

NPWH Research Agenda for Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health 2021-2026: Priorities for Evidence-Based Practice

Introduction

The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health's mission is to 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 vision includes serving as 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.

We advance our mission and vision by providing leadership to ensure high quality comprehensive, collaborative health care to women throughout the lifespan. We seek to:

- improve women's access to primary and specialty health care,
- increase women's wellness and health outcomes,
- decrease health disparities affecting women,
- enhance women's access to and knowledge of health resources,
- protect and promote women's rights to make choices regarding their health within the context of their personal belief system, and
- increase clinical competencies for health care providers for women.

We do this by serving health care providers with an emphasis on advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) through:

- providing education and resources,
- advocating for health care policies that support women and APRNs,
- collaborating with interprofessional strategic partners,
- mentoring the next generation of women's health nurse practitioners and other women's health-focused APRN leaders, and
- fostering evidence-based practice in women's health through research.

The use of best evidence to guide practice is crucial to providing quality health care for women. Nurse Practitioners who provide women's and gender-related health care, who educate future women's health care providers, and who contribute to the formation and evaluation of health policies related to women's health seek and rely on the best evidence available.

The agenda development process included meetings, input, discussion, and refinement by the NPWH Research Committee during 2020-2021. The Research Committee reviewed current national level recommendations regarding women's health, women's health research, current trends in health care, published literature, and care provided by nurse practitioners. From the information obtained in the review, the Research Committee developed an initial broad list of research priorities that spanned more than 25 topics. This list was electronically distributed to the Research Committee for ranking via a Qualtrics survey. Based on the ranking, the Research Committee identified a final list of 11 clinical research priorities that appear in this document. These topics represent those that received the highest ranking among all members of the Research Committee.

The NPWH Research Agenda for Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health **2021-2026** describes clinical research priorities for women's health care in primary care settings as well as women's

health specialty practices. Each research priority reflects timely issues in health care that WHNPs are facing. Some topics are intentionally broad (such as racism and inclusivity/diversity/health equity) to highlight that these are significant factors in all health care situations and should be examined in every interaction, from individual patient encounters to societal structures. These priorities could also be included in future grant initiatives and applied to funding opportunities.

The Research Committee acknowledges that there are more than these 11 issues that hold importance for WHNPs and there will be personal differences in what individuals believe should be prioritized. Lack of inclusion of a specific topic does not indicate that issue isn't valued by NPWH or the Research Committee. The research priorities for 2021-2026 are:

Structural racism

Inclusivity, diversity, and health equity

Well woman care across the lifespan

Substance use/misuse

Maternal morbidity/mortality

LGBTQ health care

Technology/telehealth in women's health

Violence/IPV/sexual assault/trafficking/exploitation/military sexual trauma

Genetics/genomics

Mental health issues

Evaluation of WHNP outcomes: quality, cost, safety, reimbursement

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