

TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH: HOMELESS AT-RISK PRENATAL

What is HARP?

The **HARP** (Homeless At-Risk Prenatal) team is comprised of five Public Health Nurses and two Registered Dietitians. We are dedicated to providing high-intensity prenatal home visiting and support to homeless pregnant women in the City of Toronto.

Who are our clients?

All **HARP** clients are pregnant women experiencing homelessness (e.g., living on the streets, no fixed address, transient, living in a shelter, staying with friends or family temporarily).

In addition to homelessness, our clients often have multiple chronic issues and/or life circumstances that can include:

- Addiction issues
- Unstable or chronic mental health issues
- Service shy (not receptive to receiving services, including prenatal care)
- past or current involvement with Child Protection Services

What services do we provide?

- Frequent and intensive prenatal home visiting extending into the early postpartum period
- Client-centred prenatal and nutrition education, counselling and support
- Service coordination
- Free prenatal vitamins, food certificates and TTC tokens for medical appointments
- Supportive accompaniment to appointments, meetings and programs
- Referrals to community resources

Our clients benefit from more intensive services due to multiple issues that can lead to poor pregnancy outcomes. Our approach incorporates harm reduction and is client-focused.

To make a referral - contact Toronto Health Connection: 416-338-7600