NPWH has supported Women’s Health Nurse Practitioners and the patients they serve for over 40 years. Take a look back at our history:

### 1980's

'80  ✔️ 20 NPs from Planned Parenthood affiliates across the country who disagree with the organization developing nursing certifications come together to form The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Family Planning (NANPFP) with a mission “to assure accessible, quality family planning services and reproductive freedom.”

'81  ✔️ Writes bylaws and sets organizational goals:
- Advocate for the nurse practitioner role
- Be a clearinghouse for nurse practitioner problems
- Offer continuing education
- Provide peer support
- Act as a resource for clinicians

'86  ✔️ Working to preserve access to NP education, protesting ANA's plans to discontinue approval of certificate nurse practitioner programs

'88  ✔️ Members vote to change name to The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Reproductive Health (NANPRH) to reflects broadened membership and focus

'89  ✔️ Susan Wysocki becomes first Executive Director. NANPRH moves headquarters to Washington, DC

### 1990's

'92  ✔️ Helps establish the right of NPs to insert and remove sub-dermal contraceptives
- Files suit with other organizations against the “Gag Rule” which prohibits providers from honoring a client’s request for abortion information

'93  ✔️ Publishes first Standards of Practice for the Education and Utilization of Women's Health Nurse Practitioners

'95  ✔️ NANPRH Council on Accreditation approves 8th WHNP education program

'97  ✔️ Helps pass medicare reimbursement for NPs into law

'98  ✔️ First National Conference: Women's Health Care in the New Millennium

'99  ✔️ Members vote to change name to the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health (NPWH)

### 2000's

'01  ✔️ Works with AWHONN to update the Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner: Standards for Practice and Education

'02  ✔️ Publishes premier issue of Women's Health Care: A Practical Journal for Nurse Practitioners

'03  ✔️ NPWH's CE Approval Program approves 50 programs and self-study offerings. Certificates are issued to nearly 4,000 NPs
- Accreditation Council approves first masters' WHNP program at Emory University
'04 ✔ Co-sponsors the March for Women's Lives. One million marchers participate on the National Mall

'07 ✔ Joins other nursing organizations urging Congress to address national shortage of nurses

'08 ✔ Represents nursing women's health providers in a summit with First Lady Michelle Obama
 ✔ Launches the Inspiration in Women's Health Awards

'09 ✔ Participates in Capitol Hill briefings on women's mental health issues, care coordination, and continence issues.

2010's

'11 ✔ Advocates for choice in reproductive health at the FDA Office of Women's Health

'12 ✔ Gay Johnson becomes second CEO
 ✔ Joins ACOG Council on Patient Safety as a full voting member

'13 ✔ Joins ACOG Council on Maternal Mortality and AANP NP Roundtable

'14 ✔ Holds the first Women's Sexual Health Course for NPs, the only continuing education on women's sexual health available for NPs
 ✔ Launches the Well Women Visit mobile app for clinicians

'16 ✔ Holds first "Healthy at Any Age" meeting, which eventually becomes the BOlder Women's Health Coalition

 ✔ Publishes position statements:
   - Prevention of Alcohol-Exposed Pregnancies
   - The Doctor of Nursing Practice for Women's Health Nurse Practitioners
   - Prevention of Alcohol-Exposed Pregnancies

'17 ✔ Publishes position statements:
   - Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Risk Assessment
   - Healthcare for Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Individuals
   - Human Papillomavirus Vaccination
   - Male Sexual and Reproductive Health: Role of Women's Health Nurse Practitioners
   - Human Sex Trafficking

'18 ✔ Successfully advocates for the retaining of co-testing as the preferred method of cervical cancer screening with the United States Preventive Services Task Force

 ✔ Publishes position statement:
   - Cervical Cancer Screening

'19 ✔ Launches H.E.R. Hub, a tool for clinicians to educate patients on women's health issues

 ✔ Publishes position statements:
   - Expanding Access to Hormonal Contraception
   - Eliminating Preventable Maternal Deaths

2020's

'20 ✔ Heather L. Maurer becomes third CEO
 ✔ Releases 8th edition of Women's Health Nurse Practitioner: Guidelines for Practice and Education
Marijuana Use during Pregnancy and Lactation
Prepregnancy genetic carrier screening
Structural Racism and Implicit Bias in Women's Healthcare

Holds first fully-virtual annual meeting due to the COVID-19 Pandemic with over 900 attendees.

Launches, in collaboration with the Alliance of Nurses for Health Environments, the Nurses Improving the Environmental Health of Women and Children (NIEWHC), a group of 15 nursing organizations focused on promoting women’s, children’s, and maternal health by reducing environmental factors that contribute to health disparities and harm.

Holds first Genetic Risk Assessment Course & Workshop for APRNs

Publishes position statements:
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Climate Change, Women’s Health, and Environmental Justice
- Menstrual Equity and Menstrual Health

Completes 3-Year Strategic Plan and shares new Mission Statement:

NPWH is the professional community for Women’s Health Nurse Practitioners and other advanced practice registered nurses who provide women’s and gender-related healthcare. We set a standard of excellence by translating and promoting the latest research and evidence-based clinical guidance, providing high-quality continuing education, and advocating for patients, providers, and the WHNP profession.

Our mission includes protecting and promoting a woman’s right to make her own choices regarding her health and well-being within the context of her lived experience and her personal, religious, cultural, and family beliefs.

In the wake of the overturn of Roe v Wade, issues first-ever Policy Summary on Reproductive Rights

Led and filed an amicus brief, Helen Weems and Jane Doe v. The State of Montana, in support of the clinicians’ argument that the APRN Restriction deprives Montanans of their fundamental right to seek abortion services from a qualified healthcare provider of their choice

Held first in-person Annual Conference since COVID-19 Pandemic

Publishes position statements:
- WHNPs as Partners in Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis
- Access to Safe Abortion Care
- Trauma-Informed Care

Publishes position statements:
- Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in Women (Draft as of March)

*We hope you enjoyed this overview of our organization’s history! For more details about our work, you can view our annual Year In Review Reports at NPWH.org