



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Advancing Excellence in Health Care • www.ahrq.gov

Update from AHRQ to the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality

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August 10, 2015



AHRQ's Mission

Produce evidence on how to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable,

and work within HHS and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used.



AHRQ's Four Strategic Priorities

- Improve health care **quality** by accelerating implementation of evidence
- Make health care **safer**
- Increase **accessibility** by evaluating expansions of insurance coverage
- Improve health care **affordability**, efficiency and cost transparency



Addressing Preterm Birth Prevention

- Data
- Evidence
- Implementation



Data on Preterm Birth

- The AHRQ [*National Quality and Disparities Report*](#) tracks several prevention, treatment, and outcome measures related to maternal and child access to and use of health care, including a measure of early and adequate prenatal care
- The HCUP database produced by AHRQ contains information on 97% of all US hospital discharges. Using this data, AHRQ produced a [statistical brief](#) on US hospital births in 2011, which demonstrates that 8.5% of births were preterm.



Quality Measures

- AHRQ led an initiative to develop a comprehensive set of quality measures for understanding health care for children. As part of this effort, measures were developed that pertain to services aimed at healthy birth, including preventing premature birth.
 - ▶ The first measure set focuses on the receipt of [behavioral risk assessment for pregnant women](#), including screening for alcohol use, tobacco use, drug use, depression, and intimate partner violence.



Evidence

- Systematic Evidence Reviews
 - ▶ [Progestogens for Prevention of Preterm Birth](#)
 - ▶ [Smoking Cessation Interventions in Pregnancy and Postpartum Care](#)
 - ▶ [Low-Dose Aspirin for the Prevention of Morbidity and Mortality From Preeclampsia](#)



Evidence

- Support for the independent US Preventive Services Task Force
 - ▶ Final Recommendation Statement: [Low-Dose Aspirin Use for the Prevention of Morbidity and Mortality From Preeclampsia](#)
 - ▶ Final Recommendation Statement: [Screening for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus U.S. Preventive Services Task Force](#)
 - ▶ Final Recommendation Statement: [Alcohol Misuse: Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions in Primary Care](#)
 - ▶ Under Review: [Tobacco Use Screening and Interventions](#)
 - ▶ Under Review: [Screening for Preeclampsia](#)



Implementation

- **AHRQ Safety Program for Perinatal Care**

- ▶ The program is designed to help hospitals and clinicians reduce complications during and after childbirth, making care safer for both mothers and babies.
 - The program builds on knowledge gained from AHRQ's work on the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP) and the TeamSTEPPS® teamwork system



Implementation

- [AHRQ Innovations Exchange](#)

- ▶ A website designed to speed the implementation of new and better ways of delivering health care

The screenshot shows the AHRQ Innovations Exchange website. At the top, it features the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services logo and the AHRQ logo with the tagline 'Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Advancing Excellence in Health Care'. A search bar is visible on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'About', 'Sitemap', 'FAQ', 'Help', and 'Contact Us'. A secondary menu includes 'Home', 'What's New', 'Browse By Subject', 'Downloadable Database', 'Videos', 'Scale Up & Spread', 'Articles & Guides', and 'Events'. The main content area displays search results for 'preterm', categorized into 'Innovations' and 'Other Related Results'. Under 'Innovations', there are two entries: one about nursing students providing doula care and another about a statewide medical home program. Under 'Other Related Results', there are sections for 'Other' (Lauren Pellegrino), 'Events' (Meeting the Health Care Needs of Underserved Women), and 'Issues' (Innovative Approaches To Improving Birth Outcomes).

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Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
Advancing Excellence in Health Care

AHRQ HEALTH CARE
INNOVATIONS EXCHANGE
Innovations and Tools to Improve Quality and Reduce Disparities

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Home | What's New | Browse By Subject | Downloadable Database | Videos | Scale Up & Spread | Articles & Guides | Events

Search Results for preterm

Innovations

Nursing Students Provide Free Doula Care to Underserved Women, Leading to Fewer Preterm Deliveries, Low Birthweight Babies, and Cesarean Sections
Nursing students provide free doula care to underserved women, leading to fewer preterm births, low birthweight babies, and cesarean sections, and generating high levels of patient satisfaction.

Policy **Statewide Medical Home Program for Low-Income Pregnant Women Enhances Access to Comprehensive Prenatal Care and Case Management, Improves Outcomes**
A State-based, public-private partnership adapted its successful primary care medical home model to serve pregnant Medicaid beneficiaries, leading to enhanced access to comprehensive prenatal care (including intensive case management for high-risk pregnancies), better adherence to evidence-based care standards, and reductions in low-birth weight babies and rate of primary Cesarean sections.

Other Related Results

Other

Lauren Pellegrino

Events

Meeting the Health Care Needs of Underserved Women

Using the Innovations Exchange To Develop Health Professional Competencies

Issues

Innovative Approaches To Improving Birth Outcomes



Thank you

- Learn more about AHRQ by visiting AHRQ.gov

The screenshot shows the AHRQ website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services logo and links for Home, About Us, Careers, Contact Us, FAQ, Español, and Email Updates. Below this is the AHRQ logo and the text "Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality" and "Advancing Excellence in Health Care". A search bar is located to the right of the logo. A blue navigation bar contains links for Health Care Information, For Patients & Consumers, For Professionals, For Policymakers, Research Tools & Data, Funding & Grants, Offices, Centers & Programs, and News & Events. The main content area features a large banner for the "2015 AHRQ Research Conference (Co-hosted With AcademyHealth)" with the tagline "Producing Evidence and Engaging Partners to Improve Health Care". The conference dates are "October 4-6, 2015 • Crystal Gateway Marriott". Below the banner is a "Learn More" button and a "Registration Now Open!" message. A navigation bar below the banner shows four numbered tabs (1, 2, 3, 4). The bottom section of the page is titled "What's New on the AHRQ Web Site" and contains three columns of content: "Questions Are The Answer", "Impact Case Studies", and "Producing Evidence to Improve Care". The "Producing Evidence to Improve Care" section includes a link to "Producing Evidence to Improve Care: R..." and a right-pointing arrow.

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2015 AHRQ Research Conference
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1 2 3 4

What's New on the AHRQ Web Site

Información en Español >

Questions Are The Answer
Get more involved with your health care. Ask questions. Understand your condition. Visit this page for help in engaging patients in their health care.

Impact Case Studies
Examples of how and where AHRQ products are used. Select for the latest Impact Case Studies.

Producing Evidence to Improve Care
Agency Director Richard Kronick, Ph.D., describes AHRQ and its new mission

Producing Evidence to Improve Care: R... <