



2024

Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative Annual Report Executive Summary

The Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative (VNPC) was recognized in 2017 as the 42nd state perinatal quality collaborative (PQC) to improve maternal and infant health outcomes for all pregnant and parenting people, their families, and their infants.

The VNPC's mission aims to ensure that every pregnant and parenting person has the best possible perinatal care and that every infant across Virginia is cared for in a way that gives them the best possible start to their lives. To accomplish this, the VNPC utilizes an evidence-based, data-driven collaborative process that brings together pregnant people and their families, maternal health providers, and state leadership to iteratively strengthen maternal health practices across a wide range of metrics. This report details the work that the VNPC completed in 2024.

Over the past eight years, the VNPC has worked towards developing a foundation for key health metrics, advocating for policy, and working towards a collaborative perinatal and infant care system across the state. In 2024 alone, the VNPC:

- ✓ Gathered service data on the majority of hospitals within Virginia to aid in classifying their level of care
- ✓ Launched funding to support community organizations that provide maternal care across the state
- ✓ Developed a task force to create a statewide strategic plan for maternal health
- ✓ Created an Emerging Leaders workgroup for future maternal and infant healthcare providers to foster a greater understanding of care needs
- ✓ Through federal grant funding in partnership with Urban Baby Beginnings expanded maternal health hubs, by creating infrastructure, workforce competencies, and data collection

Strategic Priorities for 2023-2026

The VNPC developed a strategic plan to guide their work for 2023-2026. This plan identified four major priority areas:

1 Respectful Care Ensure all those who are pregnant or have been pregnant and their families receive quality care reflective of their needs and desires before, during, and after pregnancy	2 Communities Strengthen relationships and build trust to engage diverse communities, that reflect the pregnant/parenting populations in the work of the Collaborative	3 Data Increase access, understanding, and utilization of perinatal and infant care data	4 Communication Share a vision of success that mobilizes our community to action and change
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2024 Projects

The VNPC has established many projects that work toward the goal of improving the health of those who are pregnant or have recently been pregnant and infants throughout the Commonwealth.

Project LOCATe (Levels of Care Assessment Tool)

Because definitions and monitoring levels of care vary widely among states, the CDC has developed LOCATe (Levels of Care Assessment tool), a web-based tool to help birthing hospitals and newborn care units to self-assess their levels of maternal and neonatal care. Hospitals also receive an additional assessment from the CDC. The VNPC is facilitating Project LOCATe with VHHA across the Commonwealth.

The VNPC used the results of the 2023 LOCATe assessment to further collaborate with hospitals and increase awareness of and access to care across the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Turn the Page

The Turn the Page project focuses on collecting stories of when birthing people overcame challenges or received exceptional support during their journey with the maternal health system and then shares those stories on social media. These stories serve to lead by example and provide ways to improve the maternal health system in the state. The VNPC has a total of 1,097 views across all Turn the Page stories on their YouTube Channel.



Project SMILE (Supporting Maternal mental health through Initiatives, Learning and Engagement)

Project SMILE, which is a component of an overarching project called Project EMBRACE, is a data-driven quality improvement project that works with birthing facilities to implement programming for the perinatal mental health needs for their facilities and populations. Birthing facilities can choose the focus of their educational programming based on the needs of their community. The goal of the project is to improve outcomes related to perinatal mental health.

The VNPC is gathering baseline data on perinatal mental health, including whether patients received or were referred to treatment, as well as provider and nursing education.



Eliminating Bias in the Dyad Care (EBDC)

Eliminating Bias in the Dyad Care (EBDC) is a quality improvement (QI) project that will focus on improving outcomes for Virginia's pregnant and parenting families and infants impacted by substance use disorder.

The Eliminating Bias in the Dyad Care (EBDC) project is currently in the pilot planning phase for implementation in January 2025!



Late Pre-Term Quality Improvement (QI) Project

The Late Pre-Term QI Project seeks to identify practices across NICUs and Newborn nurseries in the Commonwealth to develop standards of care and best practices for infants.

Preliminary data show that late preterm birth rates are rising in recent years. In 2018, the preterm birth rate was 67.69 late preterm births per 1,000 live births and in July 2024 it was 73.76.

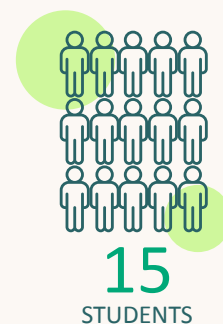
LATE PRETERM BIRTHS
PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS



VNPC Emerging Leaders Workgroup

The Emerging Leaders Workgroup seeks to assist in establishing the next generation of perinatal and infant healthcare leaders through hands-on experience with the VNPC's many initiatives.

The first cohort was made up of more than 15 undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students across 4 schools: University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Chamberlain University and University of North Texas.



VNPC Community Fund

The VNPC Community Fund provides funds to support local organizations engaging in improvements to maternal and infant health across the Commonwealth. Each organization that receives funds gets up to \$2,500 to focus on building sustainable programming.

Ten organizations were awarded funding in the first round and the VNPC will grant funds twice a year moving forward.



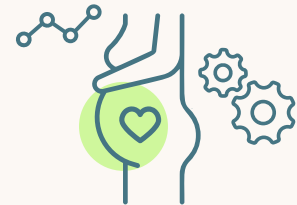
\$2,500
PER ORGANIZATION

10
ORGANIZATIONS

Virginia Maternal Health Task Force Environmental Scan

The Virginia Maternal Health Task Force [Environmental Scan](#) provides an overview of maternal and infant health trends to support the Maternal Health Task Force's mission to create a strategic plan for maternal health across Virginia.

The environmental scan report provides detailed insights into maternal health before, during, and after pregnancy, infant health, and access to care, as well as highlighting maternal-care deserts around the state.

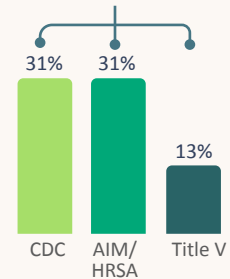


PQC Structure & Funding Assessment

The PQC Structure and Funding Assessment provides clarity surrounding PQCs across the United States offering a greater understanding of their funding, structures, and goals in an effort to strengthen PQC support across the country.

One interesting finding is that, on average, PQCs tend to have 3 funding sources. Federal funding sources make up most of PQC funding. The CDC funds 31% of PQCs, followed by Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health/HRSA (31%), and Title V (13%).

PERINATAL QUALITY CARE FUNDING SOURCES

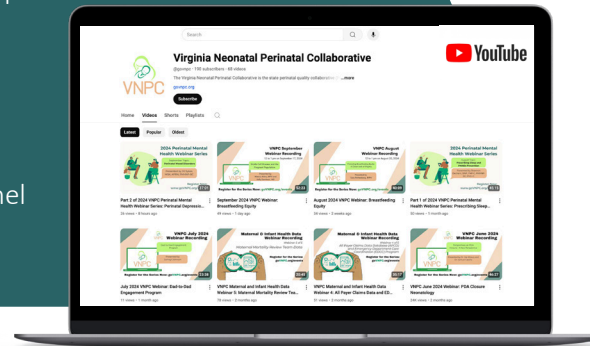


Key Events

Monthly Webinars

The VNPC holds a webinar on the third Tuesday of every month to provide additional information and education opportunities for providers around the state. Topics are determined in collaboration with providers to ensure they are as useful as possible.

All webinars are recorded and put on the VNPC YouTube channel to watch again or if missed during the live presentation.



Topic List for 2024 Webinars

- JAN** Perinatal Mental Health Fundamentals for the Practicing Clinician
- MAR** Harm Reduction Model of Care for Women Experiencing Substance Use Disorders
- APR** Evidence of Racial Disparities in Hospital Delivery Data (VNPC) and the Impact of Doulas (DMAS)
- MAY** Stress Injury & Trauma Informed Care for L&D Patients
- JUN** Perspectives in PDA Closure – A Neo Perspective
- JUL** Dad-to-Dad Engagement Program
- SEP** Sickle Cell Disease and the Pregnant Population
- OCT** Impact of Breast Cancer on Pregnancy
- NOV** The Virginia Prison Birth Project



In addition to the monthly webinar series, in 2024, the VNPC hosted additional topic specific series throughout the year.

VNPC 2SLGBTQIA+ Competency Series

The series was made up of the following sessions:

- 2SLGBTQIA+ 101
- Queer Fertility & Family Planning
- Advanced Mental Health Considerations for 2SLGBTQIA+ Families
- Intersectionality and Queer Identity of Families


5
PART SERIES


104
ATTENDEES

VNPC Maternal and Infant Health Data Series

The series was made up of the following sessions:

- Maternal Health Dashboard
- Queer Fertility & Family Planning
- Navigating State-level Data to Support Maternal Health
- All Payer Claims Data Database (APCD) and Emergency Department Care Coordination (EDCC) Program
- Maternal Mortality Review Team Data



5
PART SERIES


310
ATTENDEES

Perinatal Mental Health Safety Series

The series was made up of the following sessions:

- Prescribing Sleep and PMADs Prevention
- Perinatal Depression, Anxiety, and OCD
- Childbirth-Related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in the Perinatal Population
- Bipolar Disorder and Perinatal Psychosis
- Perinatal Psychiatric Safety Risk Assessment and Prevention in the Perinatal Period


5
PART SERIES


62
ATTENDEES
THUS FAR

Fifth Annual Day of Learning

The VNPC's Fifth Annual Day of Learning was held March 18th, 2024 at The Westin in Richmond, Virginia. The Conference's theme was "Connecting the Dots: Data to Action."


162
ATTENDEES


16
SPEAKERS


6
VENDORS

Eighth Annual VNPC Summit

The VNPC held its Eighth Annual Summit from October 20-21, 2024 in Wintergreen, Virginia. The summit continued the VNPC's theme for 2024 by focusing on "Connecting the Dots: Action to Outcome." This year's Summit brought together experts, advocates, and community members to discuss key issues and data surrounding perinatal and infant health. Attendees learned about the findings of the VNPC's projects and identified ways in which these learnings could inform ongoing and future healthcare practices in Virginia.


130+
ATTENDEES



Infrastructure Changes

In the seven years since the VNPC was established, the VNPC has been successful in increasing funding, expanding program offerings, and growing its staff. The VNPC welcomed a new Communications Manager, Terrance Dixon, and worked with over 15 undergraduate, masters, and doctoral students for its inaugural VNPC Emerging Leaders Workgroup.



Terrance Dixon,
Communications Manager

Funding

The VNPC has been awarded several high-profile grants to help them further their mission. These include:

 \$250,000


The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Perinatal Quality Collaborative grant which provides approximately \$250,000 per year over five years. This grant seeks to support activities that strengthen PQCs and improve perinatal outcomes.

 \$50,000

The CDC Foundation Grant Award which provides \$50,000 to implement quality improvement activities fostering respectful maternal care.

 \$173,233

HRSA Supplemental Funding provides an additional \$173,233 to support efforts to educate providers on Medicaid eligibility and enrollment from pregnancy through post-partum.

 \$7,500,000

The HRSA Maternal Health Innovation Grant which provides a total of \$7,500,000 over five years and seeks to support efforts to foster an inclusive and diverse workforce, drive innovation in maternal health, and enhance state-level resources in data surveillance and maternal health.



Legislation

Executive Order 32

Signed in June 2024, Executive Order 32: Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures, sought to re-establish a task force focused on evaluating and improving data collected on maternal health for the purposes of improving maternal healthcare across the Commonwealth. The VNPC's Executive Director has been directed to participate in the re-convening of the task force and will play an active role in strengthening maternal health data across the Commonwealth.

H.B. 831

H.B. 831: Expanding the Composition and Scope of Work of the Maternal Mortality Review Team. Introduced in January 2024, this bill sought to expand the participants on the Maternal Mortality Review Team (MMRT) and outline the MMRT's expansion plan for data collection and review, as well as the development and implementation of their recommendations.

Looking Forward

In 2024, the VNPC broadened its reach and support for pregnant and parenting individuals, as well as infants, across the Commonwealth through enhanced infrastructure, new projects, events, and community partnerships. The VNPC has also examined policies and structures to identify areas of improvement and plans to further expand its efforts in 2025.

