

Targeted Outreach for Pregnant Women Act (TOPWA)

The legislature established the Targeted Outreach for Pregnant Women Act (TOPWA) program to find at-risk or HIV-infected pregnant women who are not receiving adequate prenatal care and link them with services. The Department of Health contracts with community-based organizations in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Orange, Duval, St. Lucie, Lee, Hendry, and Glades counties to provide services. These providers locate TOPWA clients through outreach in high-risk neighborhoods and linkages with community agencies such as substance abuse centers, domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, and county jails. The providers screen all women for TOPWA, provide information on HIV prevention, and offer free on-site HIV and pregnancy testing. They assess enrolled women to determine their level of risk, link them to needed services, and follow them through the birth of the infant. Several TOPWA agencies are now providing services in their local county jails.