

CONTINUUM OF CARE INTEGRATION: The Health Center Advantage for Maternal Health

YEAR ONE: DISCOVERY 2023

This has been a formative year of listening and discovery to understand the role health centers can play in improving maternal health of disproportionately impacted populations.

With CDC support, NACHC has been working to create partnerships between Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs), Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (PQCs) and CHCs in Illinois and Florida, with a goal of connecting MMRC data and recommendations to actions that will reduce disparities in pregnancy-related deaths.

NACHC used UDS data and state MMRC data in Illinois and Florida to identify nine (9) health centers that work with populations disproportionately impacted by pregnancy related maternal mortality within these two respective states. During initial meetings, MMRC findings and PQC state-led activities were presented, and exploratory discussions held to identify potential opportunities for improved maternal care programming

and coordination. This work is exciting and new for all parties.

Key stakeholders are learning about health center relationships with local hospitals, gaps in care coordination, and how state MMRC reports can inform integrated care for disproportionately affected populations. NACHC has worked with MMRCs, PQCs, Health Center Control Networks (HCCNs), and health centers to determine PQC and Health Center engagement, describe goals to prevent pregnancy-related death—especially for disproportionately impacted populations—and determine how to work together in the future. Health centers are simultaneously exploring ways to reduce barriers such as access to Medicaid postpartum coverage and securing referrals to specialists, especially when providers uncover risk factors like cardiac and coronary conditions, cardiomyopathy, hypertension, and barriers to accessing care like transportation or underinsured.

This discovery phase has affirmed our belief that Health Centers hold promise in helping fill gaps in maternal care for disproportionately affected patients. To learn more about MMRCs, please visit www.cdc.gov/erasemm. To learn more about PQCs, please visit [State Perinatal Quality Collaborative](#) to learn more about the CDC Hear Her Campaign, please visit [Hear Her](#).



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