

## SUMMARY STATEMENT

Through collaboration and partnerships, the Indiana Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Division has been working to reduce the overall infant mortality rate. One way that Indiana is working to support pregnant women and their family is the development and implementation of an obstetrician (OB) Navigation program. In partnership with Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) and the Department of Child Services (DCS), the Health Department is working to proactively connect women to local support services in her community.

## ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

In 2019, the Indiana Department of Health partnered with the Department of Child Services and the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to launch an initiative that connects expectant mothers to health, social and other services they need via a navigator who provides personalized support, resources and referrals through the first year of their babies' lives. Indiana's Governor Holcomb signed House Enrolled Act 1007 into law in 2019 to create this project, and the state legislature committed \$6.6 million toward the program over two years.

The program, which is transitioning to be known as My Healthy Baby, officially launched in January of 2020 with a goal of serving 20 counties by the end of 2020. At this point, the initiative is focusing on women enrolled in Indiana's Medicaid program. The partnership hopes to expand services to all 92 counties over the next three years.

Indiana Medicaid at FSSA provides the contact information for women who are recently identified as pregnant to the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Division at the Department of Health. Call Specialists in the MOMS Helpline, a longstanding, phone-based section within MCH, call the women and offer to connect them to home-visiting services in their communities. If the woman agrees, the Call Specialist then sends the referral directly to the appropriate local support service. The home-visiting provider will then contact the women directly to complete the referral and begin home-visiting services.

Crucial to the success of My Healthy Baby is the partnership the Health Department has with local home-visiting providers. MCH has a long-standing relationship with Indiana Healthy Families, (administered by the Department of Child Services), Nurse Family Partnership, and many other evidence-based or informed services provided by organizations across Indiana. MCH staff meet with local support providers and home-visiting services in each of the My Healthy Baby counties to determine each services' unique eligibility requirements. Together, My Healthy Baby and the local programs develop a referral plan that makes sense for each county.

The launch of My Healthy Baby is part of a continued investment in projects to reduce Indiana's infant mortality rate. In addition to the federally funded Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) and Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Title V Block Grant programs, the state of Indiana has also provided state funding for community grants, administered by MCH, that support a variety of established and innovative ways to improve the health and well-being of mothers and their families.

In the last few years, MCH has fostered a partnership with Indiana 211 in order to expand the number of resources Call Specialists in MOMS Helpline can share when helping families. Around this same time, MCH embedded Help Me Grow into MOMS Helpline services. Help Me Grow creates ability to connect families to appropriate developmental screening. In 2018, Help Me Grow Indiana was established to help the network of community resources work like a power grid. When the grid functions well, families can plug in to an organized flow of resources and easily access the ones they need. Help Me Grow Indiana is available to all children, including those whose families may have concerns or simply want to learn more about their child's development.

Indiana has seen a three-year reduction in its infant mortality rate from 7.3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017 to 6.5 in 2019. A critical part of this reduction is the continued decline in infant deaths due to perinatal risks. MCH and the Health Department recognize the importance of providing wraparound services to women before, during, and after pregnancy, and believe that home visiting and building community systems is a key strategy to help do this.

As of September 2020, the My Healthy Baby project had attempted to reach 3,440 women, using phone calls and letters. MCH had successfully made contact with 1,220 (35.5%) women and 649 women (over half, or 53.2%, of women with whom we made contact) have agreed to be referred to a home visiting program in their community. The project is working to obtain data on what percentage of referred women go on to enroll in local programs.

## COVID RELATED WORK

Indiana quickly published a number of guidance documents during the beginning stages of the pandemic in order to inform the public and clinicians on topics related to pregnancy and parenting. Throughout the response, the Department participated in clinically focused webinars hosted by the Indiana Hospital Association. In addition, Maternal and Child Health funded projects were encouraged and allowed (as appropriate) to redirect activities to become telehealth-based.