Maternal & Infant Inequities & Disparities in Indiana and Promising Practices Going Forward

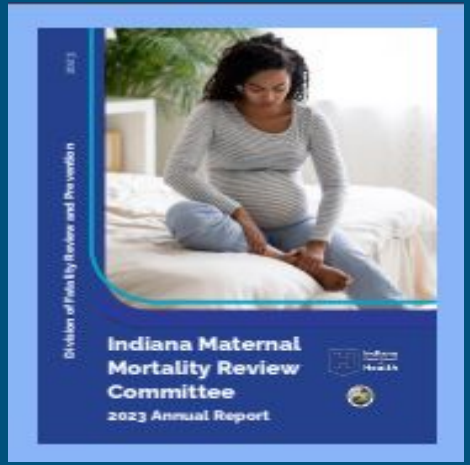
A Note on Health Disparities

- “A health disparity is a health difference that adversely affects disadvantaged populations in comparison to a reference population, based on one or more health outcomes. All populations with health disparities are socially disadvantaged due in part to being subject to racist or discriminatory acts and are underserved in health care.”
  National Institute on Minority Health & Health Disparities

- Maternal & Infant Mortality is an indicator of a community’s health and social well-being
  - Focusing on disparity related to racial and ethnic minority groups

History of MMRC

- MMRC was created after IC 16-50 was enacted in 2018
- First report came out in 2020 (2018 deaths)
- Most recent report 2023: Indiana Maternal Mortality Review Committee (2021 Deaths)
- 80 pregnant and postpartum birthing people lost their lives in 2021



A Few Takeaways from the 2023 MMRC

- 71% of pregnancy-associated (a death during pregnancy or within a year after, irrespective of the cause) deaths were preventable
  - -“If the committee determines there was at least some chance of the death being averted by one or more reasonable changes to patient, family, provider, facility, and/or community factors”

- *Disparity*: Non-Hispanic Black women experienced 135.6 pregnancy-associated deaths per 100,000 live births, compared to 91.4 for Non-Hispanic White women.

A Few Takeaways from the 2023 MMRC (cont'd)

- 86% of the deaths determined to be pregnancy-related (a death that occurs during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy, and is caused by or aggravated by pregnancy)
  - Occurred either during pregnancy or within the first 42 days postpartum
- *Disparity*: Non-Hispanic Black women experienced 28.0 pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births, compared to 15.9 deaths among non-Hispanic White women.
- *This is one of the areas where NFP feels we can have the greatest impact.*

Promising Practices

- Doula Services
- Culturally Responsive Care
- Representation Matters!
- CUS Tool

Infant Mortality

Highest infant mortality rates by ZIP code
2018-2022

ZIP Code	County	Births	Deaths	IMR	NH White IMR	NH Black IMR	Hispanic IMR
46241	Marion	2,532	40	15.8	13.3*	22.5*	13.6*
46219	Marion	2,422	31	12.8	7.3*	24.1*	11.2*
46516	Elkhart	2,730	33	12.1	6.6*	34.4*	8.9*
46806	Allen	2,489	29	11.7	17.7*	17.3*	**
46628	St. Joseph	1,998	23	11.5	7.8*	16.1*	**
46222	Marion	3,078	35	11.4	**	23.0	3.7*
46410	Lake	2,118	23	10.9	**	15.9*	**
46218	Marion	2,514	26	10.3	**	10.8*	13.5*
46514	Elkhart	2,760	28	10.1	8.2*	23.0*	11.8*
46360	Laporte	2,574	26	10.1	5.4*	20.7*	**

*Rates based on counts less than 20 are considered unstable and should be interpreted with caution.
**Rates based on counts less than 5 have been suppressed.

Infant Mortality

- 4 out of 10 zip codes with highest infant mortality in Indiana in Marion County (46241, 46219, 46222, 46218)
- Focusing on SUIDS cases specifically in the Haitian Creole speaking community in Central Indiana
- Marion County Fetal & Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) has reviewed 20+ cases between 2021 and 2023, At least half of these cases were SUIDs deaths, compared to 1 death in 2018, & 1 in 2020

- *Disparity:* SUIDs are the third leading cause of infant deaths in Indiana, but the second leading cause among non-Hispanic Black infants.

Promising Practices

- Childbirth class focused on Haitian Creole speaking clients
- Training on Cultural Approaches to Safe Sleep
- Certified Car Seat Safety Technician Training
- DEI Related Case Studies
- DEI Book Club “Poverty by America”
- Pack & Play Distribution

Sources

https://www.in.gov/health/safesleep/files/MMRC-Annual-Report-2023.pdf

https://www.in.gov/health/mch/files/2022-Infant-Mortality.pdf

https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/resources/understanding-health-disparities/minority-health-and-health-disparities-definitions.html