

Project Impact



About Project Impact

Project IMPACT is a fetal and infant mortality review (FIMR) project for Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties. Since 1995, the initiative has been carried out by the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition with funding from the Florida Department of Health. The goal is to reduce infant mortality by gathering and reviewing detailed information to gain a better understanding of fetal and infant deaths in Northeast Florida. The project examines cases with the worst outcomes to identify gaps in maternal and infant services and to promote future improvements.



Each month, fetal/infant death cases are selected for the project based on specific criteria. Utilizing an approach developed by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), information is abstracted from birth, death, medical, hospital, Healthy Start, WIC and autopsy records. In some cases, law enforcement, medical examiner, EMS and child protective services records are included. Efforts are also made to interview the family. No information that identifies the family or medical providers is included on the abstraction form. Each year, 28 case summaries are developed and presented monthly to the Case Review Team (CRT). The CRT, a multidisciplinary group of community medical and social service professionals, examines each case to determine medical, social, financial and other issues that may have impacted the poor birth outcome. A Community Action Group (CAG) works to implement the FIMR recommendations.

FIMR Review: Key Takeaways

Maternal stress and mental health

- 50 percent reported stress during pregnancy
- Leading stressors include financial problems, health concerns, incarceration, housing issues, job loss, family conflict
- Moms report experiencing depression, anxiety

Home visitation assessment and engagement

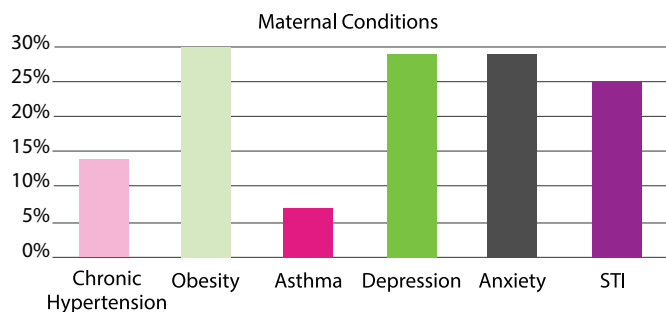
- 32 percent had no screen or referral completed
- 11 percent unable to locate for intake/assessment
- 18 percent declined services

Chronic conditions prior to pregnancy

- Moms enter pregnancy with chronic health conditions like obesity, hypertension, asthma and diabetes

Pregnancy timing

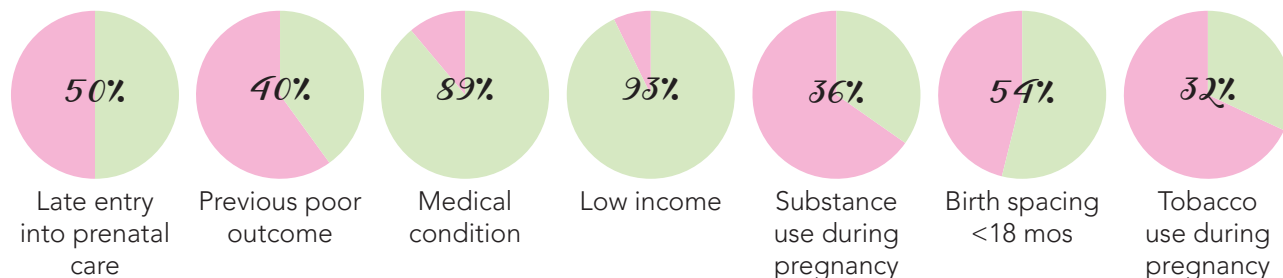
- High number of women with closely spaced pregnancies
- 50 percent reported pregnancy was unintended or mistimed



Infant Mortality in Northeast Florida

An estimated 128 babies in Northeast Florida died before their first birthday in 2020, according to provisional data from the Florida Department of Health. The provisional leading causes of death were prematurity, sudden unexpected infant deaths (sleep-related) and congenital anomalies.

FIMR Review: Contributing Factors



Community Action Group Activities

The Community Action Group (CAG) works to implement the FIMR recommendations. Activities during the year include:

- Currently training community members on safe sleep practices – window display at Community Programs Office
- Reconstructing program messages to a conversation format
- Social media for messaging

Ongoing Data to Action Work Plan

The Coalition conducted a complete review of all infant deaths in 2018, coupled with an analysis of fetal and infant deaths using the Perinatal Periods of Risk. A multi-year plan based on the results was developed. Objectives focus on policy, an infant mortality awareness campaign, engaging grassroots leaders, a medical home pilot, increasing quality of care and colocating outreach staff in prenatal care offices. Activities to meet the objectives include:

- A Fetal & Infant Mortality Review Action Plan Director to be hired to focus on plan implementation.
- Trained 23 Make a Noise Make a Difference Community Advocates to provide Infant Mortality education in zip codes 32208, 32209, and 32210.
- System of care pilot placed an outreach staff in one prenatal care office. beginning in May 2021 to screen clients, link them to home visiting programs and addressing the social determinants of health
- Infant Mortality Article published and posted on the Duval Medical Society's website.

2021 Recommendations

The multi-year recommendations seek to address the “why” and not the “what” of an issue, with a focus on system constraints rather than the individual.

Chronic health conditions and access to care

- Partner with Medicaid to emphasize preconception health management beginning when the patient is a teen.
- Invest in medical provider offices/clinics and hospitals that offer a Medical One Stop Shop.
- Improve reproductive health planning with a focus on prevention

Late entry into or no prenatal care

- Community outreach to educate women about prenatal care. Increase early pregnancy identification through pregnancy testing focused on high-risk populations.
- Provide Implicit Bias/Cultural Humility education to medical provider offices to address fear/distrust in the healthcare system or bias.

Collect community input to drive improvements

- Conduct regular focus groups to survey the public opinion.
- Create surveys to present to audiences in target groups or areas.
- Seek community input to inform home visiting programs

Awareness, utilization of programs for pregnant women and families

- Increase participation in home visiting services
- Increase awareness of Medicaid benefits
- Community outreach that informs women regarding changes in Medicaid

Impact of social determinants of health, adverse childhood experiences and systemic racism on maternal health and birth outcomes

- Maternal stress, abuse, neglect, systemic racism can impact to physical health
- Large social marketing campaign to introduce the concept to the general public

2020-21 Case Review Team

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