

# Contributors To and Solutions for American Indian and Alaska Native Maternal Mortality Outcomes

**Mary J. Owen, MD**  
**Associate Dean of Native American Health**  
**University of Minnesota Medical School**  
**[mjowen@d.umn.edu](mailto:mjowen@d.umn.edu)**



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<https://www.nativebirthworkers.org/>



## Who We Are

We are Indigenous midwives, doulas, breastfeeding counselors and healers organizing to reclaim Indigenous birth practices, support families from preconception through postpartum with culturally-matched care, and grow a statewide network of trained Indigenous birthworkers.

# American Indian and Alaska Native Maternal Mortality

Health Resources and Services Administration, Advisory Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality Report:

[Making Amends: Recommended Strategies and Actions to Improve the Health and Safety of American Indian and Alaska Native Mothers and Infants](https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/advisory-committees/infant-mortality/birth-outcomes-AI-AN-mothers-infants.pdf)

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# INVISIBILITY

Cumulative effects of centuries of erasure and eradication, perpetuated by micro and macro aggressions

Results in:

- Lack of access to adequate healthcare, housing, education, research
- Lack of representation in healthcare and research



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# MICRO (&MACRO) AGGRESSIONS

Assumptions

Impatience

Staring

Denial of bias



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PRIORITIZE  
HEALTH AND  
SAFETY OF AIAN  
MOTHERS AND  
INFANTS


- Address data invisibility
- Engage American Indian/Alaska Native leaders and community members in decision-making and solutions
- Expanding and leverage federal programs and funding to include a specific focus on and greater investment in AIAN women and infants



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IMPROVE THE LIVING  
CONDITIONS OF AIAN  
MOTHERS AND  
INFANTS AND ASSURE  
UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO  
HIGH QUALITY  
HEALTHCARE

- Evaluate, fund, and improve the Indian Health Service (IHS)
- Expand and diversify the AIAN healthcare workforce
- Address and teach health care professionals about population health and social determinants of health
- Increase access to medicaid



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ADDRESS URGENT AND  
IMMEDIATE  
CHALLENGES THAT  
DISPROPORTIONATELY  
AFFECT AIAN WOMEN  
BEFORE, DURING, AND  
AFTER PREGNANCY

- Expand efforts to identify Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)
- Improve the care of incarcerated AIAN pregnant and postpartum women as well as pregnant and postpartum women of all races and ethnicities
- Expand violence surveillance and universal screening for intimate partner violence among AIAN and all women



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