

# Understanding Why Women Die During Pregnancy and Childbirth

**PROJECT NAME:** The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP)'s *Every Mother Initiative*

**GEOGRAPHIC AREA:** 12 states (Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah)

**SCALE:** Lessons from the *Every Mother Initiative* will benefit more than 1.3 million pregnant women

**TIMEFRAME:** May 2013 – April 2016



## STRENGTHENING STATE-BASED MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEWS TO IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH IN THE U.S.

AMCHP is working with 12 states to strengthen their maternal mortality surveillance and review processes to better understand why women are dying during pregnancy and childbirth. During the maternal mortality review process, multi-disciplinary teams of physicians, nurses, public health leaders and others convene to discuss the complex circumstances surrounding a woman's death related to or associated with pregnancy or childbirth. Maternal death reviews are uncovering trends in maternal mortality to support health providers, public health programs and policymakers in developing population- and facility-based interventions to improve maternal health. The *Every Mother Initiative* has four key features:



### Collecting data

AMCHP helps states learn from one another about the best way to collect clinical and non-clinical information on individual maternal mortality cases. States receive technical assistance on aggregating data, identifying trends in causes of death and contributing factors, and maintaining a well-functioning maternal mortality review board.



### Quality improvement activities

AMCHP engages national experts and uses a peer learning format to 1) help states translate findings from maternal death reviews into concrete activities that improve the quality of perinatal care in communities and hospitals and 2) inform population-based interventions that states can implement.



### Peer learning

Participating states learn from one another and other experts on how to use data from reviews to identify trends, understand why women are dying during pregnancy and childbirth, and implement strategies to prevent future deaths.



### Institutionalize maternal mortality reviews

Given that only about half the states in the U.S. have a review board in place, findings from this project will help states initiate, implement, and integrate maternal death reviews as an ongoing state-level public health function. The project will disseminate tools for strengthening reviews to maternal health leaders in all 50 states.

For more information and an update on progress, visit [www.msdfornthers.com](http://www.msdfornthers.com) and [www.amchp.org](http://www.amchp.org).