

# Maternal Infant Health Program

## Weekly Update



Please share this information with all MIHP team members.

**Monday, September 28, 2020**

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## Clarification on Email Verification

As a clarification to the article in last week's MIHP Weekly Update, verification of agency email addresses applies to the primary and backup personnel. Additional staff email addresses may be provided at the agency's discretion, however submission of email addresses for every staff member is not required. To add new or updated email addresses, please follow this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MIHPListServUpdate>

# Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month!

Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared October 2020 Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month calling attention to the importance of preventing sleep-related infant deaths. Most people think this would never happen to them, but the sad reality is that a baby dies nearly every other day Michigan and these deaths are overwhelmingly preventable.

To keep babies 0-12 months of age safe while sleeping at night and during naps, follow the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines:

- Place baby on back, in a crib, bassinet or pack n' play for every sleep time.
- Use a firm mattress with a tightly fitted sheet.
- Keep baby's sleep space clutter free – no pillows, blankets or toys.
- Avoid covering baby's head or overheating. Instead of a blanket, consider using a sleep sack, wearable blanket or footed sleeper to keep baby warm.
- Remind everyone who cares for baby, including babysitters and family members, how to keep baby safe while sleeping.
- Keep baby in a smoke-free environment.
- Support breastfeeding and immunizations.

Learn more about the safe sleep guidelines and [why they are recommended](#) to keep babies safe.

Nationally, October is also SIDS Awareness Month. To help spread the word, the [Safe to Sleep® Campaign](#) is encouraging organizations and individuals to participate in this year's [#SafeSleepSnap photo activity](#). They are also hosting a [Safe Infant Sleep Social Media Block Party](#). Take time to promote infant safe sleep in your community - educate your clients, friends and family. Join us and [learn how you can make a difference](#) in October, and all year long!

Additional information on Safe Sleep awareness and resources for promoting Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month will be provided throughout the month.

If you have any questions about infant safe sleep, please contact the Infant Safe Sleep Program at [MDHHS-InfantSafeSleep@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-InfantSafeSleep@michigan.gov).



## Home Visiting Conference Recordings

The recordings of The Michigan Home Visiting Initiative Conference held in July are now available for viewing. You can access the conference for free at <https://mhviconference.com/>. CE credit for sessions is available before Oct 31, 2020.

## MIHEIP Year One Highlights - 2020



In September 2019, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced the release of the 2020-2023 [Mother Infant Health & Equity Improvement Plan \(MIHEIP\)](#).

During the last year, many successes have improved the lives of mothers, infants and families in Michigan. Maternal infant health stakeholders work on expansive and diverse efforts statewide. [The Mother Infant Health & Equity Improvement Plan \(MIHEIP\) - Year One Highlights - 2020](#) was released in September 2020, giving a brief overview of the successes in maternal infant health statewide, and acknowledging the invaluable commitment of stakeholders.

Visit <https://www.michigan.gov/MIHEIP> to learn more about the [MIHEIP](#) & [Year One Highlights](#).



There is so much incredible work going on to improve the care for moms, babies and families across Michigan!

## Racial Equity Leaders Cohort

As a reminder, the Michigan Early Childhood System, led by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five leadership team, is seeking home visiting professionals to join the Racial Equity Leaders Cohort. Last week's MIHP Weekly Update had information on the initiative, including a link for an application to participate. Additional links have been provided to view a recorded informational webinar or slides from the webinar, which was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Please click [HERE](#) for the webinar recording or [HERE](#) for the slides.

Note that applications are due **October 5<sup>th</sup>**.

## "Learn the Signs. Act Early." Ambassador Program



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces that its "Learn the Signs. Act Early" program now has *Act Early* ambassadors in every state. The *Act Early* Ambassadors work with the "[Learn the Signs. Act Early](#)" program to improve early identification of developmental delays and disabilities so that children and their families can access needed services as early as possible. Michigan's ambassador is Synthia Britton,

IDEA Part C-Home Visiting Public Health Consultant at MDHHS. She can be reached at [brittons@michigan.gov](mailto:brittons@michigan.gov).

## Updates from Our Maternal Infant Health Partners and Programs

**America is Failing Black Moms During the Pandemic:** The pandemic is making the maternal health care crisis worse, but it does not have to be this way. In an in-depth article by the Vox website author Anna North, she writes about the birth experience of Ashlee Paisley, her interactions with the Southern Birth Justice Network, and her out-of-hospital birth with a midwife provider and a Doula at the Magnolia Birth House. The article goes on to describe the barriers Black birthing people have faced before Covid-19, and the maternal health crisis in America. Dr. Joia Crear-Perry, an OB-GYN and the president of the National Birth Equity Collaborative, provides context on maternal health, and maternal and infant mortality.

**Community-Based Doula Program is Using Storybook Narratives as an Educational Tool and Call to Action:** As COVID-19 strains our health care infrastructure, pregnant women face severe isolation when family and community support is critical in birth outcomes. The advocacy organization HealthConnect One<sup>®</sup> worked with a network of birth workers to pull together the experiences of Black and Brown families who have been navigating birthing during COVID. From our partners at Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP)

**Dismantling Racism in Public Health: Reconsidering the Role of Evidence:** In an article by Audrey Loper and W. Oscar Fleming in the AMCHP *Pulse Newsletter*, the authors examine how public health has focused on the expanded use of evidence-based strategies. However, they note that "by framing academic evidence as superior to community-defined evidence, we may be perpetuating racism." They explore ways to "strengthen the community's capacity to identify, evaluate and deliver existing, culturally relevant programs." From our partners at AMCHP.

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## Coordinator Directory

To view the most recent Coordinator Directory, please click [here](#).

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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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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.