

ENSURING URBAN NATIVE VOICES IN MATERNAL MORTALITY

Strengthening Partnerships Between Urban Indian Organizations and Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs)

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NATIONAL COUNCIL of URBAN INDIAN HEALTH



What are IHS Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs)?

- ▶ UIOs are Native led, nonprofit, community-based organizations that provide culturally grounded health and wellness services.
- ▶ More than 70% of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people live in urban areas, which makes Urban Native maternal health a national priority.

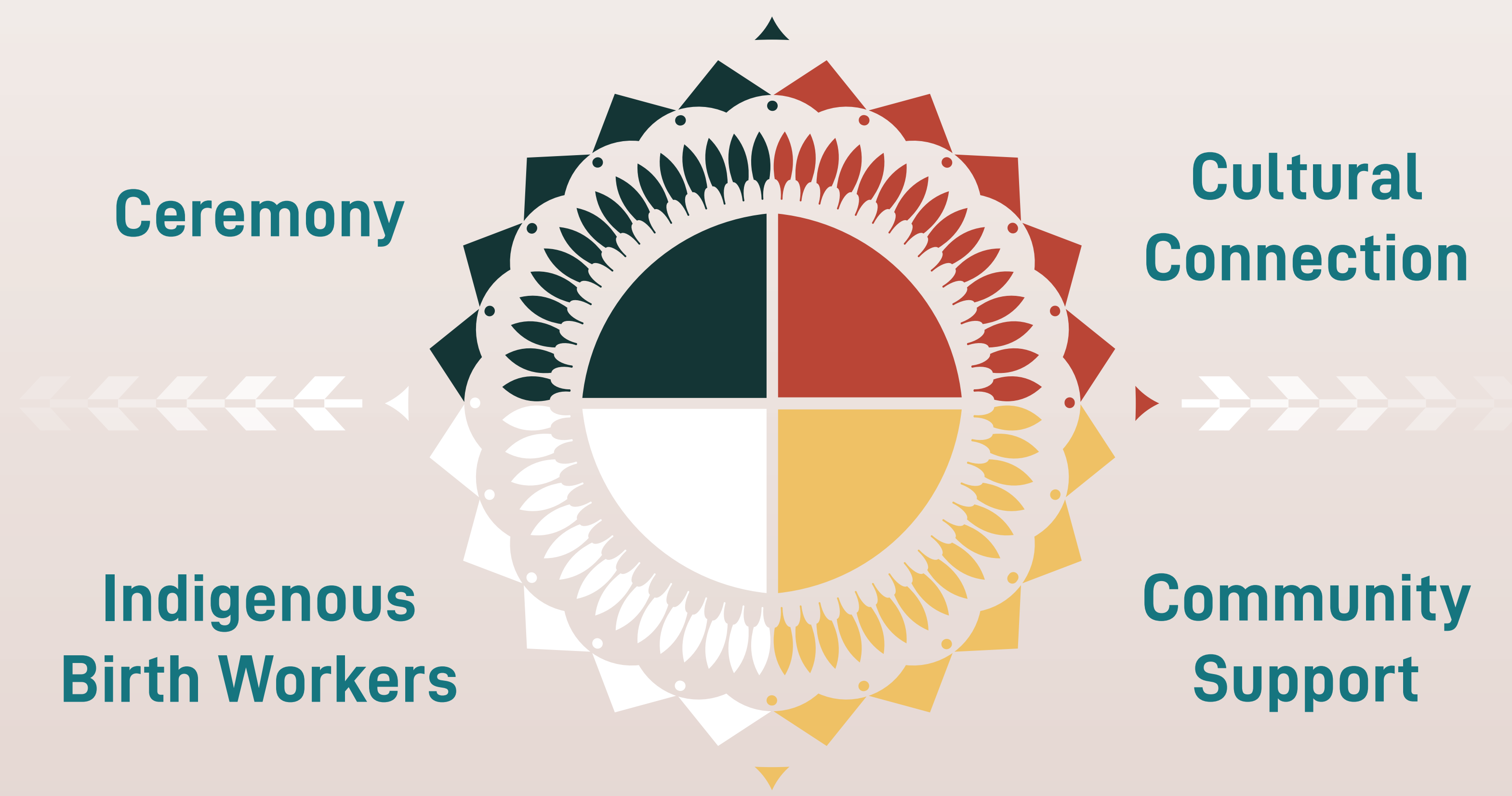
UIOs: Pregnancy & Postpartum Healthcare

Services Include:

- OB/GYN services
- Mental Health Support
- Traditional Healing



Strengths held within AI/AN communities can protect our relatives and future generations.



Best Practices for Honoring Native Stories during Committee Review

- ▶ Address systemic biases and trauma of AI/AN people
- ▶ Examine influences such as Indigenous determinants of health
- ▶ Highlight protective factors within case abstraction
- ▶ Protect Native committee members throughout the review process
- ▶ Respect traditional knowledge
- ▶ Center the individual's story and lived experience over data points
- ▶ Fund and empower community-led maternal health solutions
- ▶ Establish and uphold continued relationships with UIOs, Tribes, and other AI/AN serving organizations. This includes transparent data sharing agreements

Contacts & Resources



Find your local UIO



Native Maternal Health Web Resource Hub
Submit resources:
research@ncuih.org

Citations for Social Media Post Images:

Oklahoma City Indian Clinic. (2025, November 3). *Eagle's Nest Prenatal Education*. Instagram. <https://www.instagram.com/p/DQmkGSEIuE/>
 Kansas City Indian Center. (2025, October 1). *Community Baby Shower with Children's Mercy*. Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/KCINDIANCENTER/posts/save-the-date-join-us-for-the-community-baby-shower-with-childrens-mercy-on-satu/1251849593638974/>
 Bakersfield American Indian Health Project. (2025a, December 9). *Bakersfield American Indian Health Project - Doula Scholarship Program*. Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/TheBAIHP/posts/baihp-is-honored-to-announce-our-new-indigenous-doula-scholarship-program-support/1473550561331057/>

Bakersfield American Indian Health Project Partnership

- ▶ Onboarded UIO staff to the California Central Valley MMRC
- ▶ Partnered with the California Care Quality Improvement Collaborative
- ▶ Established the Native Doula Training Program scholarship for community members
- ▶ Hired an OB/GYN, establishing obstetric services and strengthening referral pathways for AI/AN people



Bakersfield American Indian Health Project's Maternity Education Booth with materials for new and expecting parents.

Image provided by Bakersfield American Indian Health Project, (2025).

Current Project Highlights

- ▶ Partnering with Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake to engage with Utah's Perinatal Mortality Review Committee
- ▶ Continued advocacy for Urban AI/AN people in maternal health policy
- ▶ Recommendations for accurate reporting for Urban AI/AN people and upholding data sovereignty outside of Tribal lands
- ▶ Pregnancy/postpartum related resources for Urban Native people and their health providers
- ▶ Native Maternal Health Web Resource Hub

Survey of UIOs

56% of UIOs received data around pregnancy & postpartum health in their area.

Pregnancy & postpartum health concerns within UIO communities:



(2024)

