



NPWH

NURSE PRACTITIONERS
IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

A Message to Our Community

To our community,

"NPWH sets 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."

This is our mission. And this year, in spite of continued challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, we worked to carry that mission forward, supporting WHNPs and other women's and gender-related healthcare providers with resources and opportunities to shape a healthier future.

From our members to our colleagues, our allies to our supporters, we're proud of what we've accomplished together this year. Here are just a few highlights:

- **Providing High-Quality Clinical Education and Support**

- We launched the Genetic Risk Assessment Course for Advanced Practice Providers and Advanced Breast Cancer Assessment Workshop – a course specifically designed to help WHNPs and other APRNs gain experience in the rapidly growing field of genetics.
- We hosted our 24th Annual Conference and brought back our Annual Women's Sexual Health Course - and reached new records in registrations.

- **Advocating for Patients, Providers, and the WHNP Profession**

- With our allies at Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, we launched a new collaborative – Nurses Improving the Environmental Health of Women & Children – to address the link between climate change and the damage to the health of women, pregnant and postpartum people, infants and children.
- We supported policies that will address the maternal health crisis, and help improve access and care.
- An op-ed shared a personal truth about the maternal health crisis in the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#).

- **Promoting Research and Evidence-based Clinical Guidance**

- We published six issues of *Women's Healthcare: A Clinical Journal for NPs*, full of timely and relevant clinical articles and continuing education credits.
- We piloted our Fireside Chat program, bringing lively conversations about trends and developments in women's health to our members.

A Message to Our Community

- **Strengthening Our Organization**

- We released our 2021 - 2024 Strategic Plan which is guiding our efforts in membership, governance, programming, and policy.
- We expanded our base of corporate supporters dedicated to advancing women's health and helping bring new opportunities to our members.

We hope this report offers you a look back on the incredible accomplishments of our members and our organization during another challenging year. Thank you for your membership, your commitment to the WHNP profession, and everything you do for women.

As we embark on 2022, NPWH looks forward to leading the WHNP profession in education, policy, and research/quality improvement using a lens of equity throughout all aspects of our work.

Sincerely,



Shawana Moore
DNP, MSN, CRNP, WHNP-BC
Board Chair



Heather L. Maurer
MA, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

Providing High-Quality Clinical Education and Support

In the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to leverage new technologies to safely and accessibly provide continuing education opportunities to our members. The participation of membership and women's healthcare professionals has been extremely gratifying.

19 Continuing education activities created and approved by NPWH

Over 3,000 Clinicians participated in CE activities with NPWH

Over 12,000 CE activities were completed by practitioners and students across the country

Our dedication to keeping providers on the leading edge of practice continues to make NPWH the standard of excellence for education on women's and gender-related care.

In addition to our own activities, **NPWH approved 16 CE activities for other organizations**, including ACOG and ASCCP.

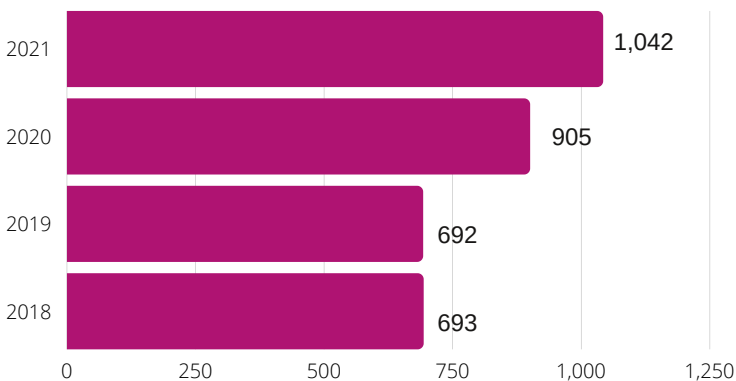
24th Annual NPWH Premier Women's Healthcare Conference



This year's Annual Conference was, once again, virtual in order to protect our communities while still meeting the needs of providers all over the country.

Registration

This was another record-breaking year!



Attendee Feedback

99% of respondents agreed that the **content they learned at this conference will impact their practice.**

100% **would recommend** this conference to others.



NPWH is a **great source of information** and clinical updates. The conference was **full of new information** and this year was no exception, **many excellent presentations!**"

Annual Essentials in Women's Sexual Health Course for WHNPs

After a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our annual Essentials in Women's Sexual Health Course returned in a virtual format. We reached a record 477 attendees!



477 clinicians attended



This was a wonderful conference. **Excellent, informative and very valuable presentations.** So glad I attended!"

First-Ever Genetic Risk Assessment Course for Advanced Practice Providers



NPWH
**Genetic Risk
Assessment Course**
September 10-12, 2021

This year we debuted a new course specifically designed to help WHNPs and other APRNs gain essential knowledge in the rapidly growing field of genetics: Genetic Risk Assessment Course for Advanced Practice Providers and Advanced Breast Cancer Assessment Workshop.



This was an **amazing conference** with **excellent presentations!** I have recommended this conference to my colleagues!"



127 participants gained knowledge in **cancer risk assessment, carrier screening, and prenatal genetic screening.**

Advocating for Patients, Providers, and the WHNP Profession

NPWH strives to make meaningful change in patients' and providers' lives through advocacy efforts that center on improving health outcomes and the quality of women's and gender-related healthcare.

Nurses Improving the Environmental Health of Women & Children

This year, NPWH partnered with the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments to launch a new initiative that will **address the link between climate change and the damage to the health** of women, pregnant and postpartum people, infants and children.

The collaborative effort is made up of **15 national nursing organizations, representing over 100,000 healthcare providers.**



Nurses
Improving the Environmental
Health of Women & Children
Collaboration, Cooperation, Change



Climate change is a women's health issue, and the time is right for federal partners to support nurses and the patients they care for in mitigating climate-related health risks."

– Sue Kendig, JD, WHNP-BC, NPWH Policy Director

The BOlder Women's Health Coalition

Our BOlder Women's Health Coalition, a cross-sector effort to **improve the health and well-being of women as they age**, met quarterly this year to keep members updated on programs and new resources.

New resources added to our coalition [website](#) included:

- **The BrainGuide** from WomenAgainstAlzheimers
- **COVID-19 Resources** from NeedyMeds
- **Speak Up** patient education materials on menopause from Pfizer

**BOlder Women's
HEALTH COALITION**

Nurses and Midwives: Partnering to Prevent FASDs

NPWH continued our work with the [Women's Health Nurses and Midwives Collaboration for Alcohol-Free Pregnancy](#), a multi-year effort to provide nurses, women's health nurse practitioners, and midwives with the **tools and resources to counsel clients about their options for reducing or eliminating alcohol use and promoting a safer and healthier pregnancy**.

This year, we produced video interviews profiling [Champions](#) – providers who are **going above and beyond to help educate patients and prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders**.



Letters of Support and Amicus Briefs

NPWH signed on to **over 100 letters of support and Amicus briefs** on topics ranging from access to family planning services, access to safe and legal abortion, Advanced Practice Nursing regulation and reimbursement, funding for nursing education and research, and COVID-19 support, relief, and research, and other topics affecting women's health, women's and gender-related healthcare, and WHNP practice.

The Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM)

NPWH is a partner and Executive Committee member of the [Alliance on Innovation in Maternal Health \(AIM\)](#), a national data-driven maternal safety and quality improvement initiative based on interdisciplinary consensus-based practices to **improve maternal safety and health outcomes**. This HRSA funded initiative, led by ACOG, works through state teams to align national, state, and hospital-level efforts to improve maternal health. NPWH members participated in development of the AIM Postpartum Transition Bundle released in 2021, provided input into AIM activities, and presented the WHNP perspective on AIM bundle release webinars.

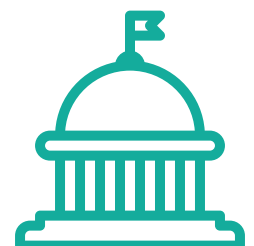
The Women's Preventive Services Initiative (WPSI)

[The Women's Preventive Services Initiative \(WPSI\)](#) is a federally supported collaborative program led by ACOG. WPSI is charged to develop, review, and update recommendations for women's preventive health care services. **NPWH is the only nursing organization represented on the WPSI Advisory panel, which guides the initiative**. NPWH members are also represented on the Multidisciplinary Steering Committee that develops the recommendations, and the Dissemination and Implementation Committee that works on strategies to incorporate WPSI into practice. NPWH members have partnered with other WPSI partner representatives in presentations to support WPSI implementation and are featured in WPSI's "How I Practice" video series designed to illustrate application of the WPSI guidelines in practice.

White House Maternal Health Day of Action

This year, NPWH and our members were invited to tune in to the first-ever **White House Maternal Health Day of Action**. Throughout the year, NPWH advocated for the inclusion of critical components of the Build Back Better Act that impact our providers, patients, and profession, including programs from the **Black Maternal Health Momnibus** that will:

- grow and diversify the perinatal health workforce
- invest in maternal mental health equity
- expand access to digital tools and technologies that promote maternal health equity
- train healthcare providers to recognize implicit bias
- expand Medicaid coverage for postpartum care for one full year post-birth



Promoting Research and Evidence-based Clinical Guidance

Women's Healthcare: A Clinical Journal for NPs

Women's Healthcare, our clinical journal and the only journal specifically for WHNPs, had another successful year. We published six issues covering topics including gynecologic, obstetric, sexual, reproductive, and menopause health as well as primary care topics and professional issues.

A major objective for this year was to **actively foster inclusivity, diversity, and equity** in journal content and through our authors and editorial advisory board (EAB).

The response to a call for manuscripts on diversity, inclusion, structural racism, and implicit bias, resulted in these helpful articles in 2021:



3,670+

members received the print editions



13,870+

community members received electronic editions

- **Mental illness stigma: Strategies to address a barrier to care**
- **Navigating biases against Asian Americans during Covid-19**
- **We are the solution to our problem: A brief review of the history of racism and nursing**
- **Trauma-informed care. Part 2: Transgender and gender nonconforming individuals**
- **Examining an implicit bias assessment tool: Considerations for faculty and clinicians**



572

clinicians completed CE from our journal.

Most Popular Journal CE Topics

- Osteoporosis
- Female Acne
- Type 2 Diabetes

Fireside Chats

This year, we piloted a new program with our Corporate Members. The Fireside Chat provides an opportunity for our membership and the women's and gender-related care community to participate in conversations with industry leaders. 2021 topics included:



The Unexpectedly High Unintended Pregnancy Rate in the United States and the Opportunity for New Long-Lasting Forms of Reversible Contraception



Health Engagement Opportunities in Gen Z's Changing Attitudes, Expectations, and Use of Technology

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NPWH Position Statements

Each year NPWH publishes position statements illustrating NPWH's official stance on the issues affecting women's health care and the practice of women's health and women's health focused nurse practitioners. We released three new position statements and reaffirmed three position statements in 2021 on some of the most pressing issues in women's health.

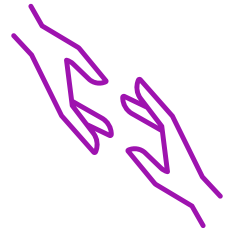
Intimate Partner Violence (March 2021)

NPWH endorses a comprehensive multilevel and multi-sector approach to prevent IPV, remove barriers to disclosing IPV and seeking services, promote universal screening to identify individuals who have or are currently experiencing IPV, provide trauma informed and culturally sensitive care, and ensure the availability and accessibility of immediate and ongoing support services. [Read more.](#)



Human Sex Trafficking (Updated and reaffirmed June 2021)

The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) affirms the essential role of women's health nurse practitioners (WHNPs) and other advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who provide women's and gender-related healthcare for adolescents and adults in identifying, assessing, and responding to the needs of trafficked individuals. [Read more.](#)



Cervical Cancer Screening (Updated and reaffirmed June 2021)

The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) supports a concerted effort to continue to improve cervical cancer screening (CCS) rates and timely, appropriate follow-up and treatment when screening results are abnormal. The goal is to reduce cervical cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality. NPWH supports ongoing research to ensure that screening and treatment guidelines are based on the best evidence available. [Read more.](#)



Climate Change, Women's Health, and Environmental Justice (June 2021)

The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) asserts that climate change has a significant effect on health and wellbeing globally. NPWH believes that nursing organizations and the nursing profession have a responsibility to meaningfully contribute to reducing vulnerability to the harmful effects of climate change (adaptation) and reducing or preventing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (mitigation) for the protection of the health and wellbeing of individuals, communities, and populations. [Read more.](#)



Menstrual Equity and Menstrual Health (September 2021)

The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) asserts that all individuals who menstruate should have adequate access to appropriate menstrual products and to facilities that support privacy, safety, hygiene, and sanitation for changing menstrual products, washing body and hands, and cleaning or disposing of used materials. [Read more.](#)



Human Papillomavirus Vaccination (Updated and reaffirmed October 2021)

The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) advocates for an intentional and concerted effort to improve human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rates, with the goal of ending cancers caused by HPV. The use of strategies that increase parent/patient acceptance, reduce missed opportunities, promote affordability and accessibility for timely receipt, and ensure completion of the vaccination series are imperative. [Read more.](#)

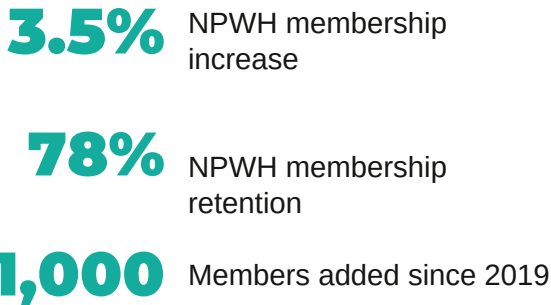


Strengthening our Organization

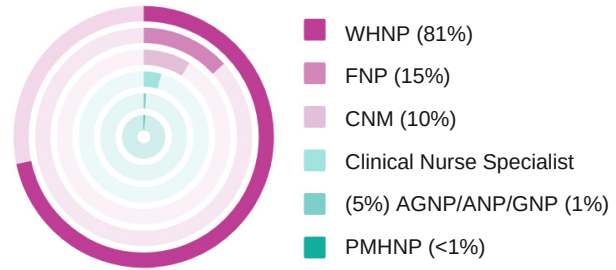
Despite the incredible challenges of this year, we have a lot to recognize and celebrate when it comes to the strength of our organization.

Membership

We met both our membership and retention goals for 2021.

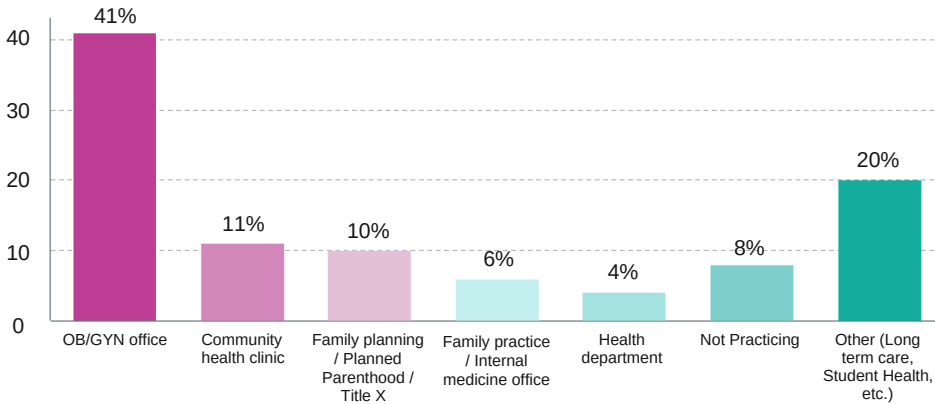


While **81% of our members are WHNPs**, other members also serve women and families and benefit from our strong network, resources, and advocacy efforts.



NPWH members provide care for women in a wide variety of practice settings. **They can most commonly be found in OB/GYN settings**, but some practice in community clinics, internal medicine, and research settings. **25% of our members have hospital admitting privileges.**

Practice Settings

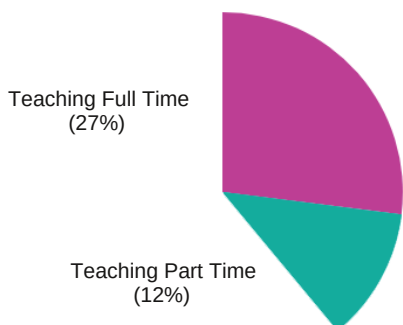


Hospital Privileges

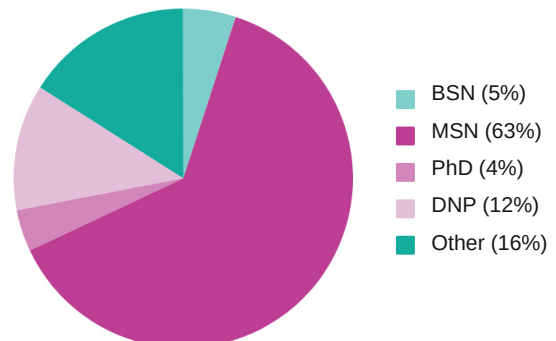


Our members are invested in the rising generation of women's health providers. **39% of NPWH members teach** in either full-time or part-time roles. Our members also come from a variety of education backgrounds.

Faculty Roles



Education



A New Strategic Plan

Earlier this year, we released our **3-Year Strategic Plan!** This plan is the result of an intensive and inclusive process that sought perspectives and input from a wide variety of stakeholders. Created by the NPWH Board of Directors, staff, members, and supporters, it sets the course for our organization's future and lays out four overarching priorities that we'll work to accomplish in the next three years:

- Engaged Membership
- Effective Governance
- Program Excellence
- Purposeful Policy

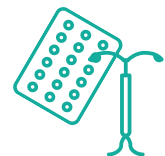
The strategic planning process offered us an opportunity to revisit our **Vision and Mission** statements. We also identified the need to formalize **our commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (IDE)**. We developed an IDE commitment statement, which we are elevating to the same level of importance as our Vision and Mission in order to make this a lens through which we examine all of our work.

To move this plan forward, we will continue to ask for your participation and support. We will rely on **talented, committed providers from diverse backgrounds** and will continue to **invest in strong partnerships** with those who share our vision. We hope you will follow our progress in the coming years, especially as we create new opportunities for you to contribute your passion, creativity, and perspectives to this effort.

Development & Fundraising

We successfully expanded our base of corporate memberships and sponsors. Over two dozen companies **dedicated to improving women's health** sponsored or supported our work. This enables us to provide discounted continuing education opportunities and keep our members on the leading edge of care with resources and updates. A few exciting programs from this year:

- **Patient Education & Destigmatization** - This year, we partnered with Pfizer on two initiatives to **destigmatize conversations about menopause** and adapt menopause counseling resources for the **telehealth setting**.
- **Access to Birth Control** - We had an exciting opportunity to partner with Agile Pharmaceuticals to learn more about how the **Affordable Care Act's provisions on birth control access are being experienced by clinicians**. This information helps NPWH continue to advocate for providers' needs and policies that center patients.



Thank You to Our Corporate Members

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Incoming Board Members Elected December 2021



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Kathryn Trotter,
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Durham, NC
Southeast Region



Jessica Wells,
PhD, RN, WHNP-BC, FAAN
Atlanta, GA
Southeast region

Our Mission

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.

Our Vision

NPWH is the trusted champion and essential professional resource for Women's Health Nurse Practitioners and all advanced practice registered nurses who provide women's and gender-related healthcare. We value collaboration and build strong alliances with like-minded organizations and providers. The providers we serve are known experts in the primary, complex and specialty care of their patients, and are leaders and advocates in the advancement of healthcare towards a more just, healthy, and equitable world.

Our Commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity

NPWH is committed to increasing inclusivity, diversity, and equity in our organization, the WHNP profession, the women's and gender-related healthcare field, and beyond.

Our Membership is composed of professionals representing diversity by, but not limited to, specialty area, educational background, race and ethnicity, age, geographic location, socioeconomic status, ability, gender and identity, sexual orientation, and personal beliefs. We actively seek to engage and amplify the voices that have historically been silenced, and ensure they are represented in our staff, leadership, and programming.

Our profession recognizes the need to grow in diversity and dismantle racism, discrimination, and other barriers to education and career paths for professionals from underrepresented and marginalized groups. We work together with others to expand opportunities and promote diversity within the WHNP professional community.

Our field understands the health disparities and injustice created by implicit bias, social determinants, and systemic racism. Through self and organizational assessment, education, professional development, and advocacy, we work to counter these forces and work for equity in all aspects of women's and gender related healthcare.