

# Women's Health in Haiti It Matters.



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Haitian Women's Collective



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@thehaitianwomenscollective\_

## A Closer Look

The current female population in Haiti has surpassed that of men and almost half of existing households are women-led. Amongst various struggles experienced by this nation with political inability being a main contributor, its health systems lack the infrastructure needed to meet the needs of members in almost all of its communities. Women and girls continue to be affected by severe health inequalities and are at a disadvantage as they continue to face healthcare barriers. Listed below are several areas in need of increased interventions to better serve women and girls subjected to the harsh realities surrounding their well-being.

### Affordable Health Care

Due to the country's political problems, there has been no recent progress in health legislation.

Access to basic health care is difficult for women and girls who live in rural areas.

Majority of women indicated problems in accessing health care due to non available providers at health facilities and/or inability to afford the services.

### Sexual Health

52% percent of Haitian women have an unmet need for contraception.

HIV prevalence is reported to be higher amongst women compared to men.

Adolescents are at a higher risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections.

### Maternal/Child Health

An estimated 63% of Haitian women still give birth at home in Haiti without aid from skilled professionals.

In 2019, the infant mortality rate in Haiti was at about 529 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Approximately one of every 80 women in Haiti will die from childbirth and pregnancy related causes.

During pregnancy, women can experience malnutrition and develop anemia due to vitamin deficiencies.

### Reproductive Health

Many women suffer through period poverty and are left to their own devices when it comes to proper hygiene.

Many lack basic information about their bodies and especially about their sexual and reproductive health.

Unplanned and teenage pregnancies are common.

### Hygiene/Sanitation Practices

Many women suffer through period poverty and are left to their own devices when it comes to proper hygiene.

Without access to appropriate resources hygiene practices encourage the spread of illnesses and infections.

Traveling to sanitation locations can be dangerous for women and girls.

### Health Education

'Female population is not empowered to take ownership of their bodies.'

Often, women will make their health the last priority and underlying conditions go undetected.

Diseases such as malaria, TB, and respiratory infections continue to claim the lives of many.



## **Resources and Helpful Links**

<https://www.borgenmagazine.com/period-poverty-in-haiti/>

<https://www.hearttoheart.org/our-work/haiti-operations/women-of-haiti/>

<https://everymothercounts.org/grants/haiti-a-deeper-dive/>

<https://www.pih.org/>

