

Understanding Doula Data

Doula Data is an online, user-friendly systematic and comprehensive program monitoring and evaluation tool. Doula Data was launched in August 2009 to strengthen the community-based doula model by building the research base behind it. The data collection system has 419 variables, which includes a variety of topics and questions focused around client history, prenatal and postpartum contacts and labor and birth.

In addition, Doula Data has four different types of user accounts: doulas, supervisors, site directors and data enterers. Different features are specialized to the individual user. However, Doula Data is set up to encourage communication between all users.

Here are some examples:

- Doulas can enter information about their clients, monitor progress and produce program usage and outcome reports. Doulas can also use Doula Data to track their continuing education units and creates individualized topic lists for client meetings.
- Supervisors can add a doula or participant to the system, assign or reassign a participant to a doula. Supervisors can access descriptive information about the doulas and custom statistics on doulas' clients. And finally, supervisors can use the system to track managerial meetings with doulas.
- Site directors can also add a supervisor, doula or data enterer to the system, assign or reassign a doula to a supervisor. Site directors can access descriptive information about the doulas, access custom statistics, as well as download all data from all users for further analysis.

Users of Doula Data receive support from HealthConnect One through agency-tailored trainings, regular follow-up and continuous support from the Maternal and Child Health Data Coordinator. For more information on Doula Data, and for access to our demonstration website, please contact Sarah Kerch at skerch@healthconnectone.org.
