

ORWH MMM Initiatives

As the NIH office dedicated to promoting research on the health of women throughout the scientific community, ORWH has played a leading role in MMM research efforts. Below, we list and describe some of ORWH's key MMM initiatives.

The ORWH MMM Web Portal. The [ORWH MMM web portal](#) provides trustworthy, science-based information on healthy pregnancy, delivery, and post-pregnancy for scientists, researchers, consumers, and advocates. The MMM web portal also serves as a resource for staff at the NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices and researchers who focus on this important topic. Scientists, clinicians, and others can use the MMM web portal to view information about the scope of relevant research at NIH; specific funding opportunities, programs, and events; and NIH-funded clinical trials related to maternal health. MMM web portal materials include:

- “Information for Women,” a collection of references and links to information to help identify and mitigate the risks of childbirth throughout a mother’s life
- “Ongoing Studies and Publications,” a list of hyperlinks to ongoing maternal health studies at NIH and other institutions related to hypertension, preeclampsia, heart health, and other topics as well as an exhaustive list of the most critical research and articles focusing on protecting the health of mothers
- “Maternal Health Across NIH,” which links to NIH research and projects related to maternal health
- “Funding Opportunities,” a carefully curated selection of available NIH funding opportunities supporting maternal health research
- “Additional Resources,” which links to MMM websites not affiliated with NIH

The MMM Informational Booklet. A complement to the MMM web portal, the ORWH booklet [Maternal Morbidity and Mortality](#) details the current troubling trends in maternal morbidity and mortality, risk factors, preventive steps, how pregnancy-related conditions can affect a woman’s health throughout her life course, and how Federal health agencies are addressing the problem.

The 4th Annual NIH Vivian W. Pinn Symposium: “Improving Maternal Health: Behind the Numbers.”

On May 15, 2019, ORWH hosted a symposium addressing the lasting medical complications that can result from pregnancy as well as the troubling U.S. MMM rates. Leading clinicians and researchers discussed relevant statistics, research, and Federal programs and described approaches to improving women’s health before, during, and after pregnancy and throughout a woman’s life course. This symposium inspired the special issue of *JWH*, with many conference participants contributing articles for the publication. You can [watch a video recording of the symposium here](#).

The Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for Women’s Health Research. [Advancing Science for the Health of Women: The Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for Women’s Health Research, 2019–2023](#), an NIH-wide plan to guide 5 years of research on the health of women, includes many goals and objectives relevant to

understanding and preventing MMM, such as safely including pregnant women and lactating women in clinical research and expanding research on female-specific conditions and diseases, including those related to reproductive stages and maternal/gynecologic health.

Women's Health in Focus at NIH. [Issue 2.1](#) of ORWH's quarterly publication takes an in-depth look at reducing racial disparities in MMM, data collection on maternal mortality, ongoing programs that have successfully reduced MMM, and related topics.

Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Video. ORWH has produced an [informative video on MMM](#) that defines MMM, provides statistical and demographic information on the problem, makes evidence-based recommendations for pregnant women and postpartum women, and describes research and other efforts by NIH, other HHS agencies, and local governments to understand and mitigate MMM. You can [watch the video here](#).

"Maternal Morbidity and Mortality: Your Guide to Healthy Pregnancy." This [syndicated article](#), published on the ORWH website and in many print and online publications, summarizes practical evidence-based advice for mothers-to-be and links to additional information on MMM and pregnancy. You can [read the article here](#).

NIGMS–ORWH IDeA States Women's Health Program. ORWH, in partnership with the [National Institute of General Medical Sciences \(NIGMS\)](#) and seven other NIH institutes, provided funding to scientists to expand their research on women's health, particularly the high rates of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity in "IDeA States." Residents in States recognized by the congressionally mandated [Institutional Development Award \(IDeA\)](#) program often have less access to health care and suffer from poorer health outcomes than the average American. The NIGMS–ORWH administrative supplements for the IDeA States build research capacity in areas that historically have had low levels of NIH funding. You can [read more about these supplements here](#) and [here](#).

The U3 Administrative Supplement Program. ORWH supports interdisciplinary research on understudied, underrepresented, and underreported (U3) populations. This program targets interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary research focused on the effects of sex and gender influences at the intersection of several social determinants. The U3 program focuses on addressing health disparities, including maternal health disparities. You can read more about [the U3 Administrative Supplement Program here](#).

IMPROVE. ORWH, NICHD, and other NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices have developed the [Implementing a Maternal health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone \(IMPROVE\)](#) initiative to reduce preventable maternal mortality; improve health for women before, during, and after delivery; and promote health equity in the United States.