

FY 2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

BUDGET BRIEF

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Reproductive Health

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Introduction

Massachusetts remains a leader amongst states in reproductive rights and public health, and the Healey-Driscoll administration's FY24 H.1 budget recommendation includes funding to continue to protect and expand those essential services throughout the Commonwealth. With the recent Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson* overturning *Roe v. Wade* and removing the federal protection to the right to access an abortion, Massachusetts has, and will continue to, put reproductive health at the forefront of its public policy priorities.

Access

The FY24 H.1 budget recommendation proposes \$20.1 million for Family and Adolescence Reproductive Health to serve over 100,000 Commonwealth residents, including youth in and out of school, people of all genders seeking sexual and reproductive health services, and parenting adolescents and their children. This funding will ensure that individuals have access to the sexual and reproductive care they need, whether it be birth control, abortions, family planning, cervical cancer screening, or sexually transmitted infection tests.

Infrastructure and Security

H.1 proposes \$2 million in funding for Reproductive Health Access Infrastructure and Security. These funds will directly support clinical providers of abortions as well as established nonprofit organizations' abortion access funds, which provide direct funding to those who are seeking an abortion but may not be able to afford it. Because of this grant program, access to crucial reproductive health services will be more accessible and more affordable.

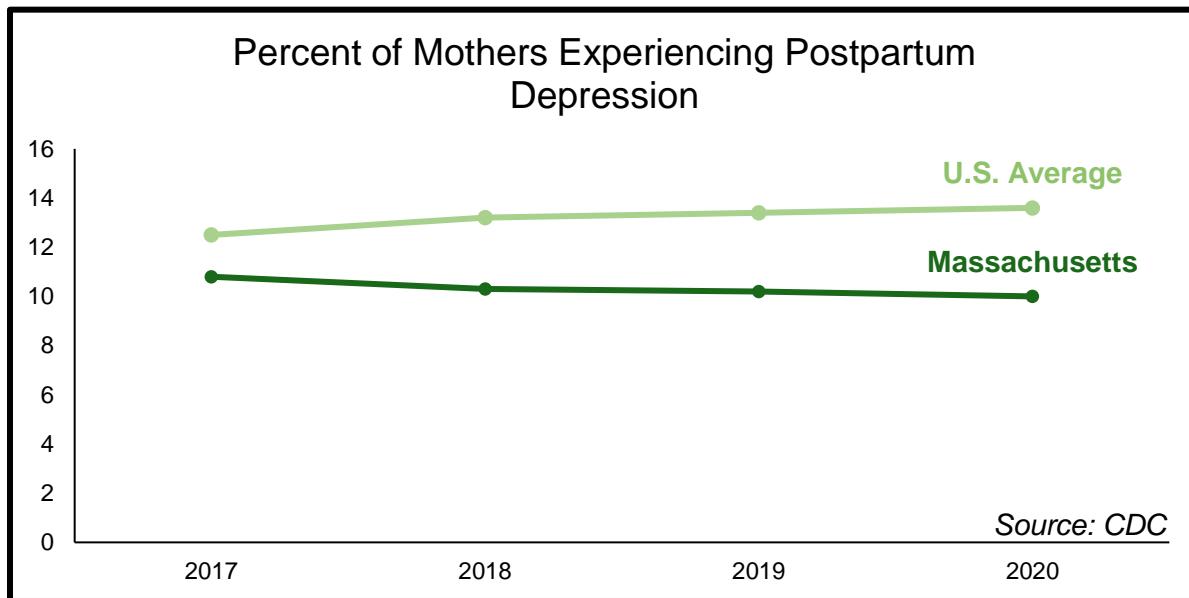
It's also essential to direct Bay Staters towards the right resources, which is why the Healey-Driscoll administration will include \$1 million in an upcoming supplemental budget proposal to restore funding for an awareness campaign about the dangers of so-called "crisis pregnancy centers" and "pregnancy resource centers," which seek to divert pregnant women away from the right types of care.

Contraceptive ACCESS Education

Access to contraceptives is an essential part of reproductive health care, which is why H.1 proposes funding the Advancing Contraceptive Coverage and Economic Security in our State (ACCESS) program at \$500,000. This program improves access to high quality education, outreach, and clinical services through a statewide provider network and funds a public information campaign to educate and promote awareness regarding individuals' eligibility to receive a 12-month prescription for contraceptives in the Commonwealth.

Postpartum Care

Essential maternal care does not end when a pregnancy ends. Roughly one in seven mothers in the United States experiences postpartum depression. In Massachusetts, that rate is one in ten, with the rate of postpartum depression having dropped from 11% to 10% since 2016.



However, there is much more that needs to be done to support mothers and continue to bring this number down. H.1 proposes an additional \$500,000 above the FY23 GAA to expand the Commonwealth's Postpartum Depression Pilot Program and recommends investing \$500,000 at the Maternal and Child Health Program. This total additional \$1 million will enable the Department of Public Health to reach more community health centers in Massachusetts than ever before to conduct programs targeted at reducing and treating postpartum depression.