



# Illinois Maternal Health Innovation Program Maternal Health Training for Home Visitors

## ABOUT THE INNOVATION

I PROMOTE-IL collaborated with the state's [Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting \(MIECHV\)](#) Program to assess maternal health training needs among home visitors within MIECHV-funded programs. I PROMOTE-IL then supported [Start Early](#) to assess current home visiting training curricula and subsequently develop a training program for home visitors focused on maternal health, with a specific component on how to deliver urgent maternal warning signs education to program participants. These partners, alongside the University of Illinois –Urbana Champaign's Center for Prevention Research and Development, developed the evaluation.

**Goal:** Ensure that home visitors working with pregnant and postpartum families funded by the MIECHV Program, and eventually other state-managed programs, are an active part of addressing maternal morbidity and mortality in Illinois.

## Training Goals

- Increase awareness and knowledge of pregnancy and postpartum maternal health needs
- Increase comfort in identifying maternal health needs among program participants
- Increase ability to respond to common situations related to maternal health, including making referrals *where appropriate*

## Training Content

The developed training, *Home Visitor Strategies to Promote Maternal Health*, consisted of three modules:

1. Recognize the Importance of Maternal Health and Your Role as Home Visitor – Day 1 (2.5 hours)
2. Respond to Common Situations Related to Maternal Health – Day 2 (2.5 hours)
3. Reflect on Lessons Learned from the Field – *optional community of practice offered 1 month later* (1.5 hours)

## Training Numbers – as of August 2024

A goal of training 100% of the MIECHV-funded workforce in 2023 was set. The training was offered 5 times in 2023 resulting in **74 individuals trained**, about 78% of the workforce. Three more trainings were offered in 2024 and a total of 84 individuals were trained across years. Engagement in Module 3/Community of Practice was moderate at ~60%.

## Key Elements for Success



Multidisciplinary team involved in all phases of the innovation.

MIECHV Leadership support and buy-in from the onset.



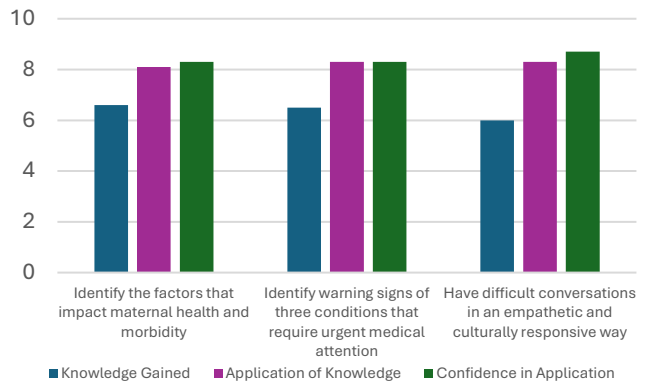
Added a community of practice for home visitors to reflect on applying their new knowledge and share their experience with others.

## Evaluation Data

A 2024 annual survey of home visitors showed high support for addressing maternal health during home visits:

- 94.5% strongly agree or agree that addressing maternal health during MIECHV visits is important
- 91.2% strongly agree or agree that the home visiting program is an appropriate setting to address maternal health issues

Post-training evaluation data from five training occurrences in 2023 showed moderate knowledge gained, but high application of knowledge and high confidence in application of knowledge across the learning objectives (*self-reported data for a subset of learning objectives shown below; respondents ranked their answers on a scale from 0-10*).



No major changes in maternal health related referrals provided by home visitors was observed for the training period when compared to pre-training.

## About I PROMOTE-IL

I PROMOTE-IL (Innovations to ImPROve Maternal OuTcomes in Illinois) is one of the nine original projects funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration's State Maternal Health Innovation Program in 2019. This program was developed to support states implementing novel approaches to address maternal mortality and morbidity. I PROMOTE-IL is housed at the University of Illinois-Chicago and was funded from 2019-2024. Please visit our [website](#).