

RESOURCES ON MATERNAL HEALTH IN THE UNITED STATES

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH AND INITIATIVES

Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM): works to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality through a national partnership of organizations; aligns national, state, and hospital level efforts to improve maternal safety; develops safety bundles to promote consistency in maternal care.

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP): provides resources aimed at improving the health of women, children, youth, and families, including technical assistance, best practices, and convening opportunities; serves as a partner and advocate for state public health leaders and other maternal and child health stakeholders who make up its membership. AMCHP has taken the lead on developing and sharing resources about state-level maternal mortality review processes, providing: a maternal health resource guide (*Health for Every Mother*); assistance to select states in building capacity around data collection, case review, and translation of findings (the Every Mother Initiative); and a web-based *MMR Resource Portal* for sharing tools and examples with and among states.

Every Woman Southeast: connects a coalition of partners across nine southern states focused on improving women's health and health equity over the life course; provides resources and training; conducts research; builds leadership across the Southeast; and emphasizes women's participation in health policy decisions.

Health and Medicine Division (HMD) of the National Academies of Sciences: (formerly the Institute of Medicine, or IOM) provides independent, objective analysis and evidence to help government and private actors make informed policy decisions related to health; operates under congressional charter and serves in an advisory role by providing studies at the request of federal agencies, independent agencies, and Congress; produces reports on racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care, and women's health.

The Kaiser Family Foundation: provides information on key health policy issues, including Medicaid, disparities, and women's health; maintains interactive state profiles with facts on women's health.

Maternal Health Taskforce (MHTF) of the Harvard School of Public Health: provides a database of resources covering all aspects of maternal health in order to help eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity; compiles research and information from news, journals, and global health and development sources to facilitate a well-informed, integrated maternal health community with equitable access to high-quality technical evidence.

Merck for Mothers: provides \$500 million over 10 years to reduce preventable maternal mortality worldwide; applies Merck's scientific and business expertise, as well as financial resources, to solutions focused on improving the quality of maternal care that women receive at facilities; includes support for programs that work to address maternal mortality in the United States.

World Health Organization (WHO): serves as the public health arm of the UN, directing and coordinating international health within the UN system; provides leadership on matters critical to health; shapes the global health research agenda; sets norms and standards and monitors their implementation; articulates ethical, evidence-based policy options; provides technical support; offers authoritative guidance on maternal health in the course of standard activities such as promoting health, monitoring disease outbreaks, and assessing the performance and preparedness of health systems around the world; publishes key reports and roadmaps including *Strategies Toward Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality (EPMM)*, *Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990-2015*, and the *Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health 2016-2030*.

PROVIDERS AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM): provides advocacy, research analysis, and education related to pregnancy, childbirth, and reproductive health; serves as a professional association representing certified nurse midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs).

American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG): provides education, advocacy, and research related to women's health care (including state and federal legislative advocacy around reproductive health and access, and improving pregnancy outcomes); serves as a membership organization for obstetricians and gynecologists.

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN): promotes the health of women and newborns; serves as a resource for nurses and health care professionals; provides advocacy, research, and education.

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO): represents the leaders of state and territorial health agencies; formulates and influences public health policy to improve state-based public health practice; provides policy and position statements on various topics, including maternal mortality and morbidity.

Commonsense Childbirth: provides midwifery services in Florida using an approach to maternal child health care developed by founder and midwife Jennie Joseph (called *The JJ Way*); provides perinatal training and certification programs to address maternal health provider workforce shortages and increase provider diversity; provides an empowering model of care that has successfully reduced racial disparities and poor outcomes while expanding access to safe and respectful maternal health care.

Feminist Women's Health Center: provides reproductive health services, community education, and policy advocacy in Atlanta, GA; sustains a state legislative agenda focused on public policies that enable a full range of reproductive health rights and options for all; offers an online advocacy toolkit to help advocates in Georgia engage with their lawmakers.

International Center for Traditional Childbearing: provides midwife and doula training to increase the number of Black maternal health providers in order to empower families and eliminate infant and maternal mortality.

National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM): represents the interests of certified midwives in coalitions and policy advocacy to improve maternal health outcomes; works to eliminate racial disparities in maternal health by supporting anti-racism in midwifery care, the leadership of midwives of color, and broader access to CPMs.

National Healthy Start Association: serves as the membership organization for federal Healthy Start programs; promotes the development of community-based maternal and child health programs and access to a continuum of affordable quality health care and related services to improve birth outcomes and reduce racial health disparities; emphasizes newborn health but also includes support for mothers and families.

Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine: provides a forum for physicians and scientists with additional training in high-risk, complicated pregnancies to share knowledge, resources, and best practices in order to improve pregnancy and perinatal outcomes; advocates for health policies and systems of care that support people with high-risk pregnancies.

ADVOCACY

Access Reproductive Care (ARC)—Southeast: provides funding and public advocacy to help individuals and families in the South navigate pathways toward safe, compassionate, and affordable reproductive health care access.

Amnesty International: investigates and exposes human rights abuses as the world's largest grassroots human rights organization; published a 2010 report on U.S. maternal health problems titled *Deadly Delivery: The Maternal Health Care Crisis in the USA*.

Center for Reproductive Rights: uses the law to advance reproductive freedom as a fundamental human right; provides technical assistance to state-based partners on reproductive health law, policy and human rights advocacy strategies, including those related to maternal health in the South.

Childbirth Connection: engages consumers to improve the quality and value of maternal health care; advocates for evidence-based, high quality care, shared decision-making, and improved health outcomes; maintains a directory of maternal and perinatal care quality collaboratives; publishes reports and surveys including the *Transforming Maternity Care* project, which lays out a vision and action plan for improving maternity care in the United States.

Choices in Childbirth: provides expectant parents with information and education so they can experience the birth they want and choose; conducts education and advocacy activities to expand families' choices about where, how, and with whom to birth.

National Birth Equity Collaborative: engages in research, advocacy, and family centered collaboration to reduce African American infant mortality; mobilizes health and civil rights organizations; and targets ten U.S. cities with the highest Black infant mortality rates and provides support to local leaders through the Campaign for Black Babies.

National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB): creates partnerships among community groups, nonprofits, professional associations, businesses, and government agencies to improve the health and safety of mothers, babies, and families; provides educational materials and opportunities for collaboration (including state and local HMHB coalitions) and influences maternal health policy.

National Perinatal Taskforce: creates a network of support to improve maternal health outcomes by building a virtual community of people and encouraging the growth of grassroots movement building and the formation of Perinatal Safe Spots—physical or virtual spaces where individual communities can share ideas about what’s working and what’s not.

National Women’s Law Center (NWLCC): champions laws and policies that promote equality and opportunity for women and families; provides resources and advocacy on pregnancy and health issues, including resources on women’s health care coverage; publishes state-by-state reports that track key state laws and policies affecting women; maintains a national and state-by-state report card on women’s health, which includes maternal mortality and prenatal care indicators.

National Health Law Program (NHeLP): advocates, educates, and litigates for the health rights of low-income and underserved people at the federal and state levels; works on policy topics including Medicaid, reproductive health, and health disparities; publishes information and reports.

March of Dimes: in addition to its primary work on preventing infant morbidity and mortality, provides funding for local programs that address racial disparities in birth outcomes; produces resource materials and a data book for policymakers that includes information about maternal health; provides access to maternal and infant health data by state and region through a tool called *PeriStats*.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: provides funding for projects that aim to improve U.S. health and health care; provides information and resources about various health topics (such as social determinants and health disparities); offers the County Health Rankings report, which compares counties across the country on a broad range of health related measures, and identifies health gaps in each state.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): conducts scientific research, monitors U.S. health, and provides health information while acting as the national agency responsible for health protection; tracks diseases and analyzes data related to U.S. maternal mortality and morbidity; uses science and technology to prevent disease; provides resources, training, and guidance to the public health workforce. States can use the Maternal Mortality Review Data System (MMRDS) developed by the CDC to help them collect and abstract data, develop case summaries, conduct analysis, and document committee findings and recommendations.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB): partners with key stakeholders to improve the physical and mental health, safety, and well-being of the nation’s women, children, and families; funds programs, research and other efforts to address the needs of these groups across the lifespan; provides funds to states and jurisdictions through the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, as well as discretionary grants; focuses on health disparities, health equity, and social causes of health outcomes.

Healthy People 2020: provides science-based, ten-year national objectives for improving U.S. population health (at national, state, and local levels) as part of a national health promotion and disease prevention agenda; includes goals aimed at improving health equity and addressing social determinants of health; includes maternal health indicators and benchmarks related to maternal mortality and morbidity, access to maternal health services, and pregnancy and postpartum care; provides recommendations on maternal health interventions and other tools and resources.

National Institutes of Health (NIH): serves as the nation’s medical research agency, and the largest funder of biomedical research in the world; funds projects aimed at enhancing health and life expectancy and reducing illness and disability in the United States, including projects related to maternal health; drives discovery and translation of new health ideas.

Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: works to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that help eliminate health disparities; maintains the OMH Resource Center, which provides access to literature and information on the health status of racial and ethnic minority populations.

STATE GOVERNMENTS

California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative: brings stakeholders from multiple sectors together to with a mission to end preventable maternal morbidity, mortality, and racial disparities in maternity care in California; provides resources and support for improvements in quality care and data collection; may serve as a leading example for quality care collaboratives in other states.

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: protects and promotes the health of all New Yorkers; as one of the nation’s oldest public health agencies and one of the world’s largest, is often recognized as a leader in the field of public health; conducted enhanced surveillance of maternal mortality from 2001-2010 before the New York State Department of Health took over review of maternal deaths (reports available at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/ms/ms-report-online.pdf> and <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/ms/pregnancy-associated-mortality-report.pdf>); conducted the first citywide surveillance of severe maternal morbidity and expects to release its report in Spring 2016.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Echoing Ida: develops and promotes the thought leadership of Black women change-makers in media spaces; sustains a growing network of writers, editors, media professionals, organizers, and policy advocates; provides analysis on issues impacting Black women and their diverse communities, including maternal health; features the work of maternal health leaders.

Black Women’s Health Imperative: works to improve the health and wellness of Black women and girls—physically, emotionally and financially; identifies the most pressing health issues and invests in the best strategies, partners, and organizations working to ensure that Black women live longer, healthier, more prosperous lives; addresses a range of reproductive health and justice issues.

In Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda: amplifies the voices of Black women at national and regional levels to secure reproductive justice; focuses on abortion rights and access, contraceptive equity, and comprehensive sex education; represents a partnership between the following five reproductive justice organizations: Black Women for Wellness, Black Women’s Health Imperative, New Voices Pittsburgh, SisterLove, and SPARK Reproductive Justice Now.

Mothering Justice: empowers mothers in Michigan to organize and influence policies that will affect them and their families; focuses primarily on engaging mothers as leaders, advocates, and voters on issues of economic security; advocates for maternal health and rights.

National Advocates for Pregnant Women: challenges punitive reproductive health and drug policies through the courts and provides litigation support in cases across the country; engages in policy advocacy to protect the rights of pregnant and parenting women, particularly low-income women and women of color; engages in organizing and public education.

Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC): brings religious people who believe in reproductive justice together to advocate for public policies that improve access to reproductive health services and eliminate disparities in these areas; provides tools for faith leaders and activists.

SisterReach: empowers, organizes, and mobilizes women and girls in Tennessee around their reproductive and sexual health, encouraging them to become advocates for themselves; supports women and girls to lead healthy lives, have healthy families, and live in healthy communities by offering comprehensive education about their sexual and reproductive health; engages with education, policy, and advocacy on behalf of women and girls.

SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective: serves as a Southern-based, national membership organization for reproductive justice advocates; works to strengthen the collective voices of indigenous women and women of color to achieve reproductive justice by eradicating reproductive oppression and securing human rights; mobilizes women of color around lived experiences and works to improve institutional policies and systems that impact the reproductive lives of marginalized communities; provides training in reproductive justice and provides a platform for movement members to work collaboratively toward shared policy goals, including advocacy on maternal health.

SPARK Reproductive Justice Now: builds new leadership, knowledge, and culture change in Georgia and the South to ensure individuals and communities have resources and power to make sustainable and liberatory decisions about their bodies, gender, sexualities, and lives; centers Black women, women of color, and queer/trans youth of color; focuses on civic engagement and policy advocacy around reproductive justice issues.

Notes