



1237 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30310-1731  
Tel: 404.756.2680  
Fax: 404.756.2684  
Email: [info@SisterSong.net](mailto:info@SisterSong.net)  
Website: [www.SisterSong.net](http://www.SisterSong.net)

**Great Demand for Prenatal, Maternity Care in  
New Orleans for Hispanic Immigrants**

© SisterSong

**Published in *Collective Voices*, Vol. 2 Issue 7, Spring 2007**

According to a report released by the Louisiana Recovery Authority, New Orleans has increased in its Hispanic immigrant population to the tune of 4,000 since Hurricane Katrina. From 2005 to 2006, there have been 35 percent more births whereas patients with insurance decreased from 57 percent to 30 percent, according to East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie, Louisiana. Although Tulane-Lakeside Hospital in Metairie saw few births before Katrina, now it averages 30 to 50 Hispanic births a month. In 2005, the Louisiana Office of Public Health reported that 1,522 Hispanic women sought pregnancy and childbirth-related services, and in 2006, it has increased to 3,868 women. Local doctors stated that the influx of Hispanic births has created other challenges like immigration issues, language barriers and lack of healthcare insurance, forcing women to neglect prenatal care, reported the *Times-Picayune*.