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Birth Outcomes / Infant Mortality

Key findings from the JHACH CHNA:

Birth-related issues including infant mortality are more prevalent among Black / African-American low-income women, whose children under one year of age have higher infant mortality rates than their white counterparts.

- The death rate from birth-related issues including infant mortality is 65% over a five-year period (of the 165 total deaths of youth ages 0-19 from 2010-2014 in St. Petersburg, 104 of those were younger than one year old).
- Approximately one in 10 parents reported birth-related issues (e.g., low birth weight, prenatal and others) as a health issue their children have faced.
- Other top-ranking health issues from the CHNA (e.g., obesity, chronic disease and mental health) contribute to the issue of birth outcomes / infant mortality.

Outcome-Driven Activities:

Refine countywide referral process

Several maternal and child health home visiting programs are available at no charge to pregnant women, infants and their families across Pinellas County. By refining the referral process, qualified participants will be directed to the program and services that will serve their individual needs more effectively and efficiently.

Conduct comprehensive screenings

Educating health providers to conduct more comprehensive screenings of maternal and child health participants will result in the identification of social health needs and awareness of appropriate resources that will address those needs.

Provide health literacy information

Providing health literacy information to prenatal mothers and fathers enables them to become more involved in their individual care, which influences the health and well-being of their pregnancy and baby.



PROPOSED OBJECTIVES

1. Bridge the gap between clinical/non-clinical services for 'at risk' mothers and fathers in an effort to address social determinants of health.
2. Increase awareness of planned pregnancy options and family planning by 25%, for women capable of becoming pregnant and their families.
3. Modify a minimum of one municipal or St. Petersburg code with public housing to improve birth outcomes and decrease risk factors for families.
4. Revise countywide referral process for pregnant women and infants who qualify for maternal and child health home visiting programs to improve access and reduce the number of preterm births, low birth weight babies and infant mortality.