

Specialty Innovation Summit Highlights

Maternal and Child Health

(St. Louis)



The American Hospital Association (AHA) convened hospital and health system leaders for a day of collaborative design to address disparities in maternal and child health outcomes. Using a human-centered approach, participants co-designed solutions and opportunities for action.

This one-page brief highlights the collective insights and priority areas identified by participants, providing organizational strategies for hospitals and health systems to reduce disparities in health outcomes.

Practical Takeaways

1 Incorporate patient and community voices into routine assessments to drive improvement in patient outcomes.

- Facilitate community conversations with patients and families served by hospitals and health systems to inform care delivery and organizational priorities.
- Build relationships with community-based organizations and patient advocacy groups to ensure routine assessments reflect the experiences and priorities of maternal and child health populations.
- Conduct regular reviews of existing organizational policies to ensure they are responsive to the distinct needs of maternal and child health populations.

2 Emphasize the value of comprehensive data collection and validation of maternal and child health outcomes.

- Improve performance improvement efforts by implementing process measures, evaluating outcomes against established standards of care and refining workflows on a continuous basis.
- Draw on a broad range of data sources — including claims data and community health data — alongside electronic health records to develop a more complete picture of maternal and child health outcomes.
- Establish feedback loops using data analytics to communicate findings back to the providers, care teams and administrative staff who generate the data, enabling informed and timely action.

3 Invest in strong hospital-community partnerships to share data and resources on factors that influence health outcomes in the community.

- Emphasize the importance of community involvement to build a direct understanding of patient needs, social circumstances and barriers to care.
- Promote collaboration between community stakeholders and hospital staff to establish shared goals for maternal health outcomes.
- Foster an environment of psychological safety for community members to ask questions and actively participate in decisions that affect maternal and child healthcare.

Call to Action:

- **Consider:** What clinical or operational gaps have providers identified in the delivery of maternal and child healthcare, and what performance improvement processes are in place to address them?
- **Engage:** How can we meaningfully engage patients, families and community members in shaping care delivery?
- **Integrate:** What opportunities exist to strengthen partnerships with community-based organizations to support mothers and children beyond the clinical settings?