Infant Mortality in Northeast Florida

2009 Regional Leadership Academy

Carol Brady, Executive Director
NEF Healthy Start Coalition

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Outline

• What is infant mortality and why is it important?
• Infant mortality trends in NEF
• Factors that contribute to poor birth outcomes
• How communities can improve the health of mothers & babies
Infant Mortality

- Key indicator of the health of a community
- Affects all populations
- Multi-factorial
- Health & social risk factors
Infant Mortality is the death of a baby before one year of age.
Infant Mortality Rate

Number of **Infant Deaths** $\times 1000$

Number of **Live Births**

$\frac{150 \text{ infant deaths}}{20,000 \text{ live births}} \times 1000 = 7.5$

$\frac{150 \text{ infant deaths}}{40,000 \text{ live births}} \times 1000 = 3.7$
Neonatal Deaths: Less than 28 days

Postneonatal Deaths: 28-365 days
Resident Infant Mortality Rates-All Races
Northeast Florida and Florida
1998-2007

Prepared by L. Lee
Source: Birth and Death Certificates/Vital Stats
Resident White Infant Mortality Rates
Northeast Florida and Florida
1998 – 2007

Prepared by L. Lee
Source: Birth and Death Certificates/Vital Stats
Resident Nonwhite Infant Mortality Rates
Northeast Florida and Florida
1998 – 2007

Prepared by L.Lee
Source: Birth and Death Certificates/Vital Stats
Resident Infant Mortality Rates by County
All Races-Yearly Comparison

How Do We Compare?

- Florida ranks 29 out of 50 states (7.1 deaths/1000 vs. 6.6 deaths/1000 in 2005)
- US ranks 32 out of 33 among industrialized countries (6.6 deaths/1000 live births)
- Japan has lowest IM: 2 deaths/1000 live births
Leading Causes of Infant Death

- **Prematurity**: Too many babies born too early and too small
- Birth defects
- SIDS and sleep-related deaths
Causes of Infant Mortality

Root Causes

Intermediate Causes

Immediate Causes

Infant Mortality
Causes of Infant Mortality

Root Causes
- Economics
- Health
- Education
- Crime
- Health Care
- Support

Intermediate Causes
- Social Issues
- Maternal Health
- Perinatal Care
- Environment

Immediate Causes
- Preterm/LBW
- Survival
- Infant Health
- Infant Mortality
Fetal & Infant Mortality Reviews

- Purpose: to examine cases with the worst outcomes to identify gaps in services that might be addressed through community action.
- Case Review Team uses a process developed by the American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology. Information is abstracted from birth, death, prenatal care, Healthy Start, hospital and autopsy records. Efforts are also made to interview the family.
Average Contributing Factors by Category
(per case by race)
FIMR Cases 2005-2007
Frequency of Contributing Factors by Race
FIMR Cases 2005-2007

# of contributing factors per case

# of cases

Black n=45
White n=31
FIMR Conclusions
Black Infant Mortality

• Black women experience more factors in all categories
• Nearly 75% of the cases involved:
  – Unplanned pregnancies
  – Women with 11-20 factors contributing to their loss
• About 60% of the women
  – were not healthy before they got pregnant
  – had inadequate prenatal care
• Over ½ of the women
  – had a history of loss in previous pregnancies
  – infections other than STD’s during pregnancy
  – had life course perspective issues
• Nearly 40% of the women were obese when they got pregnant
• 1/3 of the women expressed fear/dissatisfaction with the system
Community Initiatives

• Florida’s Healthy Start
  – Black Infant Health Initiatives - Jax
  – St. Johns Infant Mortality Task Force
• JCCI Infant Mortality Study
Healthy Start

• Created in 1991 with leadership of Governor Lawton Chiles
• Goal: To reduce infant mortality, reduce the number of low birthweight babies, and improve health and development outcomes
• Components: Individual & community level interventions
Components: Individual

- Medicaid coverage for pregnant women
- Prenatal & infant screening (universal)
- Assessment & leveling
- Ongoing care coordination
- Risk reduction services
Components: Community

• Healthy Start Community Coalitions
• 30 community-based, non-profit corporations
• Self-selected service area
• Membership, role and responsibilities outlined in statute
• Funded by state DOH
Coalition Role

• Conduct comprehensive needs assessments
• Develop 5 year, annual plans
• Receive and allocate state, federal MCH funds
• Contract for services with local providers
• Oversee and monitor services
Coalition Role

• Catalyst for change
• Community education, awareness
• Leverage funding to address gaps
• Advocate for program & families
• Community mobilization & engagement
Focus on disparities

• Black Infant Mortality Task Force organized in 1997 to examine disparities in birth outcomes in Jacksonville

• Magnolia Project: focus on health of women before pregnancy
Focus on disparities

- Black Infant Health Practice Initiative: 2008 state effort to focus on disparities and community engagement
- Eight counties with greatest disparities (Duval, Putnam)
Focus on disparities

- FIMR case reviews, Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR)
- Town hall meetings & focus groups
- Opportunity to work with other communities facing similar problems
- Black Infant Health Community Council created to continue effort in Jax
Nonwhite Infant Mortality
Deaths/1000 Live Births
1998-2004 (Rolling 3 Yr. Average)

St. Johns IM Task Force
St. Johns IM Task Force

• Multi-agency task force established
• Case reviews
• Strategic plan
• Westside WILDflower Project
• Flagler Hospital Safe Sleep training; NICU development
JCCI Infant Mortality Study

• Focus on “red flags” in Quality of Life study
• Opportunity to engage broader community in IM issue
• “Failure of our community to successfully address the longstanding issues of racism, poverty, and socioeconomic disparities is killing our babies.”
JCCI Infant Mortality Study

• Seven recommendations
  – Public policy, expanded health services & service delivery, individual behavioral change
• Implementation Committee will lead efforts for two years.
• Advocacy efforts
Take Home Message

- Infant mortality tells us a lot about the overall health and quality of life of a community.
- More health care will not solve this problem.
- Community engagement & involvement is critical to developing meaningful, broad-based strategies for improving birth outcomes.
Questions?