

Sustain RI's Psychiatry Resource Network (PRN) for Moms, Babies, and Children

[H-7204](#) (Shallcross Smith) & [S-2072](#) (DiMario)



Right from the Start

"It's the most reliable program that I have worked with in my twenty years of working in primary care." – Rhode Island Primary Care Provider

The need for pregnant, postpartum, and pediatric access to mental health support is urgent and growing, with both a maternal and children's mental health crisis occurring. In Rhode Island, there is a lack of specialized mental health providers. As such, much of the burden for initial mental healthcare falls on frontline health care providers, who do not have extensive training to treat mental health conditions and must navigate a complex and overtaxed system to get patients the care they need.

Rhode Island's MomsPRN and PediPRN programs help address this gap by empowering healthcare professionals, building competency, and increasing patient access to mental health care by offering frontline clinicians same day specialized clinical teleconsultations that include resource/referral support and ongoing professional education.

Supports Providers and Health Care Professionals

This service enables healthcare professionals to comprehensively care for their patients more promptly. **As of December 2023, over 1,000 providers at 339 practices across Rhode Island have utilized the PRN programs.** Professionals who benefit from the programs include Prenatal Care, Pediatric, Psychiatric, and Adult Primary Care Providers, as well Doulas, Family Visitors, and Other Mental Health Providers.

Supports Moms and Babies

In Rhode Island, 2,192 perinatal patients have been directly helped because of MomsPRN. Even more are benefiting from the program because with each call a provider makes, the knowledge gained supports other patients.

Supports Children

In Rhode Island, 1,558 children have been directly helped because of PediPRN. Pediatric healthcare professionals build trusted relationships with their patients and families, enabling open communication and ongoing monitoring over the course of their patients' development

The PRN 2024 bill will:

Sustain these mental health PRN teleconsultation programs with state-level funding through a health plan assessment. Current federal grant funding is ending and if no funding is allocated, these programs are at risk of closing. This would drastically impact access to services especially during both a maternal and youth children's mental health crisis during a provider workforce shortage.

