

# Bi-Weekly Update

## Maternal Infant Health Program



Please share this information with all  
MIHP team members.

Monday, February 14, 2022

- [RELEASE: Gov. Whitmer and Lt. Governor Gilchrist Celebrate Black History Month](#)
- [February is Black History Month](#)
- [Infant Safe Sleep Policy Project](#)
- [Save the Date: Maternal Infant Health Summit](#)
- [Hear Her Campaign](#)
- [NIH-funded study suggests COVID-19 increases risk of pregnancy complications](#)
- [RECORDING AVAILABLE: Hearing Native Mothers: A Tribal Discussion on Supporting Maternal Health](#)
- [Link to MDHHS Publications](#)
- [Coordinator Directory](#)
- [Topic Submission](#)
- [Previously Released MIHP Weekly Updates](#)

# RELEASE: Gov. Whitmer and Lt. Governor Gilchrist Celebrate Black History Month

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2022

Contact: [Press@Michigan.gov](mailto:Press@Michigan.gov)

### Gov. Whitmer and Lt. Governor Gilchrist Celebrate Black History Month

**LANSING, Mich.** – Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist celebrated the beginning of Black History Month with a proclamation honoring the contributions of Black Americans to both Michigan and the United States.

"This Black History Month, we come together to recognize the immeasurable impact Black Americans have had on Michigan and the United States," said **Governor Whitmer**. "Black history is a story of progress against insurmountable odds. Through seismic movements centered on values we all hold dear—justice, equality, dignity—Black Americans pulled our country forward. This month, and every month, we are reminded that we can bend the arc of history towards justice but only if we all step up. To do so requires all of us to show up and do our part to live our values, not just say them out loud. Together, we can build a more equitable and just Michigan."

"Black History Month is an opportunity to reflect and build upon the impact of Black Michiganders and Americans throughout history," said **Lieutenant Gov. Garlin Gilchrist**. "It is a time to learn about the struggles, sacrifices, and courageous actions of Black Michiganders on whose shoulders we stand: the abolitionists, activists, and everyday people who stood up, fought for what is right, and overcame the odds to make today possible. This Black History Month, I encourage each Michigander to take time to reflect on Black history and the ways it shapes the unfinished experiment of America."

During this month, Michiganders are encouraged to take time to recognize and celebrate Black Americans' contributions, sacrifices, and bravery on their journey to justice in our nation and work together to identify, develop, and implement solutions to further achieve equity in our state, as well as uplift our Black communities within the state of Michigan.

"Black history is a current event," said **Donnell R. White, Senior Vice President and Regional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director for Huntington Bank**. "It is imperative that we pause to salute African-American trailblazers, and those that carry forth their rich legacy every day. I applaud the Governor's efforts to acknowledge Michigan's African American history makers.

"Black History Month is an opportunity to understand the historical legacy of so many Black Americans who have contributed to our lived experience, culture, and way of life," said **Ken L. Harris, Ph.D., president and CEO of the National Business**

**League.** “I encourage every Michigander to take time this month – and throughout the year -- to think about Black history, the continued struggle for freedom, progress we have made, and the ideals we have yet to achieve. I am grateful Governor Whitmer is proclaiming February 2022 as Black History Month in Michigan. This is a moment to come together, remember our past, and look to our future. As we continue to fight hate with action, discrimination with justice and economic opportunity, let us draw on the renewed understanding that Black History Month is a founding part of American history, signifying a people without a knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without its roots.”

“Black History Month is American History. Unfortunately, it is a history that is too often overlooked, falsified and even maligned by those who wish to keep us unaware of both the pain and the glory of this unique nation,” said **Jametta Lilly, Chief Executive Officer of Detroit Parent Network.** “For Michigan families and All of Our Children let us be committed to learning, sharing and looking back in order to move forward. Whether it's February or any other month, let us lift the multitude of stories and facts of the courageous experiences and prolific contributions of Black men, women and children in battling every sort of racism and forging freedom in the United States and the world. As Michiganders Celebrate Black History, we are also celebrating the capacity of this nation to become a true beacon of justice, peace and opportunity for all.”

“Black History Month is a time for the nation to reflect and uplift the history of people in this country who helped build what we see today,” said **Chiante' Lymon, Executive Director, Society for History and Racial Equity.** “A history that is usually forgotten for the other eleven months of the year. Black History Month is an opportunity to understand Black histories, going beyond stories of racism and slavery to spotlight Black achievement. Michiganders should take the time to reflect on local history and learn more about their own community history.”

View a copy of the proclamation [here](#).

## February is Black History Month

Suffering in silence. This is the story of so many Black women in the US who are experiencing perinatal mental health issues. Black women experience a higher prevalence of perinatal mental health disorders, relative to the US population as a whole (40% of Black women experience postpartum depression, which is more than double the rate of the general population). However, Black women are less likely to seek treatment, and if they do, they are less likely to receive quality treatment.

*Why is this?* Well, there are many contributing factors, most of which are grounded in systemic racism, from lack of diversity in healthcare to higher levels of stress and trauma to perceived racial discrimination, which leads to overall distrust in the healthcare system. All of these reasons and so many more play a role in the experience of Black women regarding perinatal mental health care. Black women continue to fall through the cracks. So what is PSI doing to help change this narrative?

PSI has committed to lifting the voices of Black birthing people. As we know that can help reduce the stigma, help to break down barriers, and to shed light on the perinatal mental health crisis that is affecting so many. PSI is also focused on creating programs and services specifically for Black birthing people and families (such as Black Moms Connect), while also increasing our focus on representation as an organization.

***So what can you do?***

- **Be open to learning.** [Watch the Black Women's Health Imperative: "Path to Perinatal Mental Wellness: A Missing Link to Improving Black Maternal Mental Health Outcomes."](#)



*Jenn Davis, PSI Chapters Program Manager*



# Infant Safe Sleep Policy Project

The MDHHS Infant Safe Sleep Program has extended an invitation to MIHP providers who would like assistance to implement or revise a safe sleep policy/protocol. When agencies have a safe sleep policy/protocol, it helps ensure:

- Staff are trained and more knowledgeable about safe sleep and how to educate and support parents
- Families receive safe sleep education and the supports needed to implement the guidelines
- Families are referred to supportive programs such as home visiting
- Agencies are better able to coordinate provision of needed resources to families

Implementing a protocol/policy is considered a best practice; it is **not** a MIHP requirement. If you are interested in working with the Infant Safe Sleep Program to develop or update a safe sleep policy, please email Colleen Nelson at [nelsonc7@michigan.gov](mailto:nelsonc7@michigan.gov).

## Save the Date: Maternal Infant Health Summit



The banner features a central photograph of a diverse group of people, including an older man, a young girl, a woman, a man with a beard and hat, and a baby. To the left of the photo is the logo for 'Community Stories and Solutions: STRONGER TOGETHER', which consists of stylized human figures in various colors. To the right of the photo, the text reads 'SAVE the DATE!' in large blue letters, followed by 'June 21-22, 2022' and 'VIRTUAL' in green. Below that, it says 'MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH SUMMIT' in blue. At the bottom right, a grey box contains the text 'Working Together to Improve Maternal and Infant Health in Michigan' in blue. At the bottom left, a blue box contains the text 'Visit MIHEALTHSUMMIT.COM for more information' in white.

Community Stories and Solutions:  
**STRONGER TOGETHER**

**SAVE the DATE!**

June 21-22, 2022  
VIRTUAL

**MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH SUMMIT**

*Working Together to Improve Maternal and Infant Health in Michigan*

Visit [MIHEALTHSUMMIT.COM](http://MIHEALTHSUMMIT.COM) for more information

## Hear Her Campaign

CDC announces the release of a [new Hear Her campaign webpage](#) and materials for healthcare professionals. Two in three pregnancy-related deaths are preventable. Healthcare professionals play a critical role in eliminating preventable maternal mortality.

**Materials** include posters, palm cards, shareable graphics, and sample social media content in English and Spanish. **Clinical resources and tools** from a variety of organizations are also featured. Information for healthcare professionals can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/hearher/>.

The materials complement efforts by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and CDC to address readiness in prenatal care, emergency department, primary care, and urgent care settings to identify and manage obstetric emergencies during pregnancy and the postpartum period

## NIH-funded study suggests COVID-19 increases risk of pregnancy complications

On February 7, 2022, The National Institutes of Health (NIH) released results from a study funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) which indicated that pregnant women with COVID-19 appear to be at greater risk for common pregnancy complications, in addition to health risks from the virus, than pregnant women without COVID-19. Additional information regarding the study and results may be found at [NIH-funded study suggests COVID-19 increases risk of pregnancy complications | National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#)



# RECORDING AVAILABLE: Hearing Native Mothers: A Tribal Discussion on Supporting Maternal Health

Please find a recording of the first part of the session “Hearing Native Mothers: A Tribal Discussion Session on a Campaign to Support Healthy American Indian and Alaska Native Pregnancies and Maternal Health”, hosted in partnership by the NIHB and CDC by click the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTo89FkRo0E>



## Link to MDHHS Publications

[Sign up here to receive program updates and communications.](#)

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## Coordinator Directory

[Click here to access the Coordinator Directory](#)

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## Topic Submission

If you have suggestions for topics to be addressed in future additions of the MIHP Weekly Update, [please submit your ideas here](#).

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## Previously Released MIHP Weekly Updates

To review any previously released MIHP Weekly Updates, they can be found by [visiting the MIHP webpage Michigan.gov/MIHP](http://Michigan.gov/MIHP).

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Our communication for the Maternal Infant Health Program has been streamlined to a single email address and phone number. Please forward all email to [MIHP@michigan.gov](mailto:MIHP@michigan.gov). For further assistance, contact the state office @ **1-833-MI4-MIHP (1-833-644-6447)**. Thank you.