



Tuesday, January 23 is **Maternal Health Awareness Day**. Thank you for joining with the Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative to improve care and outcomes for Ohio mothers and families. We also recognize [The Ohio Council to Advance Maternal Health](#) and its ongoing work to address maternal health throughout the state of Ohio.



Join OPQC and EMPOWER for “Together for Better Care” Webinar Series

OPQC and the EMPOWER Project invite you to join our

“Together for Better Care” webinar series, with the first session on **January 24 at 1 p.m.** - *“Impact of Stigma on Perinatal Patients with Substance Use Disorder: Recommendations for Moving Forward.”*

The “Together for Better Care” webinar series will highlight patient, clinical and research strategies to support perinatal patients with substance use disorder.

[Register now](#) for this initial webinar on January 24, marking the beginning of series that promises valuable insights and resources.

[Register Today!](#)



2023 Reflections and Newsletter Highlights

January

We reviewed the Ohio Eliminating Disparities in Infant Mortality Task Force [report](#) which addressed key issues affecting infant mortality and identified [recommendations](#).

February

We [highlighted](#) a publication focused on understanding the healthcare experiences of Black families, and provided actionable strategies.

May

For Maternal Mental Health month, we shared resources from [Ohio POEM \(Perinatal Outreach and Encouragement for Moms\)](#) and the [CDC](#).

June

The [AIM statewide Maternal Safety hypertension work](#) was published, describing the successful efforts of Ohio maternity care hospitals to ensure safe care for birthing people with hypertension and eclampsia.

OPQC wrapped up the **Maternal Infant Dyad Pilot Project**, funded by the Ohio Department of Medicaid. This pilot with seven expert maternity care teams highlighted best practices, as well as the opportunities and barriers of providing care for the dyad of the mom with OUD and her infant during the first year postpartum.

July

OPQC participated in SAMSHA Roundtable, Addressing the Needs of Pregnant and Parenting People with Substance Use.

The NOWS Family Guide: [Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome: A Guide for Families](#), originally created during the Ohio Department of Medicaid [NAS Project](#) was updated with guidance and collaboration from the EMPOWER moms group and subject matter experts in Ohio.

September

We highlighted National Recovery Month and a brief video featuring [EMPOWER Moms](#) who shared powerful narratives about what recovery meant to them.

The Ohio Department of Health released the Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review report which noted *unintentional overdose as the leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths*. We developed the [OPQC Narcan Navigation Resource](#) as a practical tool that clinicians can use to equip families with information and resources.

October

October marked the launch of the [Compassionate, Accountable, Respectful, Equitable Care Learning Community](#), an initiative aligned with the Joint Commission health equity safety standard. This pilot effort, undertaken in collaboration with the Ohio Departments of Health and Children and Youth and with the Ohio Hospital Association, involves 12 maternity care teams and 1 neonatal/fetal team in testing measurable strategies that address disparities.

December

The year concluded with OPQC participation at the **National Network of Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (NNPQC)** Annual Meeting and the invitational Maternal Health meeting at the IHI Institute for Healthcare Annual Forum. OPQC presented on Ohio efforts to improve perinatal care for SUD/OD, maternal mental health, and health equity.

OPQC extends sincere gratitude to our clinical partners and state colleagues.

In 2024, we anticipate additional opportunities for collaboration and learning to improve perinatal healthcare and outcomes.

Wishing you a wonderful 2024!

Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative

