



Partnering to Address the Maternal Health Crisis: Public Health's Essential Role

Patricia McCorgray Tilley, Associate Commissioner

NHPQC Maternal Health Summit

May 1, 2025



Department of
**HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**



Three Truths From Today



Prevention Saves Lives



Data + Voices Show Us The Path Forward



Partnerships Are Everything



Lawmakers introduce ‘Momnibus 2.0’ bill to address maternal health in New Hampshire

BY: WILLIAM SKIPWORTH - FEBRUARY 20, 2025 5:00 AM



The Boston Globe
@BostonGlobe



‘Am I going to give birth on the side of the road?’ In rural NH, hospital closures lead to ‘maternity deserts.’

Opinion: Maternity deserts in rural New Hampshire are a growing crisis. The time to act is now.

BRADLEY: A Strong Partnership Between the State and Hospitals Benefits Everyone

Posted to [Healthcare](#) April 20, 2025 by [Jeb Bradley](#)

COMMENTARY

Federal policy choices in 2025 could impact state and local finances

NH’s Business: Hospitals continue to merge in NH -- What it means for patients & NH’s healthcare system?



NH Department of Health & Human Services



Updated: 8:56 AM EST Dec 1, 2024

White House Assesses Ways to Persuade Women to Have More Children

Baby bonuses and menstrual cycle classes are among the ideas pitched to Trump aides as they consider plans to try boosting the birthrate.

‘It hits government too’: With cuts on the horizon, here’s what to know about New Hampshire’s next budget cycle

HEALTH

U.S. pregnancy-related deaths continuing to rise

Study researcher says nation, which leads high-income peers in maternal mortality, needs better prenatal, extended postpartum care

Anna Gibbs | Harvard Correspondent

Birthrates Languish in Record Lows, C.D.C. Reports

Despite a 1 percent increase in 2024, U.S. birthrates remained in a historic slump, a trend that worries demographers and cultural critics.

Public Health

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graph TD; PH((Public Health)) --> SDA[Surveillance & Data Analysis]; PH --> CCDP[Communicable & Chronic Disease Prevention]; PH --> PRA[Policy and Regulatory Authority]; PH --> C[Communication]; PH --> FRT[Fatality Review Teams]; PH --> HVSF[Home Visiting & Family Support]; PH --> SW[Skilled Workforce]; PH --> EH[Environmental Health]; PH --> BHL[Behavioral Health Linkages]; PH --> HAA[Healthcare Access & Affordability]; PH --> EP[Emergency Preparedness]; PH --> LRP[Local & Regional Partnerships]; HP[Health Promotion] --> PH; HR[Harm Reduction] --> PH;
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Surveillance &
Data Analysis

Communicable &
Chronic Disease
Prevention

Policy and Regulatory
Authority

Communication

Fatality Review
Teams

Home Visiting &
Family Support

Skilled
Workforce

Environmental
Health

Behavioral
Health
Linkages

Healthcare
Access &
Affordability

Emergency
Preparedness

Local & Regional
Partnerships

Health
Promotion

Harm
Reduction



NH Department of Health & Human Services

Our Commitment To You (and with you)



Align Prevention Efforts



Centralize Places to Call for Help



Scale Helpful Services



Coordinate Expert Care



Strengthen Maternal Health Policies



Measure Progress



Because pregnant individuals in New Hampshire are most vulnerable to poor outcomes due to...



**Mental health and
substance use**

&



**General
healthcare**

Source: Surgo Health, Maternal Vulnerability Index (MVI), 2024. <https://mvi.surgoventures.org>



Together We Are Maintaining Our Focus



Improve first
trimester entry
into prenatal care

Increase
postpartum
depression
screening

Reduce maternal
death from
overdose

Increase the use of
Plans of Safe Care
(POSC)



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New Hampshire Moms Need Us To Work Together

Create Trust

- Counter unpredictability with the predictability of our commitment to partnership and improved maternal health

Keep Telling the Story of Where We Are Going

- Our common vision, fueled by the experience of New Hampshire moms, enables us to keep going and absorb the stress of uncertainty

Increase Honesty and Transparency

- Express confidence within our teams and with each other in our ability to meet the future, no matter what it holds

Frame Uncertainty as Opportunity

- Instead of fearing uncertainty, see it as a chance to explore new work and rethink existing approaches



Resist The Urge To See Everything As a Technical Problem

Technical Problems

- The problem and solution are clear
- Can be solved with current expertise
- We have everything you need to solve it
- We can expect to get it right the first time

Adaptive Challenges

- The problem and solutions are complex
- **We need partners to get it right**
- Requires changing priorities and/or beliefs
- We won't get it right the first time.

**Together We Are Building Bridges
Between Communities and Care**



We can do and be so much for each other—but only when we see one another in our full humanity, not as statistics or problems, but as people who deserve to be alive in the world. – John Green



Thank you.
We can't wait to get to work.

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