



# Association of State and Territorial Health Officials: Maternal and Child Health Portfolio

Christi Mackie, Vice President, Community Health and Prevention



# Our Company

---

ASTHO is a nonpartisan organization and the collective voice of the nation's chief health officials. Its members are the chief health officials of the 59 states, territories, and Freely Associated States, as well as Washington, D.C.

ASTHO's members are responsible for:

- Formulating and influencing public health policy within their jurisdictions, in collaboration with the state legislature, governor, and other public health professionals.
- Assuring excellence in state and territorial based public health practice.
- Providing public health and health expertise to their elected officials.
- Advancing health equity and optimal health for all.





# Presentation Overview



01

ASTHO's Maternal and  
Child Health Portfolio

02

State Health Official  
Priorities

03

Future Opportunities

# ASTHO's Maternal and Child Health Portfolio

**Our Impact:** Advance equitable access to services and care for maternal and child health populations through dissemination of best practices, peer-to-peer connections among health agencies, and fostering cross-collaboration among community, state, national, and federal partners.

# ASTHO MCH Portfolio

## Family and Child Health

---

### **Linking PRAMS and Clinical Outcomes Data Multi-Jurisdiction Learning Community (CDC)**

- ASTHO provides technical support and capacity building expertise to 12 state health agencies in linking PRAMS data to preexisting sets of clinical or social data, including vital records, birth certificates, or home visiting.

### **Data Roadmap for Racial Equity Advancement in Maternal and Child Health (DREAM) Learning Community (CDC)**

- ASTHO supports state MCH programs in building internal capacity to collect, analyze, disseminate, and use data to address issues of racial equity. The project activities center around the adaptation of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) [Racial Equity Data Road Map](#).

### **Contraception Access Learning Community (Arnold Ventures)**

- ASTHO provides strategic direction, project management, and technical assistance to support state teams to increase access to contraception through a variety of strategies including implementing pharmacist prescribed contraceptive models, increase access to telehealth to deliver contraceptive care, and improved billing and coding systems for Title X clinics.

# ASTHO MCH Portfolio

## Maternal and Infant Health

---

### **Promoting Innovation in State and Territorial MCH Policymaking (PRISM) Learning Community (HRSA)**

- ASTHO provides technical support and capacity building expertise to build state and territorial health agency program and policy-making capacity to address substance use and co-occurring mental health conditions in maternal and child health (MCH) populations and identifies key strategies to improve access to person-centered treatment and care.

### **Breastfeeding Learning Community (CDC)**

- The Breastfeeding State Learning Community supports jurisdictions in improving breastfeeding disparity rates and promoting health equity through 1) increasing practices supportive of breastfeeding in birthing facilities; 2) improving access to professional and peer support for breastfeeding and 3) ensuring workplace compliance with the federal lactation accommodation law.

### **Risk-Appropriate Care Learning Community (CDC)**

- Through the RAC learning Community, ASTHO brings together experts to address gaps in knowledge and advance neonatal and maternal levels of care. ASTHO works with state and territorial health agencies, and other expertise to implement the CDC Levels of Care Assessment Tool (LOCATe), and develop policy and regulation.



# State Health Official Priorities

# S/T Official Priorities

## Youth Mental and Social Wellbeing

- Early childhood development, including adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- Expand community-based opportunities
- Increase community- and school-based screening services

## Maternal/ Infant Morbidity and Mortality

- Increase prenatal screening for pregnancy risk factors
- Build hospital and birthing center capacity
- Improve coordination and continuum of perinatal care and support

## Racial and Socioeconomic Inequities in Perinatal Outcomes

- Diversify and develop culturally competent infant and maternal health workforce
- Culturally appropriate perinatal care options
- Improve perinatal care quality and coordination
- Increase resources to support maternal mental and behavioral health needs



# Future Opportunities

# Future Opportunities 2

## **Zero-Three Nutrition Security**

ASTHO can support State and Territorial Health Agencies in developing and implementing equitable early childhood plans, projects, and policies through the provision of specialized technical assistance and fostering state-to-state, inter-agency, and state-community collaboration.

## **Maternal Morbidity and Mortality**

ASTHO is well positioned to create and foster relationships between state and territorial health agencies and community-based organizations to implement policies and practices supportive of maternal health. ASTHO can leverage current successful project models and previous work including risk-appropriate care, access to contraception, and PRAMS.





# Future Opportunities 2

## **Supporting Community Partners**

Community-led approaches, Place-based initiatives, Workforce development, Data-driven mechanisms, and Finance systems. By exploring these areas as an integrated web instead of siloed operating functions, public health agencies can work towards fruitful partnerships with communities and intermediaries that can stretch the impact of projects and lead to long-term change.

## **Continuing to address polysubstance use among pregnant people**

Support pregnant and postpartum women with opioid use disorder and infants prenatally exposed to opioids. Plans of Safe Care, expanding access to medications for opioid use disorder for pregnant and postpartum women, and using family-centered programs to treat opioid use disorder







# Questions

Contact Information: [cmackie@astho.org](mailto:cmackie@astho.org)