



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

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**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

## **AHR** Data on Preterm Birth

- The AHRQ <u>National Quality and Disparities</u> <u>Report</u> 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 <u>statistical brief</u> on US hospital births in 2011, which demonstrates that 8.5% of births were preterm.

## **AHRE 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 <u>behavioral risk assessment for pregnant women</u>, including screening for alcohol use, tobacco use, drug use, depression, and intimate partner violence.



- 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



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



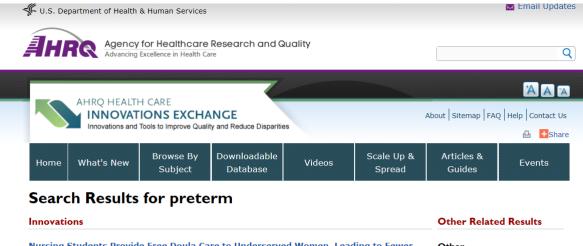
### • AHRQ Safety Program for Perinatal Care

- 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 <u>Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP)</u> and the <u>TeamSTEPPS® teamwork system</u>



#### AHRQ Innovations Exchange

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



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

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



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