lower C-section rates, shorter labor, and better breastfeeding outcomes
- Improved communication with healthcare providers
- Reduced postpartum depression/anxiety
- Better birth outcomes, especially for Black and Indigenous families
- Offer emotional safety and trust
- Flexible meeting locations (home, virtual, etc.)
- Resource connection (food, shelter, legal aid)
- Discreet birth control education
- Early identification of DV and connection to safety planning
- Advocacy within medical settings
- Doulas help clients recognize signs requiring urgent care.
- Postpartum follow-up rates are low; doulas can encourage postpartum healing visits.

About Our Program:

- ✓ Train doulas with lived DV experience
- ✓ Equip them with trauma-informed tools
- ✓ Support survivors during pregnancy, birth & postpartum
- ✓ Host *The DOVE Pod* podcast to elevate survivor stories

Let's Forge Ahead — Together

- Want to refer a survivor for doula support?
- Interested in guest speaking or co-hosting a training?
- Let's collaborate on prevention efforts & build stronger systems of care.

Scan the QR code below to stay connected, share resources, or partner with us.



RELEVANT RESOURCE ARTICLES

<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2022.306937?journalCode=ajph>

<https://nationalpartnership.org/report/intimate-partner-violence/>

<https://rdcu.be/ejyZr>