National Institutes of Health
Office of Research on Women's Health

Women's Health Research Roundtable: Intersectionality and the Health of Women

Reaching Rural Women: Implications for Research on Pregnancy

Thursday, September 25, 2025, 3-4 p.m. EDT

Click here to register

FEATURING:



Kara Whitaker, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Associate Professor; Director of Graduate Studies – Health and Human Physiology
University of Iowa
"Rural Health: Lifestyle Behaviors and Psychosocial Factors in Pregnancy"

Dr. Whitaker will share her research on the Pregnancy 24/7 Study, a large, multi-site cohort study examining associations between 24-hour activity (physical activity, sedentary behavior, and sleep) with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and other adverse pregnancy outcomes. She will talk about the design and implementation of this study, describe preliminary findings examining differences in health behaviors (24-hour activity and diet) and psychosocial factors between rural and urban pregnant women, and discuss public health implications of this work to improve rural maternal health.



Karina Shreffler, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Research, Scholarship, and Ph.D. Studies; Professor and Fran and Earl Ziegler Endowed Chair in Nursing Research University of Oklahoma Health Sciences
"Data Challenges and Resources for Rural and Tribal Maternal Health"

Dr. Shreffler is the Fran and Earl Ziegler Endowed Chair in Nursing Research in the Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences. She will share her work with the Center for Indigenous Resilience, Culture, and Maternal Health Equity (CIRCLE), a Maternal Health Research Center of Excellence funded through the NIH Implementing a Maternal health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) initiative, and discuss a study linking publicly-available de-identified electronic health records of pregnancy-related diagnoses, geocoded locations of hospitals providing maternal care, social determinants of health, and demographics, to enable a county-level investigation of geographic barriers of care.

Sign language interpreting services are available upon request. Individuals who need interpreting services and/or other reasonable accommodations to participate in this event should contact Michelle Orellana at michelle.orellana@nih.gov. Requests should be made at least five business days in advance.