



Partnership to Eliminate Disparities in Infant Mortality: Los Angeles County Action Learning Collaborative (ALC)



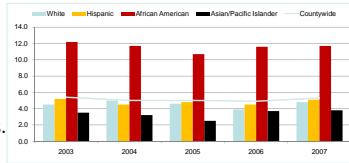
Background

- Since the 1960s the infant mortality rate, the rate at which babies less than one year of age die, has steadily decreased in the United States from 26.0 per 1000 live births to 6.4 per live births in 2007.
- The current U.S. infant mortality rate is about 40 percent higher than the Healthy People 2010 national goal.

Los Angeles County

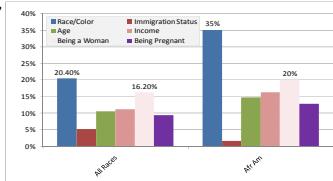
- Los Angeles County (LAC) has seen a significant decrease in the number of infant deaths and the rate of infant mortality among all racial and ethnic groups.
- Despite the decrease, African American babies are two to three times as likely to die in infancy as any other racial/ethnic group.

- In 2007, LAC African American babies comprised 8% of all births but more than 16% of all infant deaths.

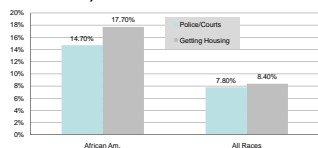


Perceived discrimination has been linked to the health of new mothers. The 2005 Los Angeles Mommy and Baby Survey (LAMB) investigated the reasons and circumstances that women report feeling discriminated against.

- Among survey women, 42% of African American women reported experiencing some form of discrimination; main reason for discrimination was their color/race (35%).



- Compared to women of all races, African American women had about twice as likely to report experiencing discrimination from police or the courts (14.7% vs. 7.8%) or in obtaining housing (17.7% vs. 8.4%).



Los Angeles ALC

Vision
To eliminate racial inequities contributing to infant mortality in Los Angeles County urban areas, based on a life course perspective.

Mission
To increase capacity at the community, State, and local levels to address the impact of racism on birth outcomes and infant health in urban areas of LAC.

Strategies

- Develop county briefs which synthesizes what is known about racism and its relationship to infant mortality in LAC. Briefs will be disseminated to key community partners and providers.
- Acquire resources and develop best practices relating to infant mortality and undoing racism. Provide trainings and discussion groups for providers and the community in Service Planning Areas (SPAs) 1 and 6.
- Implement a website which serves as a one point information center for LAC residents.

Hear what our moms are saying

A shopping clerk followed me because I am a Black!



I'm very angry and hurt. I had no support. Dealing with the loss of my baby all by myself and it hurt.... I hate my doctor. I complained to him but nothing was done.

LAC ALC Members

Co-Leads:

Maria Jocson, MD, MPH, State FIMR Director
Margaret Chao, Chief, Research, Evaluation, and Planning, MCAH Programs
Angel Hopson, LAC FIMR Coordinator

Core Group:

Diana Ramos, MD, Medical Director, MCAH Programs
Rozana Ceballos, Diana Liu, MCAH Programs
Yolonda Rogers-Jones, McKinley Kemp, BIH Program
Charlene Smith, NHA Member
Diane Gaspard, LA BioMed
Fernanda Crivici, March Of Dimes
Tyan Parker Dominguez, School of Social Work, USC
Rita Moztian, DPH of LAC
Loretta Jones, Felica Jones, Healthy African American Families
Jane French, Los Angeles Best Babies Network (LABBN)



Accomplishments

Through a partnership of 20 community-based organizations, the collaborative addresses discrimination and infant health disparities among African Americans in Los Angeles:

- Developed a health brief related to racism.
- Created a website draft.
- Five **SHIELDS for Families** directors completed the "Undoing Racism" training provided by The People's Institute.
- **March of Dimes** conducted three Healthy Babies Healthy Futures (HBHF) trainings to a wide range audience. It specifically addressed birth outcomes and racism:
Crenshaw Christian Center/October 2009
Shields for families/November 2009
Black Infant Health Program/January 2010

Upcoming events:

- **LA BioMed** has scheduled a training provided by The People's Institute to their staff and community stake holders on February 10-12, 2010.
- **Antelope Valley Partners for Health and AV community partners** are hosting a Health Fair for Antelope Valley residents from April 24, 2010 - May 1, 2010.
- **MCAH** will host the Commission to End Health Care Disparities Speakers Bureau Workshop provided by the American Medical Association on April 6, 2010.

Our Commitment to Moving Forward

- ✓ Members are all eager to continue
- ✓ Regular meetings and rotate meeting location
- ✓ Update website regularly
- ✓ Develop several health briefs
- ✓ Initially focus on African American and once accomplished focus on other races/ethnicities
- ✓ Promote culturally sensitive strategies and policies in hospitals
- ✓ Outreach to health care providers to increase their awareness that discrimination relates to poor birth outcomes
- ✓ Learn from other ALC teams