

Implementing a Maternal health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) Initiative



PURPOSE, POPULATIONS & SUPPORT

- Supports research to reduce preventable causes of maternal deaths and improve health for women before, during, and after pregnancy, such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension, hemorrhage, mental health disorders, and substance use.
- Establishes integrated components to build evidence-based approaches to reduce MMM and health disparities through complementary research efforts that incorporate community-engaged partnerships.
- Focuses on populations disproportionately affected by MMM.
- Includes \$53.4M for Fiscal Year (FY) 25.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES



Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence²: 14 Awards

Twelve research centers, a data innovation and coordination hub, and an implementation science hub develops, implements, and evaluates community-tailored interventions to address maternal morbidity and mortality, and supports training and professional development to increase the workforce of maternal health researchers.

IMPROVE Community Implementation Program³: 4 Awards

Supports strategies to adopt and integrate evidence-based interventions into community settings to improve maternal health outcomes in maternity care deserts; incorporates community coalitions and leaders.



Short Courses on Techniques for Measuring IPV in Different Populations⁴: 4 Awards

Focuses on educating researchers on best practices for screening and/or measuring intimate partner violence (IPV) in populations impacted by maternal mortality.

Dissemination & Implementation Research: 7 Awards

Supports research to implement evidence-based strategies to inform policy and practice interventions across pre-pregnancy, prenatal, and postpartum care with consideration of community needs and health equity.



Understanding the Impact of Healthcare System and Clinician Factors on Disparities in Maternal Morbidity and Mortality⁵: 2 Awards

Supports research that bridges the knowledge gap about understudied healthcare system and clinician factors across the spectrum of maternal care (prenatal to 1 year postpartum).

PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES



Connecting the Community for Maternal Health Challenge⁶: 32 Prizes

Helped nonprofit organizations overcome structural barriers and enhance their capabilities, infrastructure, and experience to compete for federal funding and conduct research projects to improve maternal health outcomes in their communities. Final winners announced September 2024.

Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) Technology for Maternal Health Challenge⁷: 41 Prizes

Focused on home-based or point-of-care diagnostic devices, wearables, or other remote-sensing technologies that can extend support, including postpartum, in maternity care deserts to improve maternal health outcomes. Final winners announced October 2024.



Connectathon⁸: 1 Interagency Collaboration

Furthered real-world research through efforts such as creating a Maternal and Infant Health Information for Researchers Implementation Guide (developed with HHS partners) that will enable researchers, developers, and others to capture, aggregate, and analyze data from different electronic health records systems using advanced data techniques.

NEW & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



CHAP-GUIDES (Chronic Hypertension and Pregnancy Guideline Utilization in Different Environments and Settings)

Will assess the adoption of new guidelines from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) for the management of chronic hypertension in pregnancy.

Advancing the Science of Complementary and Integrative Health Approaches to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes

Will support complementary and integrative approaches with mind and body interventions to promote healthy pregnancies and enhance maternal health outcomes.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
NICHD.NIH.GOV/IMPROVE**

References:

1. <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/research/supported/IMPROVE>
2. <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/newsroom/news/081723-Maternal-Health-Research-Centers>
3. <https://nihceal.org/program-teams/meet-improve-cip-teams>
4. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-24-002.html>
5. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-24-059.html>
6. <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/newsroom/news/090524-winners-connecting-community-maternal-health-challenge>
7. <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/newsroom/news/101524-RadxTech-Maternal-Health-Winners>
8. <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/newsroom/news/062623-maternal-guide>



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