



# COUNCIL ON HEALTHY MOTHERS AND BABIES

## Prenatal Care Capacity FACTS



**Prematurity, low birth weight, infant mortality and other negative birth outcomes can be reduced with INCREASED available prenatal care**



**The average hospital charge for infants with a principal diagnosis of low birth weight or prematurity was \$75,000**



**1 in 34 infants are born to women receiving late or no prenatal care in Ohio**



**Franklin County uninsured and Medicaid eligible pregnant women wait on average 22 days for their initial prenatal care appointment.**



**WHY IS PRENATAL CARE IMPORTANT?**

Access to and utilization of prenatal care (PNC) is key for improving outcomes of pregnancy and women's health. PNC is often a woman's entry / re-entry into the health care system, particularly for low income women that do not meet the Medicaid eligibility guidelines. Prenatal care capacity, access and utilization continue to be a challenge in Columbus, Franklin County and statewide.

**BARRIERS TO PRENATAL CARE CAPACITY**

A study conducted by the Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies (COHMAB) revealed a **26% reduction in initial prenatal care appointments (from 1,516 slots in May 2003 to 1,118 slots in April 2006)** for uninsured and Medicaid eligible women in Franklin County. **Reasons for this reduction include:**

1. Hospitals reduced slots due to *reduction in availability of residents* due to changes in the number of hours they can work;
2. *Increased number of immigrant pregnant women* requiring longer OB appointment time slots to address language and cultural barriers;
3. A broader, overarching concern is the *liability issues/malpractice costs* for care providers providing OB services that result in fewer OB providers & future residents.

**IMPACT OF PRENATAL CARE**

Such a reduction in care creates a challenge for pregnant women to obtain early, accessible prenatal care.

**1 in 34 infants are born to women receiving late or no prenatal care in Ohio!**

<b>Percentage of Women Entering Prenatal Care During FIRST TRIMESTER *</b>		
The Federal Healthy People 2010 Goal is 90% of women will enter care in first trimester.		
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>FRANKLIN COUNTY</b>	<b>OHIO</b>
<b>1998</b>	83.6% - All Women	85.5% - All Women
	71.3% - African American	73.3% - African American
<b>2000</b>	87.6% - All Women	86.7% - All Women
	78.8% - African American	75.6% - African American
<b>2002</b>	88.0% - All Women	87.8% - All Women
	78.8% - African American	78.8% - African American

- ❑ Not receiving adequate prenatal care or no prenatal care has a greater chance of leading to negative birth outcomes and of course, costly medical interventions.
- ❑ In fact, babies born to mothers who receive late or no prenatal care are nearly **TWICE as likely to be born** with a low birth weight than babies born to mothers who receive early prenatal care.

\* Above data from Ohio Department of Health



**To Have  
Healthy Babies,  
We  
Must Have  
Healthy Mothers**



**COST OF INADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE**

- ❑ 8,163 patients with serious health problems cost Ohio's Medicaid program \$1.1 billion annually. **1 OUT OF 4 of those patients are neonatal care babies.**
  
- ❑ In the United States, **prematurity/low birth weight is the second leading cause** of all infant deaths and the leading cause of death among African American infants.

<b>Percentage of Preterm Births</b>		
The Federal Healthy People 2010 Goal is no more than 7.6% of live births.		
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>FRANKLIN COUNTY</b>	<b>OHIO</b>
<b>1998</b>	11.6% - All Women	11.4% - All Women
	16.2% - African American	16.6% - African American
<b>2000</b>	11.6% - All Women	11.4% - All Women
	15.4% - African American	16.2% - African American
<b>2002</b>	11.6% - All Women	11.8% - All Women
	15.7% - African American	16.7% - African American

**Prematurity, low birth weight, infant mortality and other negative birth outcomes can be reduced with INCREASED available prenatal care**

<b>Infant Mortality - The Ultimate Devastation</b>		
The Federal Healthy People 2010 Goal is 4.5 deaths per 1000 live births.		
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>FRANKLIN COUNTY</b>	<b>OHIO</b>
<b>1998</b>	8.7 - All Women	8.0 - All Women
	15.8 - African American	14.1 - African American
<b>2000</b>	8.1 - All Women	7.5 - All Women
	13.4 - African American	14.8 - African American
<b>2002</b>	8.8 - All Women	7.9 - All Women
	16.4 - African American	17.6 - African American

**Infant Mortality is a subject of profound social importance. The modern view has ceased to be fatalistic; infant mortality is now regarded as a preventable waste..."**

*Julia C. Lathrop, Chief Children's Bureau Department of Labor 1915*

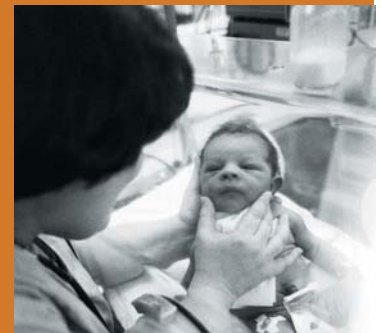


***Council on Healthy Mothers and Babies***

**P.O. Box 3384, Dublin OH 43016, 614.586.1914(phone), 614.227.9868(fax),**

**aforest1313@yahoo.com**

**[www.healthymothersandbabies.org](http://www.healthymothersandbabies.org)**



*Supported by the Columbus Public Health Child and Family Health Services Program with funds from the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Child and Family Health Services.*