



ILLINOIS MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH COALITION

1256 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60642

Phone: (312) 491-8161 Fax: (312) 491-8171

Email: ilmaternal@ilmaternal.org

www.ilmaternal.org

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant (Title V) is administered in Illinois by the Department of Human Services (IDHS). IDHS uses these funds to provide preventive and primary care services to women, infants, children and adolescents throughout the state.

Title V (MCH Block Grant) has improved outcomes for mothers and babies in Illinois

Improvements in birth outcomes since 1980:

❖ **Teenage Pregnancy**

- The number of live births in Illinois dropped by 7%, while the number of births to teens dropped by 40%.
- The percentage of births to teenage mothers in Illinois dropped by more than a third (36.3%) in this time period.

❖ **Infant Mortality**

- The number of infant deaths has been reduced by more than half (57.1%).
- The overall state infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births) also decreased by more than half (55.1%), from 14.7 in 1980 to 6.6 in 2007.

❖ **Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)**

- Probably the most dramatic decrease in this time frame was noted in the number of babies dying because of SIDS. In 1980, 383 babies died from SIDS related deaths in Illinois compared to only 54 babies in 2007, an 86% decrease in the 30 years since Title V began in Illinois.

❖ **Maternal Mortality**

- The number of mothers dying because of pregnancy related complications has also decreased significantly since 1980. From 1976 to 1980, 107 women died from pregnancy related deaths whereas from 2001-2005, 73 women died, a decrease of almost a third (31.8%).

Title V Funding is still needed to support Illinois' families

More babies are being born too small and too early

- ❖ **Preterm birth:** babies born before 37 completed weeks' gestation
 - Both nationally and in Illinois, trends have shown increases in the number of babies being born too early putting these infants at higher risk for infection, developmental delays, and even death.
 - The preterm birth rate in Illinois has increased by a quarter (25.3%) since 1990. In 1990 only 8.3% of births were preterm versus 10.4% in 2008.
- ❖ **Low Birth Weight (LBW):** babies weighing less 2500g (5.5 pounds)
 - Although improved medical interventions allow more of the smallest babies to live, babies born too small are also at increased risk for infection, immature organ development, developmental problems, and death.
 - Many babies born too soon are also too small.
 - The LBW rate in Illinois increased by over 16% since 1980.

Racial disparities still persist

- ❖ Black infants in Illinois are 2.5 times more likely to die before reaching their first birthday than white infants
 - If the Black infant mortality rate was the same as the White infant mortality rate in Illinois, 260 fewer Black babies would have died in the state in 2007.
- ❖ From 2001-2005, the Maternal Mortality rate for White mothers was 4.4/100,000 versus 25.3/100,000 for Black mothers, an almost 6-fold difference.

Please maintain and expand Title V funding!

Please contact Kathy Chan at kchan@ilmaternal.org or 312-491-8161x24 for more information