

# ACCESS' Perspective as a Healthy Start Grantee



**HHS Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality**  
*Presented by Lisa Doot Abinoja, Maternal Child Health Director*  
**July 10, 2014**

# Who We Are

- One of the largest federally-qualified health center (FQHC) organizations in the country
- Focus is on patient- and family-centered, community-based health care to:
  - Eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities
  - Engage patients in prevention and screening
  - Improve and extend patient care beyond our walls

# Our History

- Roots on Chicago's west side in the mid-1980s
- Established in 1991 as a Federally Qualified Health Center
- ACCESS operates 32 community health centers with OB services in Chicago and suburban Cook and DuPage counties
- Healthy Start grantee since 1997

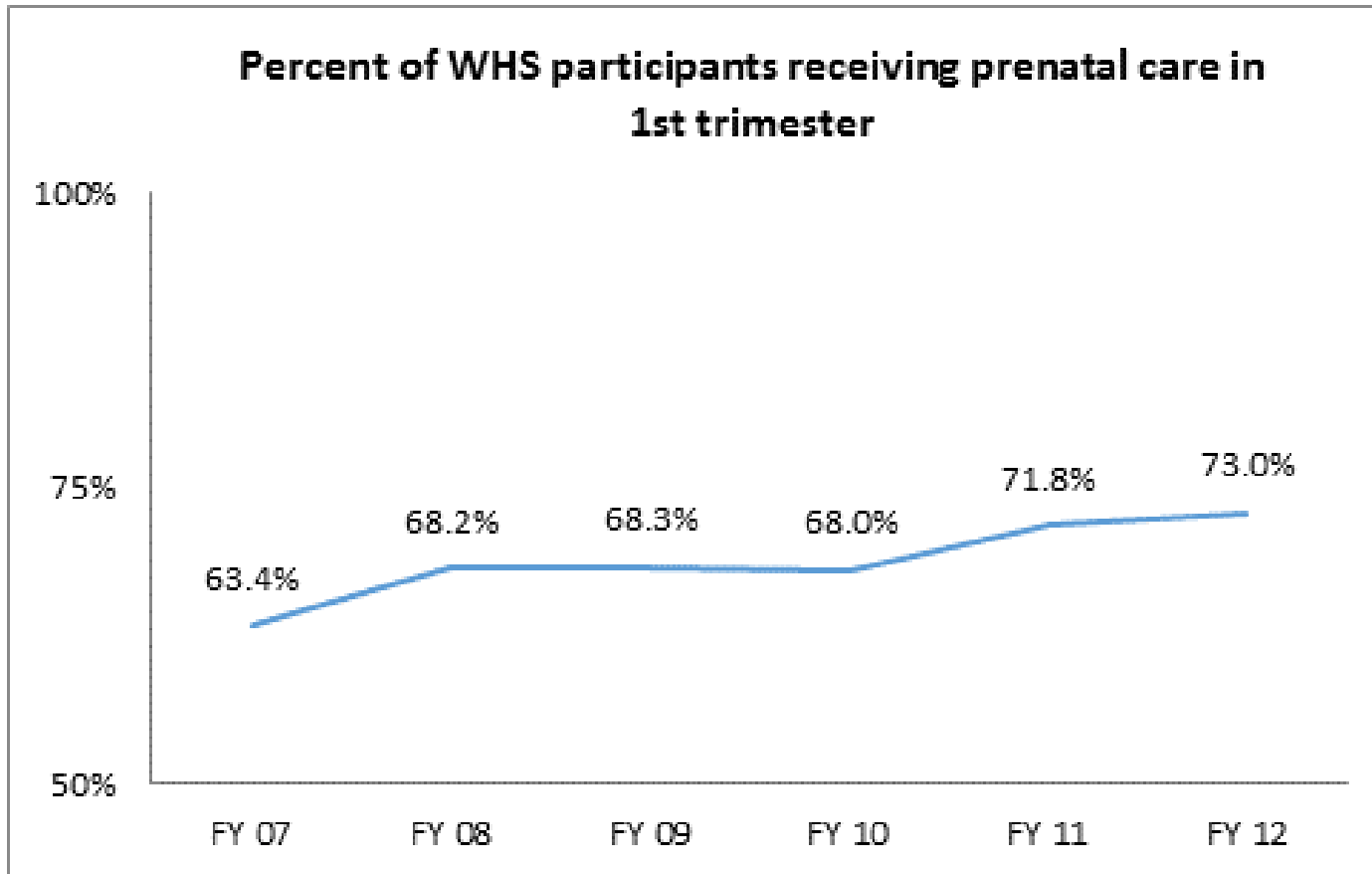
# Who We Serve

- This year, ACCESS will serve more than **175,000** low-income individuals and families, including more than **37,000** uninsured patients.
- Last year alone, ACCESS provided care to **7,377** pregnant women, **22,492** patients with hypertension, **13,065** patients with diabetes and **9,348** asthmatic patients.
- ACCESS' patient demographics reflect the communities we proudly serve each day:
  - **42%** are children age 17 and under
  - **51%** are Hispanic
  - **32%** are African-American
  - **75%** are at or below the 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level

# Our Experience as a Healthy Start Grantee

- ACCESS is the lead agency with two additional FQHC partners on Chicago's west side
  - Lawndale Christian Health Center
  - PCC Community Wellness Center
- As an FQHC, we act as the hub for the communities we serve
- As a medical home, we are able to see the woman and her family before, throughout and after her pregnancy
- Healthy Start leadership is integrated into the clinical care teams
- Longstanding partnerships with local OB practices and delivering hospitals within our target communities

# Our Experience as a Healthy Start Grantee



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- Our case managers and community health workers are integrated within the community and the health center
- Grant has helped drive clinical excellence across our care network
- Risk screenings are now integrated into our care models with consistent identification of high risk women, tracking and reporting
- Healthy Start learnings and best practices have helped ACCESS lay the foundation for our Strong Start maternity care home program and our MCH care broadly

# Preliminary Learnings from Strong Start

- Standardized prenatal care rooted in evidence-based practices across our network
- Standardized our approach to measuring the impact of our MCH initiatives
- Developed a patient-centered and collaborative care coordination model to assist patients in navigating various OB services
- Care coordinators have assisted patients in navigating various Managed Care Organizations in order to successfully navigate authorization processes to ensure timely treatment
- Engage women early into prenatal care as part of the medical home to have the best chance of impacting birth outcomes



# Building Best Practices Across Care Models

- Using our learnings from Healthy Start and Strong Start, we are effectively building out care coordination for all our populations
- Using evidence-based practices to address disparities and meet the needs of our communities

# Opportunities

- Provide funding that can be utilized across multiple sites/communities/ populations
- Continue to bring FQHC leaders to strategic MCH conversations
- Continue to fund programs focused on the life-course perspective (not just pregnancy)

# Learn More and Connect With Us

- Our Website: [www.accesscommunityhealth.net](http://www.accesscommunityhealth.net)
- Follow ACCESS on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/ACCESSHealth>
- Follow ACCESS on Facebook at <https://Facebook.com/ACCESSCommunityHealth>
- Contact information: [Lisa.Abinoja@accesscommunityhealth.net](mailto:Lisa.Abinoja@accesscommunityhealth.net)