BORN Data Access Grant

High quality decision-making by midwives and clients is enhanced by access to midwifery-led research with a focus on normal pregnancy, birth, postpartum and early newborn care. The Association of Ontario Midwives (AOM) has received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to support midwife-led research in Ontario. The BORN Data Access Grant helps strengthen the midwifery profession by supporting the creation of a body of literature which focuses on and supports the midwifery approach to care. This work well be guided by the Midwifery Research Working Group.

The AOM is committed to inclusive and equitable funding practices as part of its commitments to the restoration and renewal of Indigenous midwifery and the advancement of racial equity in the profession. We welcome and encourage applications from individuals who reflect the broad diversity of our community including Indigenous, Black and racialized midwives and midwifery students.

The maximum award is $5,000.

Eligible Projects

Projects must reflect midwifery philosophies of care, considering Ontario midwives' unique scope of practice and models of care. This grant covers costs associated with accessing and working with large data sources. The purpose of this grant is to foster research by mitigating the high cost of access to the BORN Ontario data set.

Funded projects are 24-month (non-renewable) grants. You may re-apply for the same research project if you have received notification that your previous application was not successful.

Multiple applications by the same applicant may be submitted for each grant stream. In awarding funding, the Peer Review Committee strives to support a diversity of projects, institutional affiliations, research teams, and midwifery voices.

For information and questions, please contact Alexa Minichiello at researchgrants@aom.on.ca.

Eligible Research Questions

The proposed research project must focus on one of three priority research areas and respond to one of the listed research questions:

1. GBS screening strategies: The AOM's CPG on GBS Prevention and Management in Labour is unique in that it recommends the provision of intrapartum antibiotic prophylaxis (IAP) only to birthing parents who screen positive by GBS culture screening done at 35-37 weeks' *and* who also develop one or more risk factors. This approach is different than the "universal" or "risk factor" approaches recommended by other guidelines. There is little known about the outcomes of this third approach. This study would address the research question:
   a. What are the birthing parent and neonatal outcomes related to the different screening and IAP strategies used by midwives in Ontario?

2. Vaginal birth after caesarean section (VBAC): There is little information on VBAC related outcomes within the Ontario midwifery context, and in particular the outcomes associated with out-of-hospital VBAC in Ontario. This study would address one of three research questions:
   a. What are the birthing parent and neonatal outcomes for midwifery clients who plan VBAC births in out-of-hospital settings (home, birth centre, clinic) compared to hospital settings?
   b. What are the birthing parent and neonatal outcomes for midwifery clients during planned VBAC whose intrapartum fetal monitoring is done via intermittent auscultation only compared to EFM?
   c. What are the differences in clinical outcomes of midwifery clients who have a planned VBAC under midwifery compared with those who are transferred, in the absence of clinical indications for the transfer, to obstetrical care?

3. Caesarean section (CS) rates: BORN data suggests that CS rates for a "low-risk" pregnant population do not markedly differ between midwifery (10%) and non-midwifery clients (13%). However, little is known about the differences in CS rates between midwifery and non-midwifery cohorts, which are considered to be medium to high risk due to the presence of conditions such as GDM, HDP, BMI > 35 and age 40+ and which increase the risk of a CS. This study would address the research question:
   a. How do different definitions of "low-risk" including the presence of specific conditions impact the rates of CS observed between midwifery clients and non-midwifery clients? Namely, what are the differences in CS rates between midwifery clients who are considered low-risk, medium-risk and at high risk compared with matching non-midwifery cohorts?

Eligible Applicants

Applicants of the BORN Data Access Grant must be a registered midwife, student midwife or Aboriginal midwife working under the exemption clause *and be either*

1. **Mentored:** Currently enrolled in a master's or PhD program or within five years of completing a master's or PhD. Trainees must work under the supervision of a mentor (an individual who is autonomous regarding their research activities and has an academic or research appointment), who has experience with the analysis of BORN data and/or expertise in biostatistics or statistical science. You can find more information about finding a mentor here.

2. **Career:** A faculty member at an Ontario-based university, who has experience with the analysis of BORN data and/or expertise in biostatistics or statistical science.

Notice of Intent

To apply for the BORN Data Access Grant, applicants must first submit a Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI) by **September 27, 2021 at 11:59 pm**. The NOI is a mandatory step in the application process. Applicants must then submit the full application by the deadline date.

Application Process

Please take the time to read the application and instructions carefully. The application deadline is **October 25, 2021 at 11:59 pm**. It is your responsibility to ensure that the application and all supporting documentation are submitted on time. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Grants will be awarded following peer review by members of the Association of Ontario Midwives' Midwifery Research Work Group (MRWG) and external peer reviewers. The AOM takes every effort to ensure that the Peer Review Committee represents the diversity of midwives working in Ontario.

External peer reviewers are invited to participate from across Canada and internationally who may not be familiar with specifics of Ontario midwifery. To facilitate a fulsome peer review, please avoid the use of acronyms and describe any Ontario-specific programs (e.g., EMCMs, IMPs).

Mentored Applicants: Instructions for Submission:

Please submit the following by email to researchgrants@aom.on.ca

1. Application and Budget form
2. Mentored Research proposal *(maximum of 5 pages; additional pages will not be accepted)*
    o References including any tables, charts, figures and graphs may be submitted as an appendix to the research proposal beyond the 5-page limit.
    o Formatting requirements:
        • Document type .doc or .docx
        • 12-point Times New Roman font
        • Single spaced
        • Minimum 2 cm margins
    o File naming instructions: **BORN_DataAccess_GrantProposal_YOUR NAME**
3. Applicant and Mentor's CVs, submitted as one combined PDF

Career Applicants: Instructions for Submission:

Please submit the following by email to researchgrants@aom.on.ca

1. Application and Budget form
2. Investigator Contributions Letter *(250 word maximum)*
3. Career Research proposal *(maximum of 5 pages; additional pages will not be accepted)*
    o References including any tables, charts, figures, and graphs may be submitted as an appendix to the research proposal beyond the 5-page limit.
    o Formatting requirements:
        • Document type .doc or .docx
        • 12-point Times New Roman font
        • Single spaced
        • Minimum 2 cm margins
    o File naming instructions: **BORN_DataAccess_GrantProposal_YOUR NAME**
4. Principal Investigator and all other investigators CVs as one combined PDF

Mentored Research Proposal

Summarize your proposed research plan according to the headings below. Your entire research proposal must not exceed a total of **5 pages as stipulated** and must contain:

- **Introduction**
- **Objectives**
- **Relevance to midwifery**
- **Methodology** (*Provide an overview of the dataset that will be used including the key population, dates, and outcomes; the statistical and analysis plan; the data management plan (mechanisms for ensuring data is kept secure, confidential, and protected); and please outline how you will obtain ethics approval*)
- **Timeline** (*Demonstrate how you will complete this project within 24 months of receiving funding approval*)
- **Importance of the proposed research and expected results** (*Describe the expected outcomes highlighting the significance of the research and how it will advance knowledge and/or its application to midwifery. Please describe plans for knowledge translation and dissemination.*)
- **Equity considerations** (*Describe how the proposed research plan takes into consideration the potential for increasing racial and/or population health equity. If not applicable, describe why.*)
- **Mentor/mentee relationship and mentorship plan** (*1/4 of the 5-page limit must be dedicated to this heading.*) *Describe:*
    - i. *Mentor's research qualifications and background in relation to proposed area of research and/or methodology*
    - ii. *Details of the specific mentored support to be provided (i.e. research strategy support, progress monitoring, training in new research methods or platforms, constructive feedback on drafts)*
    - iii. *Details regarding the mentor/mentee relationship (i.e., supervision plan, meeting schedule, expectations, and benchmarks)*

Investigator Contribution Cover Letter

When more than one investigator is named in an application, the Principal Investigator must provide a covering letter outlining the unique contribution of each investigator.

Career Research Proposal

Summarize your proposed research plan according to the headings below. Your entire research proposal must not exceed a total of **5 pages as stipulated** and must contain:

- **Introduction**
- **Objectives**
- **Relevance to midwifery**
- **Methodology** (*Provide an overview of the dataset that will be used including the key population, dates, and outcomes; the statistical and analysis plan; the data management plan (mechanisms for ensuring data is kept secure, confidential, and protected); and please outline how you will obtain ethics approval*)
- **Timeline** (*Demonstrate how you will complete this project within 24 months of receiving funding approval*)
- **Importance of the proposed research and expected results** (*Describe the expected outcomes highlighting the significance of the research and how it will advance knowledge and/or its application to midwifery. Please describe plans for knowledge translation and dissemination.*)
- **Equity considerations** (*Describe how the proposed research plan takes into consideration the potential for increasing racial and/or population health equity. If not applicable, describe why.*)

Appendix: Assessment criteria

Criteria	Absent	Fair	Good	Excellent	Reviewer's score
Research concept *How well developed is the research project? Consider the following:* ● The research questions and objectives are clearly defined, original, and are reflective of context and needs (issues and/or gaps). ● The proposal is well written and flows logically. ● The scope of the project is appropriate considering the applicant's available resources, and the allotted timeframe.	0	1	2	3	
Relevance to midwifery *How relevant is the project to midwifery? Consider the following:* ● The project has the potential to benefit childbearing families in Ontario. ● The project aligns with the midwifery philosophy of care. ● The project	0	1	2	3	
Research design and methodology *Are the research methods appropriate and well described? Consider the following:* ● The proposed methods are appropriate for the research question(s). ● The statistical and analysis plan including the data management plan are clearly described and realistic. ● If applicable, the procedure for obtaining ethics approval is clearly described.	0	1	2	3	
Equity Considerations *Does the research project have the potential to increase racial and/or population health equity? Consider the following:* ● The potential impact to increase racial and/or population health equity is clear. If not applicable, an explanation is provided.	0	1	2	3	
Knowledge Translation *What will be the impact of the research and has the applicant considered how to disseminate the findings appropriately? Consider the following:* ● The potential impact of the research results is well described. ● The proposal includes an appropriate plan for knowledge translation and dissemination.	0	1	2	3	
				Total		/15