



Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series

Feb 2021 CCSS: Emerging Priorities in Women's Health

S07: Updates on Select Defense Health Agency (DHA) Women and Infant Clinical Community (WICC) Initiatives

Resource List – February 2021

The greatest burden of death and disability among women is attributable to non-communicable diseases (NCDs), most notably cardiovascular diseases, cancers, respiratory diseases, diabetes, dementia, depression and musculoskeletal disorders. Therefore, to improve the health of women most efficiently, adequate resources must be allocated to the prevention, management and treatment of NCDs in women. [Women's Health: A New Global Agenda](#) published in 2016, increases the awareness of the diseases that impact woman's health and promotes a life course approach to addressing these issues in a more deliberate, systematic way.

In the United States more money is spent on childbirth than in any other country in the world. However, the outcomes for women and children in the U.S. are far worse than other high-resource countries, and even worse for Black and Native American women. A variety of factors influence childbirth, including social determinants such as income, educational levels, access to care, financing, transportation, structural racism and geographic variability in birth settings. [Birth Settings in America: Outcomes, Quality, Access and Choice 2020](#), offers an alternative approach to maternal and infant health from the varying disciplines that support this vulnerable population.

[CDC's Division of Reproductive Health](#) in 2019 provides scientific leadership in the promotion of women's health and infant health before, during, and after pregnancy. In addition, the CDC works to reduce disease and death among mothers and their babies, by paying special attention to reducing racial and ethnic differences in these health outcomes. Return to this CDC site to learn more about maternal and infant health topics and the current CDC initiatives in place to address these issues.

Addressing inequalities that affect health outcomes is fundamental to ensuring all women have access to respectful and high-quality maternity care. In 2020, [The World Health Organizations Maternal Health \(WHO\) website](#) provides an overview, a review of the impact and the WHO's attempt to decrease and eradicate the inequalities in health outcomes for woman and infants around the globe.

[The VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Pregnancy](#) published in 2018 provides clear and comprehensive evidence based recommendations incorporating current information and practices for practitioners throughout the DoD and VA Health Care systems. The guideline is intended to improve patient outcomes and local management of patients who are pregnant.

Established in 1990 in response to congressional, scientific and advocacy concerns, [The NIH Office of Research on Women's Health \(ORWH\)](#) began to research the many aspects of women's health, from menstrual irregularities to infertility and from pregnancy to menopause. Currently, this site features a plethora of resources and initiatives centered on women's health issue. Return to this site and read the first newsletter and join the conversation to discuss cutting edge research and treatment in women's health.



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