



ERASE MM Strategic Plan: 2021-2024

The Next Three Years

In 2019, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) was awarded a five-year grant from the CDC through the Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality (ERASE MM) program. This funding supports DOH in improving our comprehensive review and identification of pregnancy-related deaths and identifying prevention opportunities.

This strategic plan specifically outlines the prevention activities that DOH and key stakeholders will focus on throughout the remainder of the grant period. These activities are based on recommendations given by the Washington State Maternal Mortality Review Panel in their most recent [Report to the Legislature](#).

Our plan involves a three-pronged approach that addresses systemic and community factors that contribute to maternal deaths. These prongs are clinical quality improvement, public health programming, and community-led solutions.

September 2021



Vision

Equity and optimal health for pregnant and parenting Washingtonians.



Mission

Improve identification of maternal deaths, reduce pregnancy-related complications, reduce disparities in health outcomes, and prevent deaths among pregnant and postpartum Washingtonians.



Values

Accessibility; Collaboration; Creativity; Data-Driven; Equity; Human-centeredness; Social Justice; Systems Focus

Goal 1: Conduct Quality Improvement in Clinical Health Care Settings

Objective 1: Through 2024, maintain partnership with the Washington State Hospital Association and support engagement with the Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Care (AIM).

Activity: In 2022, expand the AIM Opioid Bundle to additional hospitals in Washington. This includes training and support for the new Child Welfare portal/policy for the notification/report of infants exposed to substances, and training for Medicaid billing codes.

Activity: Through 2024, continue providing technical assistance and coaching for AIM hospitals.

Objective 2: By 2023, finalize guidelines for the maternal care of women with a high body mass index.

Activity: By April 2022, review all feedback and finalize guidelines.

Activity: Through October 2024, distribute guidelines to clinical providers across the state and provide technical assistance and coaching.

Objective 3: Through 2024, continue presenting and providing technical assistance for the requirements for maternal death autopsy reporting.

Activity: Through October 2024, respond to inquiries about reporting guidelines and present, as asked, to hospitals, birth centers, and county death investigation offices.

Objective 4: Through 2024, raise awareness of the national Maternal Levels of Care certification for hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission.

Activity: By January 2022, begin promoting the national Maternal Level of Care certification offered by the Joint Commission and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).

Objective 5: By January 2023, expand the Centers of Excellence for Perinatal Substance Use to all birthing hospitals.

Activity: By November 2021, begin pilot program with hospitals currently enrolled in the AIM Opioid Bundle.

Activity: Through December 2022, conduct quality improvement activities and begin opening the program to all birthing hospitals.

Goal 2: Build Capacity of Community-Based Organizations

Objective 1: Release request for proposals (RFP) to support community-based networks, groups, and organizations. The funding will support grantees by increasing their organizational resources and abilities to provide culturally responsive services for pregnant and postpartum individuals.

Activity: Through 2022, fund organizations to increase awareness and clinical training for maternal mental health.

Activity: Through 2024, explore funding opportunities to address social determinants of health, structural racism, provider biases, and other social inequities.

Goal 3: Implement Population-level Public Health Initiatives

Objective 1: By October 2022, conduct a listening session with the American Indian Health Commission to learn about tribal perceptions and experiences around maternal mortality and gaps in perinatal health services.

Activity: By January 2023, include recommendations into the MMRP legislative report.

Activity: By October 2024, implement at least one recommended activity.

Objective 2: Collaborate with the DOH Injury Prevention Unit to increase maternal suicide awareness.

Activity: Yearly through 2024, distribute information about maternal suicide risk to statewide listserv.

Activity: By December 2022, create appendix to include in the State Suicide Action Plan.

Objective 3: By October 2022, finalize and disseminate the Maternal Behavioral Health Services Map to help create easier transitions into clinical and community services.

Activity: By April 2022, finalize gap analysis and map and begin distributing to statewide partners.



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