

Weekly Update

Maternal Infant Health Program



Please share this information with all MIHP team members.

Monday, May 10, 2021

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Coordinator Meeting Follow-up

Thank you to those of you who participated in the Annual Coordinator Meeting last Thursday. We had very positive comments about the presentations and the format. If you attended, you will receive a link to a survey to provide your feedback on the meeting. Please take a few minutes to complete it, as the information helps us to develop strong, relevant training and informational sessions.

Answers to questions that were posted in the Zoom chat box and Q&A feature will be posted on the "Provider Training" page of the MIHP website by Wednesday afternoon.

National Women's Health Week

National Women's Health Week (NWHW) is a weeklong health observance led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health (OWH). The week of May 9-15, 2021 serves as a reminder for women and girls, especially during the outbreak of COVID-19, to make their health a priority and take care of themselves. It is extremely important for all women and girls, especially those with [underlying health conditions](#), such as [hypertension](#), [diabetes](#), [obesity](#), [cardiovascular](#) and [respiratory conditions](#), and [women 65 years and older](#), to take care of your health now.

For additional information and links to resources, check out the NWHW [website](#).



Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinars



The latest in the series of free breastfeeding webinars from the Michigan Breastfeeding Network is now available for viewing:

“Dismantling Racism and Implicit Bias in Breastfeeding and Human Lactation,” presented by TaNefer L. Camara, MS-HCA, IBCLC. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Description from the presenter: Despite rising trends in initiation of breastfeeding rates, disparities persist in initiation and duration for certain racial and ethnic groups, particularly among African Americans. While breastfeeding is often painted as a personal choice there are many factors that influence one's decision, plan, and initiation and duration. This webinar will address how racism, specifically anti-Black racism, is the root cause of disparities in breastfeeding and lactation. I will debunk the theory of implicit bias and expose how racism in its many forms shows up in lactation practice.

Case studies and parent narratives will be used to highlight the insidious ways breastfeeding is casually disrupted and undermined by medical providers, nurses, and others who interface with birthing and lactating people. We will end with recommendations for identifying racism, addressing implicit bias, and how to support and affirm Black, Indigenous and people of color in breastfeeding/chestfeeding and lactation.

Approved for 1 L-CERP, 1 nurse's contact hour, 1 social work CE hour, 1 dietitian CPEU, 1 community health worker CEU, 1 certified health education specialist CECH, and 1 CME until April 20, 2022.

For additional webinars, click [HERE](#).

Good night. Sleep tight. Sleep safe.

Learn more about the safest way for babies to sleep at michigan.gov/safesleep



The Child Tax Credit

The University of Michigan's [Poverty Solutions Initiative](#) has created a website to offer step-by-step guidance for parents to ensure they receive the expanded Child Tax Credit. The new credit is worth \$3,000 per year per child ages 6-17, and \$3,600 per year per child under 6 years old. It will be paid out in regular payments, not once a year. If your families have children under 18, they may be eligible even if they do not usually file taxes or have low/no earnings.

Click [here](#) for eligibility and more detailed information.



Michigan Infant Mortality Lowest in Recorded History

Michigan has achieved a significant milestone in the state's efforts to keep mothers and babies safe. In 2019, data shows that Michigan had both the lowest Infant Mortality Rate in recorded history and a measurable decrease in the disparity of death occurrences between Black and white races.

Recent data released by the [Maternal and Child Health \(MCH\) Epidemiology Section](#) of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) shows an Infant Mortality Rate for 2019 of 6.4 per 1,000 live births and a reduction of the Black and white infant mortality disparity ratio of 3.2 in 2018 to 2.6 in 2019.

Infant mortality is considered the death of an infant before reaching the age of one. Causes of infant mortality included birth defects, preterm birth, maternal pregnancy complications, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and injuries like suffocation.

The decreasing disparity ratio is good news for Michigan, but leaders in state and local public health continue striving to eradicate disparities. Michigan continues to address root causes of maternal and infant health disparities, which aligns with the 2030 Healthy People goal set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to eliminate racial disparities in infant deaths.

"It is encouraging that Michigan achieved an all-time low infant mortality rate in 2019, as well as the fact that we are starting to see a decreasing trend in the infant mortality disparity ratio between Black and white infants," said Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. "Vigilance and intentionality in our efforts must continue for us to remain on course. We must continue to address the root cause of inequities--systemic racism moving collectively and actionably, as we celebrate the lowest infant mortality rate of record and closing disparate gaps in our fight to assure healthy outcomes for Michigan mothers and babies."

In September 2019, MDHHS announced the release of the [2020-2023, Mother Infant Health & Equity Improvement Plan \(MIHEIP\)](#). The Improvement Plan includes comprehensive statewide strategies to improve the health of mothers and babies to achieve the vision of *Zero Preventable Deaths and Zero Health Disparities*.

To learn more about infant mortality, visit the [CDC website](#).

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.
