

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE OUR MOTHERS AND BABIES (CSOMB)

A PROJECT OF THE ILLINOIS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH COALITION (IMCHC)



DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- African American women in Illinois run a risk of death from pregnancy at a rate almost 6 times (5.75) that of White women, and accounted for more than half of all maternal deaths in Illinois in 2007?
- In Chicago, during a 5 year time period (2000-2004) 27 African-American women died a pregnancy-related death while only 1 White woman died; a ratio of 27:1?
- An African-American baby born in Illinois in 2001 was 2.6 times more likely to die before reaching its first birthday than a White baby AND that 3 out of every 5 Black babies that died that year did so unnecessarily?
- An African-American baby born in the City of Chicago in 2006 was 2.4 times more likely to die than a White baby and almost twice as likely to die than all other infants born in Chicago?
- African-American babies accounted for more than 80% of all infant deaths due to accident from 2000-2004?



IMCHC'S RESPONSE:

- From 2004-2007, IMCHC implemented an outreach and education project called Closing the Gap (CTG) in the two target community areas of Austin and Englewood. CTG trained community residents and providers on maternal & child health topics. Over 27,000 people were educated. CTG conducted a mass media campaign and displayed messages in over 600 organizations, businesses and churches.
- As a result of these efforts, both Austin and Englewood experienced significant reductions in infant mortality (37.9% & 38.4% respectively), while rates for the city and neighboring community areas either increased or stayed relatively stagnant.
- The Englewood Initiative provides empowerment, education, and resources on reproductive and other health topics.
- IMCHC mobilizes communities, educates legislators, works with hospitals and other institutions, and partners with organizations to advocate for, monitor, and ensure the implementation of policies that foster healthy families.
- Some policy issues we have been working on include comprehensive sexual health education, prematurity, reducing the rate of medically unnecessary elective cesarean sections, the implementation of state Medicaid reform measures, and reimbursement of breast pumps and breastfeeding support services.

WHAT ELSE CAN BE DONE?

- Become a member of IMCHC! Your membership enables us to continue to advocate for and organize communities to fight for the successful passage of the Affordable Care Act, to mobilize over 100 health advocates to support premature infants, engage over 500 women directly in reproductive health education workshops, and advocate for the passage of a responsible state budget.



See the other side for information about our upcoming immunization toolkit trainings.

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