

# Engaging Hospitals in an Urban Community

The Greater Chicago Study Center

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** The 48 birthing hospitals located within the outreach scope of the Greater Chicago Study Center are as diverse as the communities and population they serve. These hospitals range from well-funded, university based to state funded, inner city hospitals with minimal resources, resulting in the need for a multi-facet and strategic approach to prepare these hospitals for an NCS birth.

**Methods:** Effectively engaging hospitals has required multiple strategies; foremost among these has been the organization of the Healthcare and Hospital Outreach Team. Additionally, collaborations with other NCS hospital outreach teams have provided invaluable lessons and tools to use with local institutions. The NCS Program Office has provided guidance to local hospitals regarding their involvement in the NCS, and the GCSC benefits from close collaboration with the Illinois Perinatal Network, which has been instrumental in garnering support from local hospitals. Maintaining transparency and communication is also integral.

**Results:** For the past year, the GCSC's approach to engaging hospitals has resulted in establishing contact with all 48 birthing hospitals, holding 35 Key Player meetings, securing 11 Memorandums of Understanding, successfully preparing 8 hospitals for Phase I of NCS data collection, and submitting 15 IRBs to hospitals with 11 approved.

**Conclusion:** Implementation of the NCS in a large urban setting is challenging, requiring close collaborations, sharing of experiences, and transparency. Utilizing these multiple approaches has resulted in the successful engagement of hospitals in Cook County. Pie chart on types of hospitals in Cook County here: