



STATE TITLE V INFANT MORTALITY INITIATIVE

Michele H. Lawler, M.S., R.D.

Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration
Maternal and Child Health Bureau



Ongoing partnership between:

- Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)
- State Title V Maternal and Child Health Grantees and Other State Public Health Partners
- Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- March of Dimes
- CityMatCH
- Federal Partners – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



Goal: Develop and implement a National strategy to reduce infant mortality.

- Launched at the Region IV and Region VI Infant Mortality Summit in January 2012
 - State infant mortality teams were formed, with Executive leadership (e.g., State Health Officials, Title V Maternal and Child Health Directors and State Medicaid Directors) participating.
 - Each of the 13 States developed an infant mortality action plan.
 - Region IV and Region VI States continuing to move forward on refining and implementing their action plans.



Based on review of State Infant Mortality Action Plans, five common strategies emerged:

- Reduce elective delivery at less than 39 weeks;
- Expand access to interconception care through Medicaid 1115 waivers;
- Promote smoking cessation among pregnant women;
- Prevent SIDS/SUIDS by promoting safe sleep; and
- Improve perinatal regionalization.



- Region IV and Region VI States expressed a desire to learn from each other.
- Region IV and Region VI Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (COIN) created:
 - Facilitate collaborative learning across the 13 States.
 - Action teams for the five identified strategies will meet in Washington, DC on July 23-24.



- Region IV and Region VI COIN will serve as a model for expanding the State Infant Mortality Initiative to other U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regions.
 - Region V State Health Officials and Title V Maternal and Child Health Directors will participate in the Region IV and Region VI Infant Mortality Collaborative.
 - COIN Orientation and technical assistance training on quality improvement and related principles/practices relative to infant mortality will be provided at selected Regional Directors' meetings in conjunction with the August 2012 State Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant reviews.



Next Steps

- **Advance the National strategy to reduce infant mortality by:**
 - Establishing State teams and convening infant mortality summits in additional HHS regions, beginning in Region V.
 - Building on the recommendations and action strategies developed in Region IV and Region VI.
 - Providing States in all 10 HHS regions with the opportunity to develop effective strategies for addressing infant mortality in their States and to participate in structured quality improvement COINs that will ultimately lead to reduced rates of infant mortality nationwide.



Contact Information

Michele Lawler, M.S., R.D.

Deputy Director

Division of State and Community Health

Health Resources and Services Administration

Maternal and Child Health Bureau

301-443-8152

mlawler@hrsa.gov