



VOLUME 3

FALL 2022

The IMQCC Newsletter

The Iowa Maternal Quality Care Collaborative is a multidisciplinary group of key stakeholders for maternal health including public health professionals, healthcare and allied health providers, payers, statewide partners, patient and community representatives, and quality improvement experts who have come together with the goal to improve maternal health in Iowa.

Our *mission* is to improve the quality, safety, and culture of maternity care provision for all Iowans by partnering with healthcare and community stakeholders, supporting data-driven and evidence-informed quality improvement initiatives, and promoting patient- and family-centered care.

Our *vision* is for all birthing people to experience care that is safe, respectful, and accessible.



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STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
Health AND **Human**
SERVICES

Iowa HHS Alignment and Maternal Health Programming

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) continues to move closer to a fully combined agency. Staff recently learned where they will fit within the HHS Org Chart, with former IDPH Maternal Health program staff moving into the Community Access vertical, in "Wellness and Preventive Health". HHS also released a new logo and branding guide, and merged their social media accounts. The alignment team is working on a bill draft and transition plan, which is required by realignment legislation, and will launch a new HHS website in October. Beyond these changes, our maternal health work is primarily funded by federal sources, and therefore remains unchanged. The logistics of how we do our work may change (e.g. Google or Microsoft, office space), but the funding and requirements surrounding the funding are not changing. You can access all resources, updates, and documents related to the merge on the Alignment Website: hhsalignment.iowa.gov.





The Maternal Health Strategic Plan

The Maternal Health Strategic Plan has been updated! Thank you to those who completed the survey to provide updates to their existing work or add new strategies. We are unable to post the updated version on the current IDPH website as we are transitioning to a new HHS website, but it will be available on the IMQCC website shortly. If you are implementing any strategies that impact the priority areas in the strategic plan (Maternal Mental Health, Workplace Policies, and Health Before, During and After Pregnancy) that are not currently captured, there will be an opportunity to provide updates again in January 2023. The next steps of this process will include capturing updates and program data from stakeholders to develop a comprehensive report on maternal health in Iowa.

CDC ERASE MM Program

Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality - ERASE MM

The Iowa Department of Public Health (now Iowa HHS) was awarded a CDC ERASE MM grant in September of 2021 which will continue until September of 2024. This funding directly supports the department to coordinate and manage maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRC). State staff use the Maternal Mortality Review Information Application, MMRIA, a data system designed to facilitate MMRC functions through a common data language. They receive technical assistance from CDC on the following.

- Identification of pregnancy-associated deaths
- Comprehensive, efficient, and effective abstraction of deaths
- Data quality improvement
- Data analysis of MMRC data, including analyzing aggregated MMRIA data to identify common opportunities for prevention
- Committee discussion facilitation and decision making
- Effective data use and dissemination
- Program evaluation and performance measurement

Other activities of the grant include developing a Perinatal Mental Health Strategic Plan, Assessment of the barriers for health care providers to do screening for mental health and substance use disorders, Development of a website to support families struggling with Perinatal Mental Health and SUD and support for the Title V Doula project. If you would like to learn more about this grant you contact Stephanie Trusty via email stephanie.trusty@idph,iowa.gov and you can click on the following link.

[https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternal-mortality/erase-mm/index.html?
CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Ferasemm%2Findex.html#maternal-mortality-review](https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternal-mortality/erase-mm/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Ferasemm%2Findex.html#maternal-mortality-review)



The Iowa AIM Program

The Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) Program is a national quality improvement program led by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) in partnership with other professional societies and funded by HRSA. AIM supports states and facilities in implementing best practices in obstetrical care to prevent maternal morbidity and mortality. Iowa joined the program in October 2020 and we have completed our first statewide initiative, Safe Reduction of Primary Cesarean Birth. We are launching our second initiative, Obstetric Hemorrhage, this fall. AIM is contracted with Iowa HHS and Stephanie Trusty is our state lead. Stephanie Radke is the medical director of the program and is supported by a team including Nicole Anderson, Kristal Graves, Amy Dunbar, Debbie Kane, and Ngoc Tran.

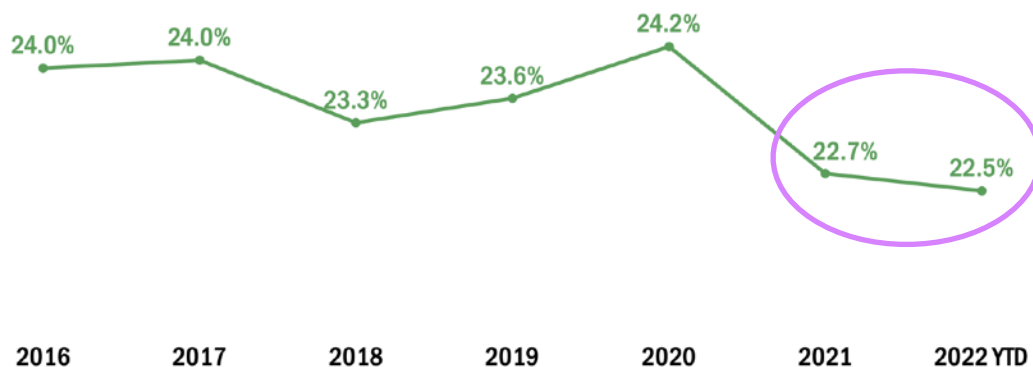
Safe Reduction of Primary Cesarean Birth



Safe Reduction of Primary Cesarean Birth

- ▶ The Quality Improvement Collaborative ran from May 2021 through July 2022.
- ▶ 43 of 56 birthing hospitals participated.
- ▶ Activities included 3 full-day virtual Learning Sessions, 12 monthly All-Team Calls, and 14 optional group Technical Assistance workshops.
- ▶ IMQCC hosted 8 complementary Spinning Babies workshops (training 244 nurses and obstetrical providers in Iowa) and 1 virtual Peanut Ball workshop aimed at improving bedside support during the course of labor.
- ▶ Teams were supported with an average of 22 1:1 coaching sessions occurring each month between facility team leads and their IMQCC improvement coaches.

We are proud to report that the rate of Cesarean birth for low-risk first-time mothers delivering at term in Iowa declined during the collaborative!



Obstetric Hemorrhage

Obstetric Hemorrhage

- ▶ Launching with a full-day in-person Learning Session on October 11, 2022.
- ▶ All 56 birthing hospitals and several out of hospital birth providers are participating.
- ▶ Our primary objective is to eliminate cases of preventable maternal death from hemorrhage in Iowa by the end of 2023.
- ▶ Teams will also focus on reducing emotional trauma following adverse birth events for birthing individuals, their families, and the healthcare staff.



The Iowa Statewide OB Mobile Simulation Program

The simulation team has been on the road visiting facilities in northwest Iowa and supporting simulation-based education for obstetrical emergencies!



Stanford Medical Center in Sheldon, Iowa



Lakes Regional Medical Center in Spirit Lake, Iowa



Buena Vista Regional Medical Center in Storm Lake, Iowa

3 facilities

75 staff members engaged

“The team was great! Made us feel comfortable and at ease! Will guide me with debriefing going forward!” —Recent participant

Are you interested in having the OB Simulation team visit your facility? Reach out to the team via IMQCC@idph.iowa.gov or directly via Nicole Anderson, Jill Henkle, or Amy Dunbar.



The Iowa HHS Title V Doula Project

The Iowa Title V Doula Project for African American/Black Families brings together the Department of Health of Human Services, Title V Maternal Health Agencies, the Iowa Black Doula Collective, and community-based doulas to address Iowa's maternal mortality health disparities. Using a health equity lens, these partners developed a culturally congruent, community-based doula program within the state's Title V service delivery structure. Through support from Iowa's Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant and the Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, the program served over 40 African American/Black families with prenatal, birth, and postpartum doula services in the first grant year. The project continues to strive toward a second year of achieving goals to improve maternal health outcomes in the African American/Black community, increase breastfeeding initiation rates, cultivate a well supported and educated doula workforce, and establish the business case for doula care coverage reimbursement by Iowa Medicaid and private insurers.

Limited Spots Available

You Deserve the Very Best Pregnancy Support



Do you want help during pregnancy, childbirth & after baby arrives?

- ✓ Birth Plan Education & Labor Support
- ✓ Breastfeeding Support
- ✓ Help Navigating the Health Care System

STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF Health and Human SERVICES

UnityPoint Health 

Free Birth Doula Support Services for African American and Black-Identifying Pregnant Women in Iowa

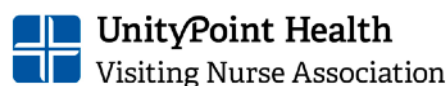
Contact Allen Women's Health at (319) 235-5090 or Black Hawk County Public Health at (319) 291-2413
Visit www.unitypoint.org/waterloo/allen-womens-health-1.aspx to Learn More

This poster was supported by funds made available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support, under grant # NB0107029382.

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The program is currently available to Black-identifying pregnant people who live in **Black Hawk, Dubuque, Scott, or Polk** counties via partnership with the following local agencies:



Interested in learning more about this program?
Contact ashley.ezzio@idph.iowa.gov for more information!

SAVE THE DATE:

IMQCC Stakeholder Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, December 9, 2022

10:30AM - 12:00PM

Calendar invitation with Zoom link distributed by Nicole Anderson, please contact us if you need the invitation.

Agenda will be distributed ahead of meeting.

Have you seen the new IMQCC website?

Check it out at [IMQCC.org](https://www.imqcc.org)

We have redesigned and more content will be added in the coming months!

Upcoming Events in October and November:

October 6, 2022,

7:30-9:30PM

**North Texas AWHONN:
Preventing PPH**

AWHONN.NT@gmail.com

October 11, 2022,

8:00AM - 4:30PM

**Iowa AIM Program
Learning Session 1**

Pre-registration required

October 12, 2022,

10:00 - 11:15AM

**CMQCC: The Journey
of QBL**

[Link to registration](#)

October 14, 2022

**Momma's Voices:
How to Nurture Allyship**
mommasvoices.org/events

October 25, 2022,

8:00AM - 5:30PM

**Iowa AWHONN:
Fall Conference**

[Link to registration](#)

November 4, 2022,

7:30AM - 5:00PM

**UIHC OBGYN Postgrad
Conference**

[Link to registration](#)

Contact us at IMQCC@idph.iowa.gov

Support acknowledgement: This IMQCC newsletter was created utilizing resources supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

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