Maternal Infant Health Summit
March 12, 2019
Michigan is Creating the Blueprint for
Zero Preventable Deaths and Zero
Health Disparities

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I have no conflicts of interest or disclosures
Objectives

• Discuss some infant mortality “lessons learned” over the course of my career
• Discuss the importance of collaboration and an integrated approach to maternal and infant mortality by clinical medicine, public health, community partners, and the community
• Describe some local, statewide or national initiatives
• Discuss the role of race and racism
My “Real” Objectives

- Inspire and encourage
- Inform
- Challenge
- Support
My Personal Journey
INFANT MORTALITY CAUSES

- BIRTH DEFECTS
- PREMATURE BIRTH/LOW BIRTHWEIGHT
- SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME
HOW HAVE WE DONE?
Infant Mortality Rate: Michigan, 1980-2017
(rate per 1,000 live births)

Infant Mortality Rate Trend, Michigan, 1980-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># Live Births</th>
<th># Infant Death</th>
<th>IMR</th>
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<td>145,162</td>
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<td>127,518</td>
<td>1,013</td>
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<td>817</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>749</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>111,507</td>
<td>762</td>
<td>6.8</td>
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Infant mortality is defined as a death of a baby before his or her first birthday and is expressed as a rate per 1,000 live births.

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Preterm Birth, Michigan, 1990-2017

Preterm birth rate is defined as number of births delivered before 37 completed weeks of gestation per 100 live births.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># Live Births</th>
<th># PTB</th>
<th>PTB %</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>11411</td>
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Preterm Birth Rate Trend by Race, Michigan, 1990-2017

Preterm birth rate is defined as number of births delivered before 37 completed weeks of gestation per 100 live births.

Preterm Birth Rate Trend, Michigan and the City of Detroit, 1990-2017

Preterm birth rate is defined as number of births delivered before 37 completed weeks of gestation per 100 live births.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- Yes, we have made reasonably good progress over the last several decades. But, in spite of the efforts of many, the racial gap is basically unchanged. There is no denying the data. Race is an issue.
- Why?
This is very hard work...Heavy lifting...
CHILDREN
DON'T GET WEARY
PLANTATION SONG & CHORUS,
Sung with great success
BY
All the Minstrels.

BOSTON
OLIVER DITSON & CO.
94 & 95 WASHINGTON ST.

NEW YORK, C. H. DITSON & CO.
BOOK & J. L. BURRA.

SAN FRANCISCO, F. C. CURRIE WALKER & CO.
COPYRIGHT 1867 BY C. H. DITSON & CO.
Infant (and maternal) mortality is not exclusively a medical condition. It’s a social condition masquerading as a medical condition.

We must treat it accordingly...
“If racism is something you’re sick of hearing about, imagine how exhausting it must be living it every day.”

Jon Stewart

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

James Baldwin
RACISM IS AN IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE!

- DENIAL IS NOT JUST A RIVER IN EGYPT
  ➔ MARK TWAIN
Racism is an important issue!

- Many of the social determinants of health are primarily a product of racism
- The vast majority of health care providers and other professionals are good people trying their best to provide outstanding care to those they serve.
Racism is an important issue!

- **There is a difference between prejudice, discrimination, and racism.**
  - Prejudice occurs when you prejudge others based on their social group.
  - Discrimination occurs when action is taken to back up prejudice, for example, threats and violence.
  - Racism, however, is defined as a structure or system that is supported by institutional, legal, and social power.

“White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism” by Robin DiAngelo
Racism is an important issue!

- “Though people of color may be prejudiced against whites, they do not have the means (laws and policies) to implement their discrimination throughout society. In the U.S., white people control all the instruments of power, and therefore, only they can exercise racial privilege over other races.”

“White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism” by Robin DiAngelo
A biomedical model is insufficient to deal with the core challenges of maternal and infant mortality
Working Together

- The medical community – the public health community – the social services community – churches and other religious organizations – communities must work together…

- It really does take a village…
WHY WE NEED EACH OTHER

- Poverty
- Social isolation and lack of support
- Restricted access to health care services
- Hunger and food insecurity
- Health literacy
- Stressful home environment, homelessness
- Implicit or unconscious bias in healthcare delivery system
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Toxic Stress
This is not necessarily a new message.

Currently, there are lots of organizations across many sectors focused on infant and maternal mortality. Why is the needle moving so slowly?
Working Together

- Are our efforts well coordinated across sectors?
- Do we communicate effectively across sectors?
- Do we measure our success (and rewards) collectively or similarly?
- How well do we work together? Do we respect or understand the work of sectors different than our own?
Working Together

- Lady Limerick
- Home visitation (Nurse or peer)
- SisterFriends
- Make Your Date
- Regional Perinatal Quality Collaboratives
- MI AIM
MISG
Maternal Infant Strategy Group
Primary objective: strategically align maternal and infant health

MI MIHEC
Michigan Maternal Infant Health & Equity Collaborative

OB Initiatives
Michigan Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (MI AIM)
Michigan Collaborative for Contraceptive Access (MICCA)

MI PMT
Maternal Infant Project Management Team

RPQC
Regional Perinatal Quality Collaboratives

MOTHER INFANT HEALTH & EQUITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN
Maternal Infant Strategy Group (MISG)

- Created in 2017
- Align maternal and infant health goals and strategies across private and public stakeholders and to provide guidance on operationalizing a health equity lens in all MCH programs.
- Led efforts in the development of the Mother Infant Health and Equity Improvement Plan to achieve zero preventable maternal and infant deaths and zero health disparities.
This is not a matter of charity…

It’s a matter of justice!
Human Family by Maya Angelou
We are more alike, my friends, than we are unalike...

Together, we can create a better world for our mothers, babies and families
Thank you!