

How to be a very safe maternity unit: an ethnographic study.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/how-be-very-safe-maternity-unit-ethnographic-study>

Maternal harm is a [sentinel event](#) that has garnered increased attention in both [policy](#) and clinical environments. This qualitative study combined direct observation and interviews to understand the characteristics that enabled a high-performing maternity ward to achieve their excellent safety outcomes. Investigators identified a set of specific, evidence-based safety practices including [standardization](#), monitoring, and emphasis on [technical skill](#). They also identified a strong and consistent [safety culture](#) and noted that structural conditions, such as [staffing levels](#) and the physical environment, supported safe outcomes. The authors conclude that all of these factors influence each other and jointly produce safety. A recent [Annual Perspective](#) summarized national initiatives to improve safety in maternity care.