



AWHONN

ILLINOIS

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

Issue 1-Spring 2024

Bi-Annual Newsletter

Editors:

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All About AWHONN

Our mission is to empower and support nurses caring for women, newborns, and their families through research, education, and advocacy.

What AWHONN does for your clinical practice and professional development:

Clinical Practice:

- Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Position Statements
- Access to Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing (JOGNN) and Nursing for Women's Health (NWH) Journals.

Professional Development:

- Emerging Leader Program, Research, and a wealth of volunteer opportunities at the Local, State, and National level.



Section Chair Corner

Christine Emmons

As of March 1, 2024, Illinois has 735 AWHONN members. Link to [become a member](#).

Welcome to the first edition of the AWHONN Illinois Newsletter. In addition to maintaining a connection with Perinatal Nurses in Illinois, the goal of this publication is to highlight coming events, clinical practice resources, and state specific initiatives impacting care of the population we serve.

Publication of this newsletter would not be possible without the commitment of AWHONN Illinois Member volunteers, and most importantly our editors Gen Stoner and Tina Stupek.

AWHONN Illinois is actively planning our annual Section Conference to be hosted this year at the **Embassy Suites Conference Center in East Peoria, Illinois- October 16-17, 2024**. Each year our planning committee works to develop a program with a diverse group of speakers presenting on topics that we all face in clinical practice. In 2023 we hosted speakers on maternal mental health, care of the LGBTQI+ population, maternal medications and their impact on the newborn, perinatal palliative care, women's health weight management, and surrogacy. The 2024 conference is shaping up to be a great conference. We will update our website as speakers and topics are finalized.

The American Nurses Association has announced the theme for National Nurses Week (May 6-12, 2024) as

"Nurses Make the Difference."

AWHONN Illinois Celebrates all Nurses!

Illinois Items

Syphilis cases are on the rise. Did you know that for all pregnancies in Illinois, both first visit and third trimester testing is required (410ILCS 320/1) Syphilis monthly reporting will be required by IDPH starting in April 2024. The process is similar to HIV monthly reporting. All forms and reporting details will be sent from IDPH.

RN licensure requirements – IL RN renewal is May 31, 2024. Criteria for renewal include a one-hour course in diagnosis, treatment, and care of Alzheimer’s diseases for RNs who work with patients 26 years and older, a one-hour course of implicit bias awareness training, and a one-hour of Sexual harassment prevention training.

New initiative in Illinois – Equity and Safe Sleep Initiative (ESSI)

Sleep related mortality is on the rise and data has shown that infants born to Black birthing persons has increased by 38% since 2009. Each year in the U.S. ~3500 infants die of sleep-related causes. Staff in newborn patient care areas have an important role in safe sleep education and modelling safe sleep practices for all our patients. The Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC) has partnered with Illinois birthing hospitals to launch the Equity In Safe Sleep Initiative (ESSI). To learn more, please visit the ILPQC website at www.ilpqc.org or contact a member of the leadership team in your department.

Obstacles might make you explore new paths, but they also make you realize what you are capable of.

Dr. Bhawna Gautam

Scan for an electronic copy.



Newborn News

Did you know...

- Erythromycin shortage – seems to vary from state and facility to facility.
- RSV vaccine recommendations – [ask the experts Question and answer](#)
- **Newborn sepsis**- Newborn sepsis remains one of the top 10 leading causes of death in neonates in the United States
Kochanek et al., 2016 Seventy-five percent of all neonatal deaths worldwide occur during the first week of life, and 25% to 44% occur within the first 24 hours of life (Voller and Myers, 2016 World Health Organization, 2016). Many of these deaths are attributed to neonatal sepsis, the early and appropriate identification of which could improve outcomes and avert some neonatal deaths (World Health Organization, 2016)
- Hyperbilirubinemia – [AAP clinical practices guidelines](#) revised in August of 2022.

AIM/AWHONN

AWHONN AIM State Nurse Leader Updates

AIM PATIENT SAFETY BUNDLES (PSBs) Learning Modules are BACK!

Each course features a comprehensive overview of an AIM Patient Safety bundle and its key elements.

8 PSB MODULES NOW LIVE!

AIM Events

April 10th: IHI-AIM WEBINAR SERIES: USING CHANGE PACKAGES TO SUPPORT BUNDLE IMPLEMENTATION

April 18th: AIM TAP Webinar: SEVERE HYPERTENSION IN PREGNANCY

<https://saferbirth.org/>

AWHONN Global

In advancing our mission to empower and support nurses caring for women, newborns, and their families, AWHONN is excited to launch the Perinatal Education Xchange (PEX) Program later this month! Through this initiative, we aim to connect nurses with communities worldwide, cultivating a stronger connection to global citizenship and making a meaningful impact on an international scale. Opportunities to travel to Panama and Cuba in 2024 are available with the goal of adding trips to other countries in the near future. Details will be available on <https://www.awhonn.org/awhonn-plex/> later this month!

Student Sector



-AWHONN Illinois section will accept applications for student nurse interns. The intern must be a nursing student currently enrolled in any nursing program in Illinois entering the final year of their program. Student interns should show a commitment to the mission and vision of AWHONN and have a passion for women's health, obstetric, and neonatal nursing. Each student intern's term will run from May to May. We are looking for interns to start in May of 2025! Visit Illinois.AWHONN.org site for developing information on the exciting opportunity.

Legislative Lines

Getting started as a Legislative Advocate

Nurses play a key role in influencing healthcare policy at the state and federal levels. Here are some ways in which nurses can make an impact:

1. Policy Engagement and Advocacy:

- Nurses can actively participate in policy development by joining state and national nurses' associations. These organizations provide a platform for nurses to express their opinions and advocate for patient-centered policies.
- Attending legislative sessions helps nurses understand how the system works and allows them to engage directly with policymakers.
- Use AWHONN resources to learn the process, understand key issues, and review policy-making steps. Start with the Legislative Action center and Government Affairs staff at: [Advocate - AWHONN](#)
- Become familiar with your state and federal legislators. What bills do they sponsor or support? Do they have a position on a bill you believe would influence the health of a mother or baby? Communicate your position to your policymaker through an email, call, or visit.
- Discuss bills at chapter meetings to gain greater perspective.

2. Why Is Nurse Involvement Important?

- Nurses need to be part of policy discussions to ensure their perspectives are considered. Ask yourself what policies would improve outcomes of mothers and newborns. Inform your policymaker.
- Despite being respected and trusted, nursing involvement in policymaking has been limited.

3. Areas of Influence:

- Nursing shortages: Nurses can advocate for policies that address staffing challenges and improve nurse-to-patient ratios.
- Community needs for healthier lifestyles or culturally appropriate care.

4. Quality of Care and Resource Allocation:

- Through policy work, nurses influence practice standards and processes, ensuring quality care delivery.

In summary, nurses have a unique role in shaping healthcare policy. Their active engagement and advocacy can lead to positive changes that benefit both patients and the healthcare system.

Upcoming events

National- Annual conference June 7th to 11th in Phoenix, AZ

State- Annual Conference October 16th & 17th in Peoria, IL. A Save the Date has been distributed to all AWHONN Members.

Chapters- visit events page at <https://illinois.awhonn.org/>

Check Facebook and Instagram for activities

<https://www.facebook.com/AWHONNILL/>

<https://www.instagram.com/illinoisawhonn/>

Illinois Resources

-AWHONN.org

-Illinois.awhonn.org

-ACOG.org

-AAP.org

- www.ilpqc.org

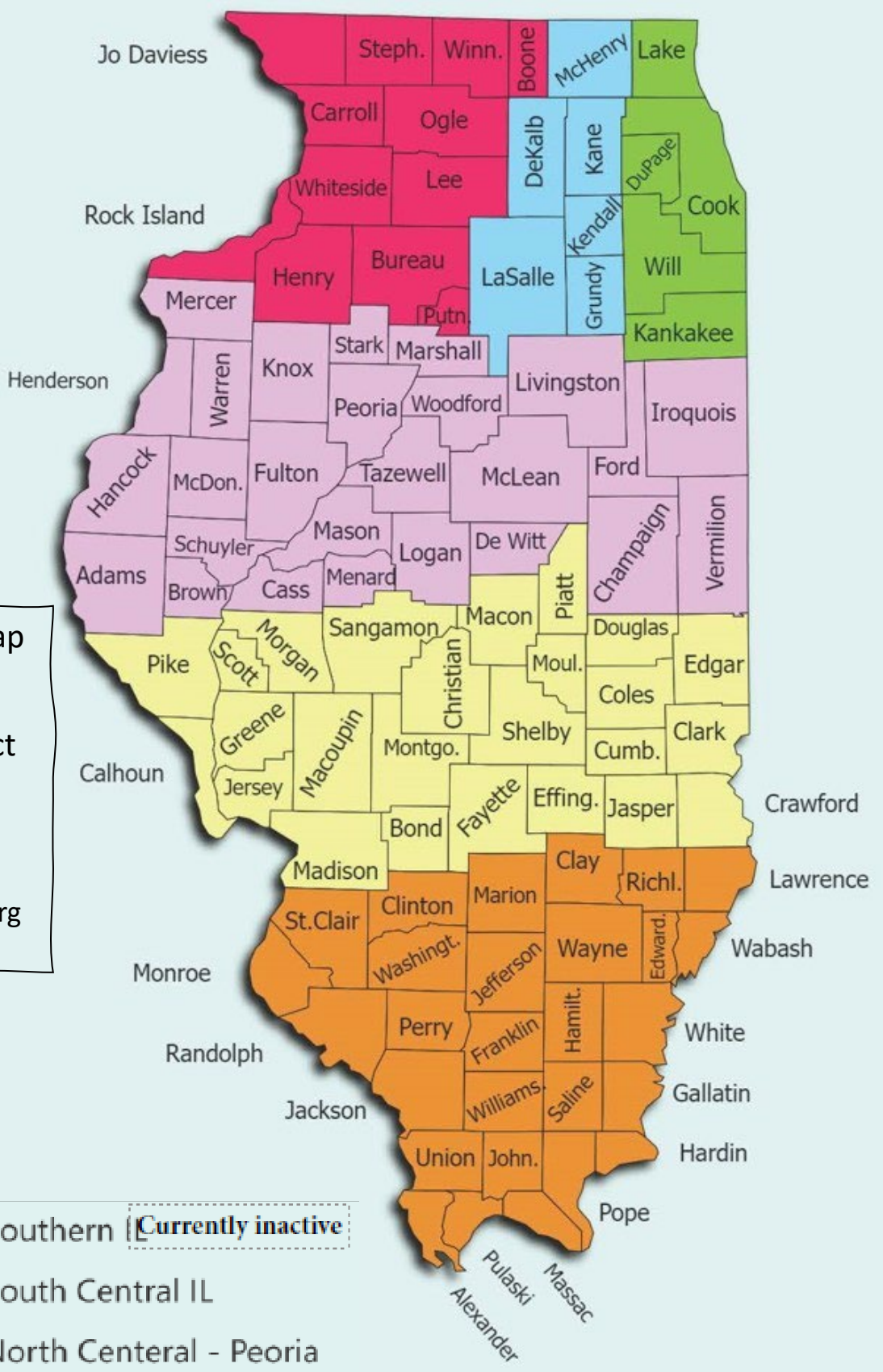
-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Admin. (samhsa.gov)

-[IL Perinatal Regionalization](#) & levels of care (IDPH.gov)

AWHONN IL Chapter Map

For information on Chapters, please contact Section chair.

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- Southern (Currently inactive)
- South Central IL
- North Central - Peoria
- Chicago Chapter
- Chicago Suburbs Chapter
- Northwest IL Chapter