Aim: The Delaware Perinatal Cooperative (DPC) was formed in 2011, under the umbrella of the Delaware Healthy Mother Infant Consortium, with the purpose of improving the quality of perinatal care in the state.

Setting: State of Delaware, population 925,000, live births 11,900.

Mechanisms: DPC consists of representatives of six birth hospitals, including one large regional perinatal referral center, children’s hospital, birthing center, State Division of Public Health, Delaware Healthcare Association and other professional organizations, and the March of Dimes.

Methods: Quarterly statewide meetings to set policy and review data. Nurse educator hired in partnership with March of Dimes to disseminate initiatives to birth hospitals, pediatric and obstetric providers.

Measures: Initial statewide programs include 39 week initiative, antenatal corticosteroid administration, campaign to promote safe-sleep guidelines and 17-alpha hydroxyprogesterone (17-OHP) initiative. Goals for 2014 include developing statewide neonatal abstinence pathways and maternal transport protocols.

Results: All birth hospitals in the state developed a protocol for preventing elective deliveries prior to 39 weeks. Elective deliveries in the state < 39 weeks were 0.5 % in 2013. Monitoring of safe sleep, 17-OHP, and antenatal corticosteroids are ongoing.

Discussion: Since inception, the DPC has succeeded in establishing a statewide agenda on perinatal quality. Elective deliveries < 39 weeks are at a minimum. Challenges include establishing reliable data collection systems, developing protocols and comparing outcome in a state with a small number of heterogeneous birth centers.