

## What is FIMR?

Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) is a community-based and action-oriented process to improve service systems and resources for women, infants and families. This evidence-based process examines fetal and infant deaths, determines preventability, and engages communities to take action.

## How does the FIMR process work?

FIMR engages a multi-disciplinary **case review team** to review the case summaries from de-identified infant and fetal deaths. These case summaries include maternal interviews for their perspective on why the death occurred. Based on these reviews, the team makes recommendations for system changes. A team of community leaders (**community action team**) is then assembled to take recommendations to action.

## Who participates in FIMR?

Typically, the **case review team** includes health care providers, social workers, mental health professionals, health department staff, and others as determined by the local FIMR. The **community action team** includes elected officials, community members, community leaders, health professionals, and representatives from the health department, justice system, transportation, housing, and other leaders who are key to system change.

## How are FIMR data used?

FIMR data inform a continuous quality improvement process. The case review data are used to identify issues and gaps in service systems that may contribute to fetal and infant deaths, and may be used to augment community needs assessments and help to analyze root causes of infant health disparities. Actions taken based on recommendations from these case reviews are monitored and their effectiveness tracked. A new NFIMR database provides the ability to aggregate case information, recommendations, and actions taken.

## The National FIMR Program can help you establish a FIMR program in your community.

Established in 1990, the National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (NFIMR) Program is a collaborative effort between the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. NFIMR's national resource center offers several publications, guides, and technical materials to support and sustain state and local FIMR programs. Use NFIMR's [map](#) to search for FIMR programs in your region. For more information visit the NFIMR website, [www.nfimr.org](http://www.nfimr.org), or contact Jodi Shaefer, Director, NFIMR, 202.863.1630, [jshaefer@acog.org](mailto:jshaefer@acog.org).

### The FIMR Process

