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## Vulvodynia Awareness Campaign Quick Facts

The **Vulvodynia Awareness Campaign**, led by the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other NIH components, including the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the National Library of Medicine, and the NIH Pain Consortium, was developed in response to a Congressionally recognized need to bring more attention to this chronic pain syndrome of women. The campaign targets health care professionals and consumers.

Vulvodynia has been described as chronic burning in the lower genital tract or knifelike pain or pain on contact that lasts in excess of three months. Researchers estimate that up to 18 percent of women will experience symptoms consistent with vulvodynia. These symptoms have been reported by a diverse population. The lack of health care provider education about vulvodynia may lead to multiple doctor visits resulting in delayed diagnosis and treatment.

In addition to NIH components, the **Vulvodynia Awareness Campaign** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) partners include:

*Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, HHS*

*Office of Minority Health, HHS*

*Office of Women's Health, HHS*

*Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration*

The **Vulvodynia Awareness Campaign** non-government partners include:

*American College of Nurse-Midwives*

*American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists*

*American Medical Women's Association*

*American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology*

*Association of American Indian Physicians*

*Black Women's Health Imperative*

*International Society for the Study of Vulvovaginal Disease*

*National Alliance for Hispanic Health*

*National Black Nurses Association*

*National Hispanic Health Association*

*National Medical Association*

*National Research Center for Women & Families*

*National Vulvodynia Association*

*National Women's Health Network*

*National Women's Health Resource Center*

*North American Menopause Society*

*Our Bodies Ourselves*

*Society for Women's Health Research*

*University of Michigan Center for Vulvar Diseases*

*WebMD*

*Women's Health Specialists, University of Tennessee*

*Gloria Bachmann, M.D., Univ. of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School*

*Bernard L. Harlow, M.D., Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, University of Minnesota*

**Materials on vulvodynia from the ORWH and its partners are available online at**

<http://orwh.od.nih.gov/health/vulvodynia.html>

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