



State Legislatures Efforts to Reduce Infant and Maternal Mortality

ACIMM Meeting

June 14, 2023

Tahra Johnson, MPH
Director, Health Program





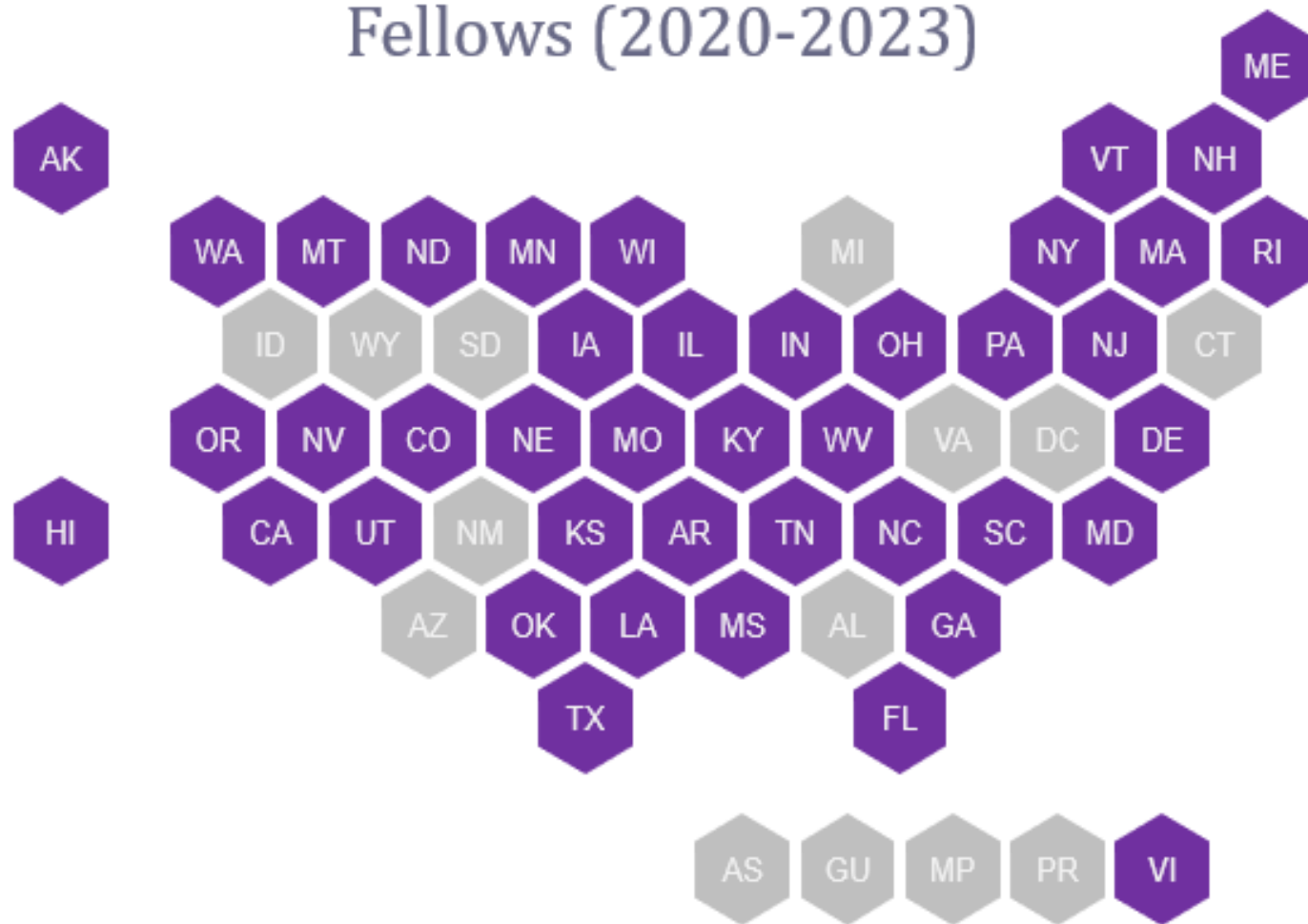
About NCSL



- Bipartisan membership organization
 - All 50 states, District of Columbia and U.S. territories
 - 7,386 legislators
 - All legislative staff (30,000+)
- Goals:
 - To improve the quality & effectiveness of legislatures
 - To promote policy innovation and communication among legislatures
 - To ensure states, DC and territories a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system
- Research, education, technical assistance
- Voice of the states, D.C. and territories in the federal system



NCSL Maternal and Child Health Fellows (2020-2023)



NCSL Maternal and Child Health Fellows (2020-2023)



Legislative Priorities for Maternal and Infant Health



Maternal Care Workforce

- Evaluating and providing coverage of doula services
- Requiring or offering bias training for providers



Maternal Mortality

- Increasing access to maternal health care
- Reviewing recommendations from MMRCs



Maternal Mental Health

- Increasing access to mental health screenings
- Implementing teleconsultation for pregnant and postpartum women



Infant Mortality

- Providing educational programs or materials to new parents
- Increasing access to care in rural communities



Newborn Screening

- Funding early childhood screening
- Updating disorders on newborn screening panel

Legislative Examples to Address Maternal and Infant Mortality

Access to Care

- [Mississippi](#) (2023) extended Medicaid coverage to twelve months postpartum.
- [New York](#) (2021) covers remote patient monitoring for prenatal and postpartum care if recommended by a physician.

Maternal Care Workforce

- [Louisiana](#) (2021) required insurers to cover state licensed midwifery care, incl. CNMs and certified professional midwives.
- [Delaware](#) (2021) required bias and competency training for healthcare workers and (2022) [expanded](#) access to doulas.

Awareness and Education

- [Oklahoma](#) (2022) required perinatal providers to provide certain education resources to pregnant individuals.
- [Texas](#) (2023) recognizes September 23, 2023, as Fourth Trimester Care Day.

Review Committees

- [North Carolina](#) (2022) required their maternal mortality review committee to include community representation.
- [Florida](#) (2022) required the Department of Health to contract additional fetal and infant mortality review committees in all regions of the state.



Reach Out Anytime!



Tahra Johnson, MPH

Director, Health Program

Email: tahra.johnson@ncsl.org

Phone: 720.447.3775

Web: www.ncsl.org



Legislative Database: [Maternal and Child Health](#)

Policy Brief: [State Approaches to Ensuring Healthy Pregnancies Through Prenatal Care](#)

Policy Brief: [Preventing Infant and Maternal Mortality: State Policy Options](#)

Podcast: [CDC and States Working to Reduce Maternal Mortality](#)

Webinar: [Saving Moms: Strategies to Reduce Maternal Mortality in the U.S.](#)

Webinar: [State Policies on Midwives and Doulas](#)

