

MEMO

Date: Aug. 6, 2025

Re: Key definitions and references regarding Kansas Health Institute (KHI) Issue Brief, [A Closer Look at Maternal Health in the U.S. and HHS Region VII: Examining Barriers in Rural, Black, and Somali Immigrant and Refugee Populations](#), KHI/25-62, Aug. 6, 2025.

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This memo provides key definitions and references for the KHI Issue Brief, A Closer Look at Maternal Health in the U.S. and HHS Region VII: Examining Barriers in Rural, Black, and Somali Immigrant and Refugee Populations.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Literature Review:

Prenatal/Prenatal Care: The period during pregnancy before birth occurs. Prenatal care refers to care aimed at promoting a healthy pregnancy and the prevention or identification of pregnancy complications.

Perinatal: The period including early pregnancy, birth and postpartum.

Peripartum: The period defined as pregnancy and the 12 months after delivery.

Postpartum: The period after childbirth (most often referred to as the first six or eight weeks after delivery or until the body returns to pre-pregnancy state).

Immigrant: Someone who decides to leave their home country and move to a different country with the intention of settling there.

Refugee: Someone who is forced to leave their home country and flee to a different country because of war or violence.

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