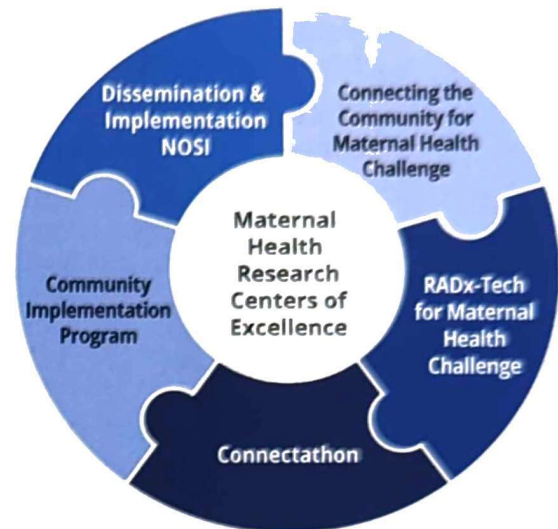


Implementing a Maternal health and PRenancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) Initiative



PURPOSE, POPULATIONS & SUPPORT

- Addresses the leading causes of pregnancy-related Maternal Morbidity and Mortality (MMM) and severe maternal morbidity (SMM), such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension, hemorrhage, mental health disorders, substance use, and infectious disease.
- Establishes six integrated components to build evidence-based approaches to reduce MMM and health disparities through complementary research efforts that incorporate community-engaged partnerships.
- Focuses on those disproportionately affected by MMM, e.g., African American/Black, American Indian/Alaska Native populations, people of advanced maternal age, and people who do not have access to obstetric care providers.
- Includes \$43.4M (\$30M in NICHD support plus \$13.4M in other institute/center support) for Fiscal Year (FY) 23, contributing to an already robust NIH maternal health research portfolio¹.



CURRENT ACTIVITIES



Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence: 12 Awards (FY 23)

National network (10 research centers, data innovation and coordination hub, and implementation science hub²) develops, implements, and evaluates community-tailored interventions to address maternal health disparities, identifies risk factors and mechanisms for the leading causes of MMM and SMM, and supports training and professional development to increase the workforce of maternal health researchers, including those from underrepresented backgrounds.



Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) Tech for Maternal Health Challenge: 35 Prizes in 3 of 4 Planned Phases (FY 23)

Focuses 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.

Connectathon: 1 Interagency Collaboration (FY 22-23)

Furtheres 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 techniques³.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES (CONT.)



Connecting the Community for Maternal Health Challenge: 24 Prizes in 2 of 3 Planned Phases (FY 23)

Helps nonprofit organizations overcome structural barriers and enhances their capabilities, infrastructure, and experience to compete for federal funding and conduct research projects to improve maternal health outcomes in their communities.

IMPROVE Community Implementation Program⁴: 3 Awards (FY 22-23)

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.

Dissemination & Implementation Notice of Special Interest: 6 Awards (FY 22); 1 Award (FY 23)

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.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES



Develop and support additional initiatives, subject to available appropriations, focused on populations that experience health disparities in MMM through these and other IMPROVE funding opportunities:

- Career Enhancement Award to Advance the Study of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in the Context of Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Research⁵ (published 10/3/2023)
- Short Courses on Techniques for Measuring IPV in Different Populations⁶ (published 10/4/2023)
- Understanding the Impact of Healthcare System and Clinician Factors on Disparities in Maternal Morbidity and Mortality⁷ (published 10/20/2023)

**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://www.nichd.nih.gov/newsroom/news/062623-maternal-guide>
4. https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/sites/default/files/media/docs/IMPROVE-CIP_ROA_FINAL_508C.pdf
5. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-24-001.html>
6. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-24-002.html>
7. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-24-059.html>



National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health