



HEALTH DISPARITIES RESOURCE GUIDE

Creating a Culture of Health Disparity Knowledge

The Health Disparities Resource Guide was created by March of Dimes Texas to increase awareness and improve birth outcomes among African American women. In 2013, the Steering Committee for African American Outreach began development of the guide to lead communities to collectively examine health disparities and birth outcomes and spark change in practice. The resource guide is designed to be adaptable for a variety of audiences and delivered in a variety of session formats.

Purpose

The purpose of the Health Disparities Resource Guide (HDRG) is to promote an understanding of racial and socioeconomic disparities in adverse birth and maternal health outcomes. Recent preterm birth rates and pregnancy-related death are trending in the wrong direction, and disparities in some communities are getting worse. The recent increase in prematurity is driven mostly by disparities by race and ethnicity and geography, differences that result from inequity. Understanding the relationship between the communities that people live in, services they receive and the impact that social determinants of health can have on their health is important to achieve equity.

Objectives

- Provide an overview of health disparities and the impact on birth outcomes for moms and babies.
- Introduce key tenets of the Life Course Perspective and social determinants of health as lenses through which to examine factors contributing to preterm birth.
- Encourage communities that work with March of Dimes to develop action plans to address prematurity, infant mortality and/or maternal mortality.
- To stimulate community partnerships with March of Dimes and offer a framework to structure shared initiatives.

March of Dimes is the leading organization in maternal and child health, fighting for all families no matter who they are, where they live or what they can afford. We are uniquely positioned to drive action on birth equity across the nation with the help of committed organizations who already know and rely on us, along with those willing to join our cause. Connect with us to learn more about the HDRG today!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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