



New Mexico Can Lead in Preventing Maternal Deaths

A TRAGIC AND PREVENTABLE, GROWING HEALTH CRISIS IN NEW MEXICO

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Women in the U.S. are dying in childbirth and from pregnancy related causes at rates far greater than in any other economically advanced nation. This tragic and preventable health crisis is growing, and it is worse in New Mexico.

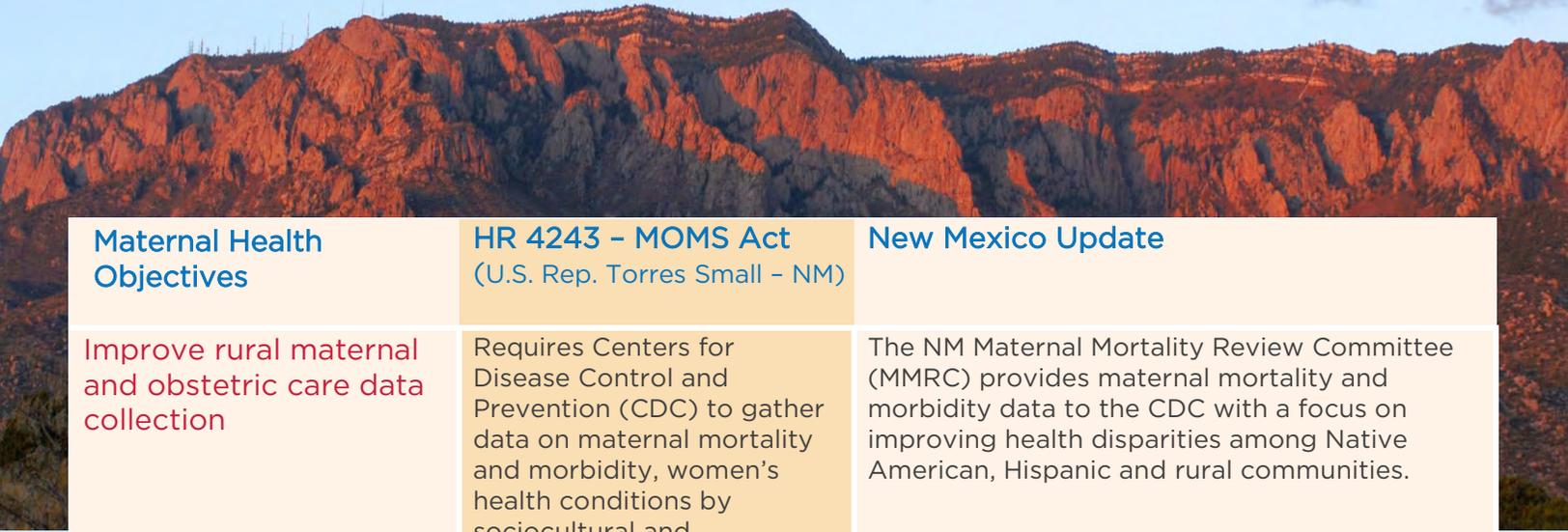
- Between 2014 and 2017, for every 100,000 live births, 26 New Mexico mothers died within the first year.*
- Three out of five maternal deaths are preventable
- New Mexico women of color are more likely to be at risk for preterm birth, maternal and infant mortality.

Together, New Mexico healthcare professionals, community and healthcare policy leaders are taking assertive steps to prevent maternal mortality and morbidity in New Mexico.

State efforts led by the **New Mexico Perinatal Collaborative (NMPC)** are already putting to action many of the best practices proposed in federal legislation H.R. 4243, the Rural Maternal and Obstetric Modernization of Services (MOMS) Act sponsored by U.S. Representative Torres Small (D-NM). The NMPC is comprised of clinicians, insurers, consumers, New Mexico Department of Health (DOH), Indian Health Service, March of Dimes and healthcare provider organizations. **The New Mexico Hospital Association is proud to be an active member of the NMPC.**

While H.R. 4243 has not yet passed, New Mexico stands ready to use federal funds wisely to set the standard in providing safe, quality maternal care through comprehensive data collection, innovative care delivery models and broad collaboration across the state. The following table demonstrates how New Mexico's efforts match and enhance federal proposals and initiatives.

NEW MEXICO'S EFFORTS MATCH AND ENHANCE FEDERAL PROPOSALS AND INITIATIVES.



Maternal Health Objectives	HR 4243 – MOMS Act (U.S. Rep. Torres Small – NM)	New Mexico Update
Improve rural maternal and obstetric care data collection	Requires Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to gather data on maternal mortality and morbidity, women’s health conditions by sociocultural and geographic contexts and research pregnancy-related deaths.	The NM Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) provides maternal mortality and morbidity data to the CDC with a focus on improving health disparities among Native American, Hispanic and rural communities.
Award rural obstetric network grants	Grants fund creation of innovation networks to address maternal mortality and morbidity rates and birth outcomes.	Fall 2019 - Taos Health Systems (Holy Cross Medical Center and regional partners) was awarded a 4-yr, \$2.9 million HRSA grant to develop a financially sustainable model for a rural obstetrics continuum of care, regional network that leverages in-person and telehealth services.
Expand federal telehealth grants	Grants fund birth, pre- and postnatal services provided through telehealth networks. Funds could cover pregnancy-related technology (e.g. ultrasound, fetal monitors)	See above and below.
Launch rural maternal and obstetric care training demonstration	Demonstration projects train family medicine physicians, obstetricians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, midwives, doulas and other clinicians to provide maternal care services in rural community-based settings.	NMPC is partnering with Project ECHO, an innovative train-the-clinicians, video conferencing, tele-mentoring platform.
Conduct maternal care in rural areas gap analysis	Identify gaps in maternity care by location and make recommendations for standardized data collection on maternal mortality and morbidity and activities to improve maternal care in rural areas.	(1) NMPC leads the state’s participation in the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM), a national, data-driven maternal safety and quality initiative. NMPC uses NM hospital AIM and MMRC process and outcome data to implement initiatives. (Hospital list on page 4). Care Assessment Tool (LoCATE) for all NM birthing hospitals. The web-based tool helps states and other jurisdictions create standardized assessments of levels of maternal and neonatal care.

*Rural Maternal and Obstetric Modernization of Services (MOMS) Act (U.S. Rep. Torres Small – NM)
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4243>

**Reese, Abigail and Emma Gamelsky. NM can prevent childbirth deaths. Op-ed, Albuquerque Journal. (11/09/19)

NEW MEXICO IS GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Data collection application - In 2019, the state funded and strengthened the MMRC comprised of medical professionals, researchers and community stakeholders, led by the DOH. (See table opposite for more).

Systemic change, social determinants of health - The DOH and NMPC are working together to support broader health system issues and community improvements in the service of safe maternity care for all New Mexico families.

Access to long-acting reversible contraception - The NMPC is a core member of the state team participating in the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) Learning Communities for Increasing Access to Contraception.



- ASTHO advances expanding access to immediate postpartum long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) in hospitals statewide through training focused on the clinical skills and administrative processes necessary to implement this evidence-based option.
- Medicaid covers LARC during the hospital stay. Most New Mexico hospitals have not initiated postpartum LARC insertion.
- During the 2020 state legislative session, the legislature will consider two LARC related bills and funding for NMPC.

Opiate addiction treatment - The NMPC is leading an initiative to improve care to infants with Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS). Through site visits to educate local clinicians and annual meeting presentations, the NMPC intends to improve outcomes for babies by developing standardized structured guidelines for recognition and intervention.





Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health

NEW MEXICO PARTICIPATING BIRTHING HOSPITALS 2020

- CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center
- Cibola General Hospital
- Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center
- Gila Regional Medical Center
- Holy Cross Hospital
- Lincoln County Medical Center
- Lovelace Westside Hospital
- Lovelace Women's Hospital
- Mimbres Memorial Hospital
- Miners' Colfax Medical Center
- Presbyterian Hospital
- Presbyterian Santa Fe
- Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services
- San Juan Regional Medical Center
- Socorro General Hospital
- University of New Mexico Hospital



**New Mexico
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*The CDC defines the period of measurement for maternal health after childbirth as up to one year following delivery. Maternal death rates include mortality by a variety of causes including the direct (*i.e.*, complications of pregnancy), indirect (*e.g.*, the effect of pregnancy on a preexisting condition) and associated (*e.g.*, accidental death during this period). Maternal deaths are also classified as early (during pregnancy or within 42 days of delivery) and late (between 43 days and one year post-delivery).