ROAMS

RURAL OB ACCESS & MATERNAL SERVICES

ROAMS is a program of: Holy Cross First Steps • Holy Cross Medical Center • Miners Colfax Medical Center • NM State Medicaid • Presbyterian Medical Services Questa Health Center • Union County General Hospital • Envision NM 2.0, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Adolescent Medicine, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

The ROAMS, Rural Ob Access & Maternal Services, grant is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Please visit www.ROAMSnm.org for information on the grant and services provided. The ROAMS project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $2,982,779. with 100% percentage funded by HRSA/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

The Big Picture on Maternal Mortality

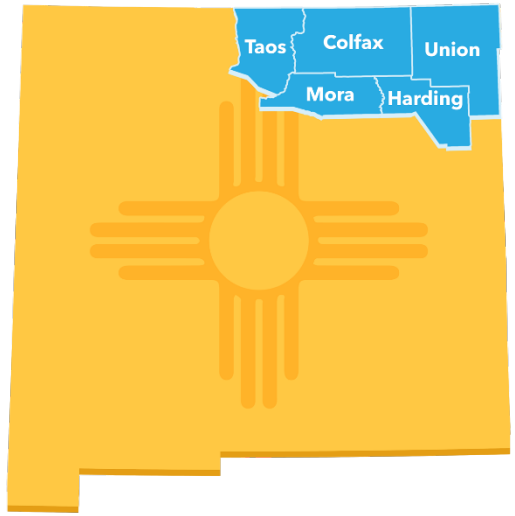
- Maternal mortality is a sentinel public health event and has been increasing in the United States since the 1980s. The increase is primarily happening in black and brown communities.
  - In NM Hispanic women (24.6 per 100,000 live births, compared to 12.2 nationally) & women ages 35 to 44 (68.2 per live births, compared to 38.5 nationally) have TWICE the national average of maternal mortality (2017 NM-IBIS).
- NM Enhancing Review and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality (ERASE-NM, funded by the CDC) initial 2016 report indicated that:
  - NM Maternal Mortality:
    - 21% of the NM maternal deaths happened during pregnancy
    - 21% happened 43 day or less postpartum
    - 58% happened 43 to 365 days postpartum.
  - NM Maternal Cause of Death:
    - 31% was a motor vehicle crash
    - 13% overdose
    - 13% other injury
    - 10% suicide
  - Preventable?
    - 63% were preventable

Health Equity Definition Needs to Include Rural Populations

- Rural Obstetric Clinics and Labor and Delivery hospitals in rural areas close because they are not economically sustainable.
    - In 2020 About 77% of ROAMS mothers are regular Medicaid or Medicaid Managed Care Organizations.
    - The calculated loss for one OB department of the hospital in 2020 was nearly $661,000 per year or about $1,180 per patient day.
    - One OB clinic net loss in 2020 was $545,598 per year or about $268 per patient visit.
- 3 of the 5 ROAMS counties do not have an Obstetric clinic or L&D hospital. Women have to drive 1.5 to 5 hours to meet with an OB or Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) high risk provider.
- Transportation, mountainous difficult driving conditions, lack of child care, and poverty prevent rural NE NM women accessing services.
- ROAMS baseline data showed that 30% of ROAMS patients did not have a prenatal visit.
- 21 Million Americans don't have internet at home, and 162 million Americans don't have access to broadband internet (higher speed) (From the Advisory Council, 2021)

NE NM ROAMS Childbearing Population

- Taos County women 15-44 years of age 4,861.
- Colfax County women 15-44 years of age 1,688.
- Union County women 15-44 years of age 559.
- Mora County women 15-44 years of age 638.
- Harding county women 15-44 years of age 76.



2018 data from the NM-IBIS (New Mexico Indicator Based Information System https://ibis.health.state.nm.us)

ROAMS Goals That are Aligned with Addressing Rural OB Inequities

- ✓Goal 1: Improve Access to Maternal Care in the Rural Northeastern Region of New Mexico
- ✓Goal 2: Improve Maternal Health and Family Education Outreach
- ✓Goal 3: Sustain L&D, Obstetric Clinics and Maternal Services in NE NM

ROAMS Goal #1 and Associated Activities

Goal 1: Improve Access to Maternal Care in the Rural Northeastern Region of New Mexico

Activity:

- Purchase and install updated equipment at Ob Clinics and L&D hospitals.
- Set up and staff two new prenatal clinics at the Questa Health Center and Union County General Hospital in Clayton.
- Create Obstetric Office to Office Telehealth services between the Network members, the continuum of care, and with a Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) specialist.
- Provide Home to Office Telehealth services designed to augment existing services.

ROAMS Goal #2 and Associated Activities

Goal 2: Improve Maternal Health and Family Education Outreach

Activity:

- Hire ROAMS Family Navigators (FN) who will work out of the OB & Pediatric clinics and L&D, and serve as a bridge between the medical and social service providers.
- Provide telehealth equipment and advertising/marketing support to social service partners that work with the ROAMS target populations.
- Support local initiatives on Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and reproductive life planning.
- Collect data from social service partners that shows:
  - 5% or greater increase in the number of clients served at each organization
  - 75% or greater of the women in the ROAMS Medical Network receive lactation support
  - Number of women breastfeeding for 6 months or longer is increasing.

ROAMS Goal #3 and Associated Activities

Goal 3: Sustain L&D, Obstetric Clinics and Maternal Services in NE NM

Activities:

- Conduct a yearly cost analysis and reduce costs through collaboration, midlevel providers, telehealth, and prenatal care in the first trimester.
- Advocate for Increased Obstetric and Telehealth Medicaid reimbursement.
- Get feedback from local mothers through surveys and a Mothers Advisory Council. Implement feedback with the goal of increasing the number of OB patients accessing the ROAMS Medical Network.
- Sustain the ROAMS Network and continuum of care collaboration

ROAMS Program Specific Equity Initiatives

1) Foster Community Partnerships
   - ROAMS has diverse partnerships across medical and social service programs
   - Outreach to partners for staff recruitment and interviewing
2) Provide Opportunities to Build Skills
   - Training provided as part of the ROAMS job, not required for entry
   - Share training opportunities with partners
3) Organization and Leadership Values Diversity and Equity
   - Listening to all voices
   - Shared lived experience, Hispanic culture and Spanish speaking are some of the hiring criteria for our Family Navigators
   - Mother's Advisory Council and anonymous survey (Spanish and English) feedback is included in yearly reports to the Governing Council and OB Clinics and L&D hospitals. Surveys have already impacted the program activities (MFM).
   - Staff attend equity trainings

ROAMS Specific Program Equity Initiatives

4) Pay People

- Living wage
- Flexible work schedules
- Pay mothers: purchasing photos for advertising, video modeling and Mother Advisory Council stipends

5) Ongoing Learning and Team Education on Equity

- Destigmatize Substance Use Disorder
- Destigmatize home visiting services
- Equity training
- Rural Health Inequities

6) Improve Access and Transform the System

- Telehealth equipment and Internet connectivity for mothers to connect with: OB, MFM, and social services
- Transportation and child care support in the budget and part of Family Navigator work
- Family Navigation assistance to connect mothers with needed services, and this service will become an insurance reimbursable program through Pathways Community HUD Institute (PCHI)
- Mother's Advisory Council and ongoing input

For more Information

www.ROAMSnm.org

ROAMS Facebook page

Colleen Durocher

Cdurocher@TaosHospital.org

575-751-5842 (office)

575-770-1168 (cell)