Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative
Community Health Workers: Turning Up the Volume on Addressing Infant Mortality in Ohio

The Program
Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative (OIMRI)

- Infant mortality rates for African-American babies in Ohio is almost twice the rate for whites, 13.9 vs. 7.5 per 1,000 live births in 2012.

Ohio Infant Mortality Rates by Race, 2012*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Rate (1,000 Live Births)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>6.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>13.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Ohio Department of Health Vital Statistics

- This trend of African-American babies dying twice as often as white over time has not changed significantly over the years.

Ohio Infant Mortality Rates by Race, 2002-2012

- The goals of the OIMRI Program are:
  1. To reduce racial/ethnic disparities among minorities in perinatal and infant mortality, very low and low birth weights
  2. To increase early entry into prenatal care
  3. To increase utilization of routine infant health care

- 14 OIMRI projects are located in predominantly urban areas in Ohio, serving African-American pregnant women and infants at risk for poor health outcomes.

The People
Community Health Workers

- Professional community health workers (CHWs) are trained advocates from the targeted community who empower individuals to access family centered community resources through home visits, education, outreach, and referrals.
- CHWs partner with local community agencies and programs (e.g., WIC, Help Me Grow, health centers, domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters and housing).
- CHWs are licensed in the state of Ohio by the Ohio Board of Nursing.
- CHWs follow-up to help families have a positive pregnancy and infant health outcomes.
- CHWs provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services.
- CHWs follow-up and provide home visits to help families have a positive pregnancy and infant health outcomes.

The Purpose
The Family

- OIMRI Client
  - An OIMRI client is a high-risk, low-income pregnant woman of African descent from a specific geographic target area.
  - Examples: census tracts and neighborhoods.

- OIMRI Services to Clients/Families
  1. Identify and reduce risk factors
  2. Reinforcement of strengths
  3. Health education: breastfeeding, child development, parenting, etc.
  4. Support in adopting life changing behaviors
  5. Follow-up and referrals as necessary
  6. Assessment for maternal depression
  7. Preconception and interconception health
  8. Address environmental and social needs: housing, transportation, food insufficiency, stress, etc.

OIMRI Counties' Average IM Rates 2008-2012

- Overall
- Black
- White

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