

## SUMMARY STATEMENT

Unplanned pregnancies and poor preconception health increase the risk for adverse outcomes, including preterm birth. Optimizing a woman's health before pregnancy and increasing birth intentionality and spacing is essential to improving maternal and infant outcomes, as well as reducing disparities in these outcomes. The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), in collaboration with the CT MCH Coalition and March of Dimes CT Chapter, is engaged in an initiative called Every Woman Connecticut (EWCT). This initiative is a learning collaborative that seeks to promote pre- and interconception health care as an integral part of routine care within both clinical and community-based settings. EWCT is utilizing the One Key Question (OKQ) screening tool in communities with high volume/burden of poor birth outcomes and among communities expressing interest and readiness.

## ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

The EWCT Learning Collaborative is made up of clinical and community-based partners who serve women of childbearing ages across Connecticut. Communities with high volume/high burden of poor birth outcomes were sought for their participation in EWCT, as well as their level of expressed interest and readiness. The main goal of EWCT is to increase expertise and self-efficacy in implementing routine pregnancy intention screening and appropriate care, education, and services to ultimately improve birth spacing, increase pregnancy intentionality, and the proportion of Connecticut women who deliver a live birth who report discussing pre- and interconception health with a healthcare worker. An estimated total of 326 of providers from 39 cities/towns, as well as from 9 statewide programs, have been involved with the initiative since its inception in May 2016. The EWCT Learning Collaborative is planning activities to strengthen the existing participating communities, by adding additional partners and providing more technical support. A multi-stage collective impact evaluation of the EWCT/OKQ initiative will begin in late 2019 and will examine both process and outcomes of the initiative.

The EWCT Advisory Committee also convened a workgroup focusing on increasing access to contraception, a continuation of efforts that were started under the ASTHO IAC project. The workgroup, co-chaired by March of Dimes and the Connecticut Maternal and Child Health Coalition, has representation from DPH, Department of Social Services (Medicaid), Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), Ct Office of Early Childhood (OEC), ACOG, Community Health Centers, Inc., Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, and other valued organizational members. Through this workgroup, EWCT is identifying and addressing system barriers that limit the uptake of comprehensive contraceptive care for Connecticut people of childbearing ages who wish to avoid or delay a pregnancy.