



Illinois Maternal Health Innovation Program Digital Storytelling

ABOUT THE INNOVATION

The Illinois Maternal Health Digital Storytelling Project shares 10 digital stories created by Illinois women about their experiences of pregnancy, birth and postpartum.

During 2021-2024, **Maternal Health Innovation (MHI)** funding was used to:

- Partner with StoryCenter to host two virtual workshops to guide participants to share their story and translate it into a short digital video
- Convene partners to watch the digital stories and identify emergent themes and topics for discussion
- Create the *Elevating Moms' Voices* facilitation guide to support the use and dissemination of the digital stories
- Support interested storytellers in obtaining the Patient, Family, Partner certification through MOMMAs Voices

Goal: Elevate voices, in the form of stories, to complement other sources of data on maternal morbidity and mortality in Illinois.

Topics

Through the creation of digital stories, Illinois women bravely shared their experiences of:

- maternal morbidities including postpartum hemorrhage
- mental health conditions including anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and postpartum psychosis
- navigating pregnancy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic perinatal loss

Reach

The Illinois Maternal Health Digital Storytelling Project website has received over 3,000 views since its launch in September 2021.

The *Elevating Moms' Voices* Facilitation Guide has received 40 downloads since its publication in October 2023. Illinois MHI Program staff have hosted three trainings on using the facilitation guide resulting in over 25 partners trained.

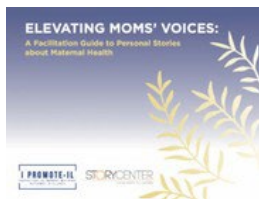
The stories have been shared at multiple national and state meetings and conferences, including the 2023 Illinois Maternal Health Summit in which three storytellers shared their digital stories and experience being a part of the project. There were over 150 Summit attendees who completed an evaluation:

- 99% indicated the presentation was effective
- 99% indicated the presentation was relevant
- 96% could incorporate content from the presentation into their work or personal life

More details about this project have been published [elsewhere](#).

Elevating Moms' Voices Facilitation Guide

The guide was created to move the digital stories from data to action and was developed collaboratively with partners and many of the storytellers.



Access the [guide here](#).

It includes steps for planning a screening, story-specific pages with discussion questions and resources for attendees.

Key Elements for Success



Social work support for storyteller wellbeing



Storyteller collaboration with dissemination efforts



Storyteller autonomy and story ownership*

** All storytellers own their stories and granted permission for them to be used as part of this project and its ongoing dissemination efforts.*

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. Visit our website: <https://ipromoteil.org/>.

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Some images from Canva.*

