

Weekly Update

Maternal Infant Health Program



Please share this information with all
MIHP team members.

Monday, April 12, 2021

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Reminder! Coordinator Meeting Registration Deadline Approaching

Registration for the May 6th Coordinator Meeting webinar will close on **Friday, April 16th**. Please register [HERE](#) if you haven't already done so.

Required Training for MIHP

As indicated on the MIHP website, access to required trainings are through both MiHealth.org and the Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals. When accessing [the current required trainings](#) via the Institute, you may receive a prompt indicating that modules are unavailable until after April 30, 2021, however this does not apply to the required courses for MIHP. If you receive the prompt, acknowledge (select "OK") and close the box. You will then be able to follow the regular process to access trainings. [There are no new trainings listed; this information applies to the current requirements on the website.](#) If you have any additional questions, email mihp@michigan.gov.

Celebrate Black Maternal Health Week

[Black Maternal Health Week](#) (BMHW), April 11 – 17, is observed during National Minority Health Month in an effort to bring awareness of the gaps in maternal health experienced by Black women in the U.S. The HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) works with partners to reach, educate and inform racial and ethnic minority populations during BMHW by amplifying efforts from federal and non-federal partners.

Significant racial and ethnic maternal health disparities exist in the U.S. Compared to non-Hispanic white women, non-Hispanic Black women are [three times](#) more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes and one and a half times more likely to experience severe complications among hospital deliveries. For Black mothers, the risks are higher at each stage of the labor, delivery, and postpartum process, regardless of income or education level. Contributors for these high rates are rooted in implicit and/or explicit bias and structural racism in social determinants of health, chronic stress, and quality of care.

In late 2020, HHS issued the [Action Plan](#) to Improve Maternal Health in America to help address risk factors before and during pregnancy and improve the quality of access to maternity and postpartum care. In addition, OMH is partnering with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop tools and resources that will support [maternal mortality review committee's \(MMRCs\)](#) in their efforts to address disparities in maternal mortality among racial and ethnic minority women.

During Black Maternal Health Week, OMH and partners are highlighting the following initiatives and activities:

Maternal Health e-Learning Program - OMH's free [maternal health e-learning curriculum](#) is designed to develop maternal health care providers' knowledge and skills related to culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS), person centered care and understanding implicit bias across the continuum of maternal health care. The course includes information on maternal health disparities experienced specifically by Black and American Indian individuals, and the training is intended to be responsive to these issues and CLAS for all racial/ethnic groups. The course is available to all physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, certified nurse midwives, and certified midwives.

Black Maternal Health Virtual Conference – April 16-17: Hosted by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, the conference will feature clinicians, professionals, advocates and other stakeholders working to improve maternal health, including a presentation from the HHS Office of Minority Health on culturally and linguistically appropriate care in maternal health. [Find out more about the conference here.](#)

Here are some ways you can help promote the observance:

- **Share** the OMH maternal health e-learning program [partner toolkit](#). Also share the OMH [recorded presentation](#) about the new curriculum.
- **Spread the word** by accessing and sharing the resources in the Black Mamas Matter Alliance (BMMA) [BMHW Toolkit](#) which has resources, sample social media messages, and downloadable graphics.
- **Join the conversation** on social media by using the hashtag #BMWH21 and #NMHM2021.
- **Dedicate** a blog post to National Black Maternal Health Week.
- **Share CDC information** about COVID-19 vaccines and people who are pregnant or breastfeeding and promote National Minority Health Month [#VaccineReady activities and resources](#).
- **Read and share** RADM Felicia Collins blog on [the importance of providing culturally and linguistically appropriate maternal health care services](#).
- **Sign up for email updates** from OMH and about National Minority Health Month or follow OMH on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

CDC Eviction Moratorium Extension

As people across the nation struggle to pay monthly rent, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel is alerting Michigan tenants to an extension of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) eviction moratorium – now extended through June 30, 2021. If qualified, tenants must fill out an [eviction protection declaration](#) form and provide it to their landlord.

The CDC states that while the moratorium is in effect, tenants may be protected from eviction, late fees, and utility shutoffs due to non-payment. The moratorium is intended to delay costs for renters, reducing the impact of the pandemic on families in need. Tenants should be aware that back rent, along with other potential late charges, may be assessed by landlords once the moratorium is lifted. More information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

“These are extraordinary times, and as the nation works through how to help those in need, it is a relief to know that the CDC continues to recognize the need to provide tenants a way to temporarily avoid eviction,” said Nessel. “If tenants cannot pay rent and are forced to move, many would relocate to close quarters or shared housing, including living with family members. Doing so could increase the risk of COVID-19 spread.”

If your families are worried about being evicted, even with the moratorium in place, below is a list of federal, state, and local programs and resources that may be able to offer assistance.

- [CDC Eviction Moratorium](#) - Renters who qualify for the eviction moratorium must fill out the CDC’s [eviction protection declaration](#) form and provide it to their landlord.
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – HUD has a list of housing counselors in your area who can answer questions. Click on the link or call 800-569-4287.
- [COVID Emergency Rental Assistance \(CERA\) Program](#) hosted by the Michigan State Housing Development Agency (MSHDA) -- CERA provides rental and utility assistance for eligible renters. More information on this program and how to apply can be found on their website.
- Additional local resources for tenants can be found on the [Attorney General’s Landlord Tenant](#) page.

Your connection to consumer protection is just a click or phone call away. [Consumer complaints can be filed online at the Attorney General’s website](#), or by calling 877-765-8388.

Infant Safe Sleep Resources

Did you know the MDHHS Infant Safe Sleep Program offers a wide variety of free educational resources? The [Infant Safe Sleep website](#) has resources for parents and professionals including videos, hand-outs, online trainings, recorded webinars and other supplemental materials.

MDHHS provides resources on a variety of topics, such as the sleep environment, infant development and protective factors:

- *Infant Safe Sleep*
- *Baby Eating and Sleeping: What is Normal?*
- *Breastfeeding & Safe Sleep*
- *Is this Infant Safe Sleep? Checklist*
- *Soothing a Crying Baby*
- *Swaddling*
- *Don't Let Baby Get Too Warm*
- *Smoking & Safe Sleep*
- *Safe Sleep & Vaccines*
- *How to Help Families Practice Infant Safe Sleep*

You can order most of the resource materials for free from the [MDHHS Clearinghouse](#). If you want to learn more about infant safe sleep, there are a variety of training options on the Safe Sleep website under [Information for Professionals](#).

There is a [list of local safe sleep resources](#), such as cribs or training sessions, for families on the website. You can also contact the MDHHS Infant Safe Sleep Program at MDHHS-InfantSafeSleep@michigan.gov for additional assistance.

Good night. Sleep tight. Sleep safe.

Learn more at
michigan.gov/safesleep



Birth Defects Outreach Materials

Every 4½ minutes a baby is born with a birth defect. We know that not all birth defects can be prevented. But we also know that women can increase their chances of having a healthy baby by managing health conditions and by adopting healthy behaviors before and during pregnancy.

The Birth Defects and Education program would like to extend an opportunity for **free** educational outreach materials available to order. Topics include education on folic acid, preconception tips, and resources for families of infants and toddlers with special needs. The materials are available in English, Spanish and Arabic. Please visit <https://migrc.org/order-materials/> ordering page to submit your order.

Progress in research brings hope for new treatments and cures each day. Babies with birth defects are living longer and healthier lives. This is thanks to education, newborn screening, early diagnosis, special care and new medical treatments.



BIRTH DEFECTS
EDUCATION & OUTREACH

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Reducing the Risk of Heavy Metal Ingestion in Infants

A Congressional Report about heavy metals in baby food products was released in February 2021. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) provides recommendations for lowering the risk of heavy metal exposure in infants including serving a variety of foods, rotating the types of grains provided, and breastfeeding, if possible.

- Eating a variety of foods is the best defense against heavy metals and chemicals in foods. Encourage fresh, unprocessed food whenever possible.
- Eating food rich in iron, vitamin C, and calcium, as well as protein from a variety of sources, reduces the body's absorption of heavy metals. Read more [here](#) .
- Eating small meals or snacks throughout the day is protective for children against heavy metals in foods. Children with empty stomachs absorb more lead than children with full stomachs
- Share “Well Fed Means Less Lead ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)) ([Arabic](#)) **with families when helpful.**
- Kansas WIC offers [this resource](#) which discusses several heavy metals.
- Parents can take steps to prevent or reduce their children's exposure to heavy metals such as lead from sources other than baby food. MDHHS's website has some helpful information on lead [here](#).
- Information about making your own baby food can be found at [How to Make Your Own Baby Food: Homemade Baby Food Puree Tips \(whattoexpect.com\)](#)

More information can be found on this topic by referring to the [National WIC Association Statement](#), which includes a link to the full Congressional Report about toxins in baby food products that was released in February 2021.



MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH SUMMIT

Registration is now open for the virtual summit on June 28th and 29th. Click [here](#) for information and a link to register.

Coordinator Directory

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

Topic Submission

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

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 or by clicking [here](#).

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. For further assistance, contact the state office @ **1-833-MI4-MIHP (1-833-644-6447)**. Thank you.