



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

A BI-WEEKLY LOOK AT THE BUSINESS & POLITICS OF HEALTH CARE IN NEW JERSEY

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Advancing Equitable and High-Quality Care through Midwifery Practice in New Jersey

If we want to improve maternal infant health in New Jersey and address unacceptable racial inequities, we must look to midwifery care as a model and potential solution. As outlined in the report, [*Delivering Better Care: Midwifery Practice in New Jersey*](#), released this week by the [Quality Institute](#) and [The Burke Foundation](#), midwives provide high quality well-woman and perinatal care. They elevate health equity and can significantly impact outcomes for all pregnant people.

Unfortunately, there are not enough midwives in New Jersey and the workforce is predominantly white. The profession is often misunderstood, and more public information is needed to share the unique role and value that midwives provide, especially in providing high quality, patient-centered, respectful care beyond the perinatal period. Midwives provide a full range of primary care and well-woman care from adolescence through adulthood. Less than 10 percent of births in New Jersey currently are attended by midwives, and reimbursement remains an issue for midwives, further limiting access. Midwifery-attended births at freestanding birth centers and in homes are often not covered or are paid significantly less than the cost of the care.

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ATIYA WEISS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
THE BURKE FOUNDATION



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

[Atiya Weiss](#), Executive Director of [The Burke Foundation](#), is integral to shaping the foundation's focus on maternal and child health. The Foundation recently released its new strategy, "[Building Strong Partnerships for Community and Care in the First 1,000 Days.](#)"

Interview Sneak Peek: *Can you tell us about your strategy to improve child health in New Jersey?*

The new strategy reflects our commitment to helping transform the health care system to deliver better prevention and community connections for babies, mothers, fathers, and families. We focus on those first 1,000 days of life because they are critical for child development and can affect lifelong health and wellbeing. Where we live, what we eat, the stressors we experience — they account for 80 percent of health outcomes. During the first 1,000 days, it's vital to consider these and other factors influencing health — and then to connect families to much-needed clinical care and other community-based services.

This work involves four key initiatives: growing and diversifying the community doula workforce; expanding the CenteringPregnancy and CenteringParenting group healthcare model to 50 sites across New Jersey; supporting statewide implementation of universal newborn home visiting; and piloting the HealthySteps pediatric team model. Our strategic vision also focuses on the two-generation impact of creating a strong perinatal workforce and promoting economic stability for birth workers and their families.

The big news is the Burke Foundation's \$20 million commitment, over five years, to strengthen evidence-based initiatives that target those first 1,000 days to help New Jersey families thrive. The Quality Institute is a great partner, with a policy agenda that matches our emphasis on the earliest possible involvement with child health and development...

[Read Full Interview](#)



Delivering Better Care:

Midwifery Practice in New Jersey

JUNE 2022



[The Quality Institute](#), in partnership with [The Burke Foundation](#), created a [report](#) detailing the current state of midwifery in New Jersey, which proposes state-specific recommendations to support and advance the profession.

The goal of this report is to clearly explore the issues impacting midwifery in New Jersey and present thoughtful recommendations that could advance access to midwifery services and support growth and diversity in the profession.

This report was developed through research and analysis of available literature, policy examination, interviews, and a multi-stakeholder convening with midwives and maternal health advocates.

Please share [this report](#) with stakeholders to help us advance the profession of midwifery, increase public awareness of services provided by midwives, and to improve the integration of midwifery care into New Jersey's birthing landscape to improve maternal health outcomes.

[Read, Download, & Share Midwifery Report Now](#)



QUALITY INSTITUTE MEMBERS
& PARTNERS IN QUALITY:
WE NEED YOUR HELP

The [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#), the federal agency that runs Medicare, [proposes to suppress](#) data on medical and surgical complications that happen in hospitals.

These dangerous complications, such as infections, kidney harm, falls that cause injury, and lung collapse, **are largely preventable yet kill 25,000 people a year and harm 94,000**. The rates of harm for these medical and surgical complications are reported by hospitals as part of a measure called CMS Patient Safety and Adverse Events Composite or CMS PSI 90.

Data on these complications is not available to the public from any other source. If CMS suppresses this data, all of us will be in the dark on which hospitals put us most at risk, yet we all shoulder the burden of these dangerous preventable complications. **Join us in standing up for patient safety reporting and transparency by [submitting a letter to CMS](#) by June 17th** and opposing the suppression of PSI 90. Additionally, you can also sign onto [The Leapfrog Group's letter to CMS](#).

[Join Us In Submitting A Letter to the CMS](#)

WHAT WE ARE READING

[Measuring the Effectiveness and Value of Virtual Health Care](#)



For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at vtesser@njhcqi.org.

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at www.njhcqi.org.

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