

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**CMQCC**  
California Maternal  
Quality Care Collaborative

# Mission

The California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative is a multi-stakeholder organization committed to ending preventable morbidity, mortality and racial disparities in California maternity care.



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# Note from Leadership

The California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC) has been focused on improving the quality of maternity care for California's mothers since 2006. In 2022, CMQCC enhanced its quality improvement resources and captured new opportunities to re-envision how to improve maternal outcomes and reduce the alarming disparities in maternal care.

CMQCC's successes are only possible due to its robust partnerships. We are grateful to all of our partners for their support of every initiative, project, and effort mentioned in this annual report. We are stronger because of our collaboration of diverse stakeholders - from patients, community organizations hospitals, providers, payors, funders, and many more. In a state where nearly 450,000 babies are born annually, it takes many voices and all available hands and minds to achieve sustainable results.



2022 presented opportunities to restart efforts paused during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In the years prior to the pandemic, California saw maternal mortality rates decline by 65 percent between 2006 to 2016. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the trajectory of those rates changed. While California continued to be a national leader in innovative maternal health quality improvement efforts, CMQCC needed to renew pre-pandemic programs and adjust to the strain of the healthcare workforce and turnover in hospitals.



Throughout the year, CMQCC gathered again in person, refocused its efforts, reconnected with partners, and began to rebuild momentum with new funding and renewed energy.

CMQCC's newest initiatives, such as the Low Dose Aspirin Partnership Campaign and the Postpartum Redesign, continued to make progress in 2022 and we advanced new strategies to integrate patient voice and work closer with community organizations. We added new hospital members and now receive data on nearly all births in California. Plus, as our Annual Quality & Engagement Awards demonstrated, hospitals are increasing engagement and earned more awards than ever for 2022's work.



Looking ahead, we are poised to expand our impact and partnership to benefit all moms and babies. We look forward to working with our partners across California and beyond on new and innovative initiatives to meet our mission.

**Leslie Kowalewski**

Executive Director

Perinatal Outcomes Collaborative

**Jeff Gould, M.D., M.P.H.**

Principal Investigator

Medical Director (Acting)

# 2022

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## Key Metrics

**25,000**

Maternal Quality  
Improvement  
Toolkit  
Downloads

**132 K**

CMQCC.org  
Website Visits

**121**

California  
Hospitals  
Awarded for  
Engagement &  
Quality

**17**

Educational  
Webinars

**217**

Hospital members  
representing  
99% of  
California births

**40**

Hospitals  
graduated from  
the Quality  
Improvement  
Academy



# Awards

CMQCC recognized more than one hundred California hospitals for their accomplishments in Calendar Year 2022 during its third annual **CMQCC Quality and Engagement Awards** ceremony. Awardees are recognized for having the highest levels of engagement with CMQCC's quality improvement tools and programs.

Each of the Quality and Engagement Award recipients is part of CMQCC's community of 217 member hospitals, accounting for 99% of births in California. Below is an overview of the three categories for this year's CMQCC awards and all California hospitals that received awards are listed on the following page. More details about the awards are available at [cmqcc.org/awards](http://cmqcc.org/awards):

- **Early Implementers Awards** - Acknowledge hospitals that implemented a new Maternal Data Center (MDC) measure or feature.
- **Quality and Sustainability Awards** - Recognize hospitals' quality and sustainability efforts in three distinct areas: QI Academy and Collaborative Hospitals, Maternal Safety Standards Implementation, and NTSV Cesarean Birth Rate (PC-02).
- **Superstar Awards** - Acknowledge hospitals that exhibited high levels of engagement in the MDC (awarded by delivery volumes: Small, Medium, and Large).

## 2022 Awards at a Glance



## Congratulations to the CMQCC Quality and Engagement Award Winners

- Adventist Health and Rideout
- Adventist Health Bakersfield
- Adventist Health Clear Lake
- Adventist Health Glendale
- Adventist Health Lodi Memorial
- Adventist Health Simi Valley
- Adventist Health Ukiah Valley
- Alta Bates
- Anaheim Regional
- Antelope Valley Medical Center
- Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
- Bakersfield Memorial Hospital
- Banner Lassen Medical Center
- Barton Memorial Hospital
- Clovis Community Medical Center
- Community Memorial Hospital
- Community Regional
- Contra Costa Regional
- Corona Regional Medical Center
- CPMC-Van Ness
- Desert Valley Hospital
- Doctors Medical Center of Modesto
- Eden Medical Center
- Eisenhower Medical Center
- El Camino - Los Gatos
- El Camino - Mountain View
- Emanuel Medical Center
- Enloe Medical Center
- French Hospital Medical Center
- Garfield Medical Center
- Good Samaritan-Los Angeles (PIH Health)
- Good Samaritan-San Jose
- Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital
- Hemet Global Medical Center
- Henry Mayo Newhall
- Highland Hospital
- Huntington Hospital
- Kaiser-Baldwin Park
- Kaiser-Downey
- Kaiser-Redwood City
- Kaiser-San Francisco
- Kaiser-San Leandro
- Kaiser-South Sacramento
- Kaiser-Vacaville
- Kern Medical
- LAC / Olive View-UCLA Medical Center
- Loma Linda University Children's Hospital
- Lucile Packard-Stanford
- Mad River Community Hospital
- MarinHealth Medical Center
- Memorial Medical Center, Modesto
- Mercy Medical Center-Redding
- Methodist Hospital of Sacramento
- Miller Children's & Women's Hospital
- Mills Peninsula
- Mission Hospital
- MLK Community
- Natividad Medical Center
- Northern Inyo Hospital
- O'Connor Hospital
- Orange Coast Medical Center
- Palomar-Escondido
- Palomar-Poway
- Petaluma Valley Hospital
- PIH Health-Whittier
- Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Ctr.
- Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center
- Providence Little Company of Mary-Torrance
- Providence Saint Joseph
- Queen of the Valley-Napa
- Rancho Springs Medical Center
- Redlands Community Hospital
- Ridgecrest Regional Hospital
- Riverside University Medical Center
- Saddleback Medical Center
- Saint Agnes Medical Center
- Saint Louise Regional
- Salinas Valley Health
- San Gabriel Valley
- San Geronimo Memorial Hospital
- San Joaquin General Hospital
- Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
- Santa Paula Hospital
- Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital
- Scripps Memorial-Encinitas
- Scripps Memorial-La Jolla
- Scripps Mercy-Chula Vista
- Scripps Mercy-San Diego
- Sharp Grossmont Hospital
- Sharp Mary Birch Hospital
- St. Bernardine Medical Center
- St. Elizabeth Community Hospital
- St. Francis Medical Center
- St. Joseph Hospital, Eureka
- St. Joseph Hospital, Orange
- St. Jude Medical Center
- St. Mary-Apple Valley
- St. Mary-Long Beach
- Stanford-Valley Care-Pleasanton
- Sutter Health (SYSTEM)
- Sutter Coast
- Sutter Davis
- Sutter Delta
- Sutter Lakeside
- Sutter Sacramento
- Sutter Santa Cruz
- Sutter Santa Rosa
- Sutter Tracy
- Torrance Memorial Medical Center
- Tri-City Medical Center
- Twin Cities Community Hospital
- UC Irvine
- UC San Diego
- UCLA-Ronald Reagan
- UCLA-Santa Monica
- USC Verdugo Hills
- Ventura County Medical Center
- Washington Hospital
- Watsonville Community Hospital
- Woodland Memorial
- Zuckerberg San Francisco General

To learn more about the CMQCC Quality and Engagement Awards and view the hospital winners by category, please visit the [CMQCC Awards webpage](#).

### Next Year's Awards

The 2024 awards will be reflective of hospitals' accomplishments during Calendar Year 2023. Visit [cmqcc.org](http://cmqcc.org) for more details.

# 2022 Highlights

In 2022, CMQCC continued to build projects and initiatives that improve maternal outcomes relying on its four pillars: Data, Education, Quality Improvement, and Partnerships. Below are key highlights of quality improvement programs, including efforts which expand our reach to outpatient care and increase patient and community engagement, while expanding support for respectful care and equity-centered obstetric care.



## Focused Maternal Mortality Findings

CMQCC continued to facilitate the Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (CA-PAMR) in partnership with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Public Health Institute. Statewide data on maternal mortality through 2020 can be found online through the CDPH website.

Current work of the CA-PAMR Committee includes statewide surveillance of pregnancy-related deaths and in-depth review of pregnancy-related deaths in four southern counties and COVID-19-related deaths. In-depth reviews utilize an equity lens to identify bias and racism contributors as well as social determinants of health. Analysis is underway from an in-depth review of maternal deaths due to hemorrhage. The reviews yield actionable data each year and CMQCC will continue to improve strategic communications and broadly disseminate the information and opportunities for improvement.



## Community Birth Partnership

CMQCC released an addendum to the Toolkit to Support Vaginal Birth and Reduce Primary Cesareans, originally released in 2016, thanks to generous funding from Yellow Chair Foundation and original funding from the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF).

The updated toolkit content provides additional evidence-based tools and resources to effectively integrate midwifery care and doula support into the hospital setting and how to best support those who transfer to the hospital from a community birth setting. The new Part V. The Next Step: Integrating Midwives, Doulas and Community-Based Care, emphasizes birth equity and team-based care to improve outcomes for all birthing people. This new content was developed by a task force of hospital and community-based midwives and doulas, along with a patient advocate, nurses, and physicians. Complete with its newly added chapter, the free toolkit is available for download after logging into CMQCC's website.

# 2022 Highlights

Advancing equity: CMQCC continues its pledge to work collaboratively with hospitals, patients, communities, and external partners to identify and promote best practices for equitable maternity care. Based on years of work with a five hospital pilot collaborative and statewide Birth Equity Task Force, CMQCC is launching tools to promote respectful care and equity.



## Learning Initiative with Equity Lens

With new five-year funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CMQCC will strengthen California's ongoing efforts to reduce cesareans in all low-risk pregnant patients by launching a statewide collaborative-like learning experience in Spring 2023. *The Learning Initiative for Supporting Vaginal Birth with an Equity Lens* will focus on reducing disparity gaps in low-risk cesareans with a goal of all patient groups reaching or exceeding the Healthy People 2030 target rate.

Curriculum for the Learning Initiative will follow the new *CMQCC Hospital Action Guide for Respectful and Equity-Centered Obstetric Care*.

The Pilot Birth Equity Collaborative, established in 2019, remain engaged and will participate as mentors and guest faculty for the Learning Initiative.

## Birth Equity Hospital Action Guide

CMQCC will release an *Hospital Action Guide for Respectful and Equity-Centered Obstetric Care* in the summer of 2023 to support the work of its member hospitals to improve respectful and equitable obstetric care. The Guide will cover topics such as examining current equity practices, collecting stratified data, patient reported experience opportunities, creating partnerships with community, and elevating patient voices.

Key learning objectives in the Action Guide articulate the drivers of inequities in maternal care and deepen understanding of how and why racism, discrimination and bias are contributing factors to maternal inequities.

## Culture of Equity Hospital Survey

CMQCC is fielding a Culture of Equity Survey to assist hospitals with gaining insight into the status of equity perspectives and efforts within their maternal care units and organizations.

The survey was deployed in pilot collaborative hospitals and will be available to all CMQCC member hospitals in fall 2023 following an analysis of pilot responses and lessons learned.

The survey will serve as a current measurement of unit equity perspectives and attitudes and as a benchmark comparison to track improvements in equitable and respectful practices.



# 2022 Highlights



## Maternal Data Center Enhancements

In its 10th year, the Maternal Data Center (MDC) continues to be an integral tool to drive the quality improvement work of hospitals. In 2022, CMQCC created additional features, reports, and educational opportunities to support the 217 California member hospitals, including new Race & Ethnicity Reports and a mapping tool to review perinatal metrics by zip code or county.

Looking forward, the MDC is unveiling a new interface to improve its user experience and plans to pilot a new tool for collecting data and reporting outcomes by prenatal care provider group, to support the Perinatal Care Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQMs), and to create a new feature to analyze drivers of the NTSV Cesarean Birth measure by race and ethnicity.

## Critical Access Hospital Group

CMQCC organized a roundtable discussion including all ten of California's Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) with the purpose of learning from and supporting CAHs.

Facilitated by CMQCC's clinical leaders, these hospitals gathered to discuss workflows and practice barriers that impact the standard of care.

These hospital teams also shared collaboratively with each other for the benefit of improved practices of all in the group.

The CAH group continues to meet quarterly.

## Quality Improvement Academy

CMQCC, with support from Blue Shield of California, continues its educational program titled, Quality Improvement Academy. The program is for multidisciplinary hospital teams to strengthen and enhance the team's ability to identify and create action plans for quality improvement opportunities. To date, CMQCC has enrolled 55 hospitals in 8 separate year-long cohorts into the QI Academy.

The 7th cohort is scheduled to graduate in July 2023 from the invite-only program.

CMQCC is recruiting for the 9th cohort of the QI Academy which will launch in September, 2023. Hospital teams interested in participating should contact [info@cmqcc.org](mailto:info@cmqcc.org)

# 2022 Highlights



## Maternal Sepsis Screening and Treatment

Sepsis is a common and preventable cause of maternal mortality and has significant health inequities. CMQCC and Duke University have received a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant for a Community co-designed initiative for improved approaches for diagnosis and treatment.

The first stage has been to collect clinical data from electronic health records (EHR) from over 50 hospitals nationwide in an effort to validate the best screening and diagnostic criteria.

Patient and provider interviews will help identify barriers and equity opportunities to improve the recognition and treatment of sepsis.



## Postpartum Expansion and Redesign

Based on our ongoing concern about maternal mortality in the extended postpartum period, and with funding from Merck for Mothers, we will be interviewing patients, providers, clinics and community groups to deepen understanding of how best to reimagine postpartum care (from birth up to one-year post-delivery).

CMQCC joins DHCS (Medi-Cal) the California Health Care Foundation, Purchaser Business Group on Health and other collaborators in redesigning care that will help reduce maternal morbidity and mortality.



## Low-Dose Aspirin Partnership Campaign Pilot

Noting the limited uptake of national guidelines to reduce the occurrence of preeclampsia and subsequent pre-term birth through the use of low-dose aspirin, CMQCC launched a pilot campaign in 2022, funded by the March of Dimes.

The goals of the initiative are to identify the tools and best practices to improve the identification of patients with risk factors for preeclampsia and increase the prescription and utilization of low-dose aspirin during pregnancy. Interventions engage pregnant individuals, community partners, hospitals, clinics and offices providing prenatal care.

CMQCC is making strides with its multiple volunteer hospitals, clinics, and community partners and has also organized a patient advisory committee to help guide its work.

# 2022 Highlights



## Regional Perinatal Programs North Coast-East Bay and Mid-Coastal

Contracted by the California Department of Public Health, CMQCC manages the North Coast-East Bay and Mid-Coastal Regions for the Regional Perinatal Programs of California (RPPC). The RPPC program provides quality improvement resources, networking and consultation to hospitals throughout the state. Through RPPC, CMQCC leadership has been able to connect hospital staff statewide with our education and quality improvement resources. The current scope of work includes areas such as birth certificate data quality, breastfeeding resources to meet the 2025 deadline identified in the CA Health and Safety Code, and supporting improvements in maternal transport practices and policies.



## Mid-Coastal California Outreach Program

CMQCC's Mid-Coastal California Outreach Program (MCCPOP) program, housed at Stanford University, has been providing comprehensive obstetrical and neonatal education and consultations for over 40 years.

Contracted hospitals from San Mateo County to San Luis Obispo County have access to outreach education, morbidity & mortality review, peer reviews, data interpretation, and patient consultation. Since the pandemic, MCCPOP has transitioned all continuing education courses and its annual Perinatal Potpourri conference to virtual formats for anyone to attend.

Approximately 500 clinicians participated in MCCPOP's many educational offerings in 2022.

# 2022 Publications



"How state perinatal quality collaboratives can improve rural maternity care." **Main EK, Sakowski C.** Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology 2022. Volume 65.

"Composite Perinatal Morbidity Metrics: Getting closer but still with challenges." **Main EK.** Paediatr Perinat Epidemiol 2022.

"Sexual and/or gender minority disparities in obstetric and birth outcomes." **Leonard SA,** Berrahou I, Zhang A, Monseur B, **Main EK,** Obedin-Maliver J. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2022 June.

"The effect of severe maternal morbidity on infant costs and lengths of stay." Phibbs CM, Kozhimannil KB, **Leonard SA,** Lorch SA, **Main EK,** Schmitt SK, Phibbs CS. J Perinatol 2022 May.

"Sexual and/or gender minority parental structures among California births, 2016-2020." Berrahou IK, **Leonard SA,** Zhang A, **Main EK,** Obedin-Maliver J. Am J Obstet Gynecol MFM. 2022 April.

"Obstetric comorbidity scores and disparities in severe maternal morbidity across marginalized groups." **Leonard SA, Main EK, Lyell DJ, Carmichael SL,** Kennedy CJ, Johnson C, Mujahid MS. Am J Obstet Gynecol MHM. 2022 March.

"A quality metric for evaluating timely treatment of severe hypertension." Allbert JR, Hameed AB, **Main EK,** Taylor I, Allen C; SMFM Patient Safety and Quality Committee. AM J Obstet Gynecol 2022 Feb.

"Birth registration policies in the United States and their relevance to sexual and/or gender minority families: Identifying existing strengths and areas of improvement." Zhang A, Berrahou I, **Leonard SA, Main EK,** Obedin-Maliver J. Soc Sci Med 2022 Jan.

"A comprehensive analysis of the costs of severe maternal morbidity." Phibbs CM, Kozhimannil KB, **Leonard SA, Main EK,** Schmitt SK, Phibbs CS. Women's Health Issues 2022 Jan.

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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