

Supporting Healthy Start Performance Project NEWSLETTER



Strengthening Healthy Start to support family health and well-being

TA & Support Center News & Updates

September/October Healthy Start Events & Deadlines

Deadlines:

Sep 15 HSMED-II Report (CSV or XML) Due

Events:

Sep 28 [Fatherhood Learning Academy Session #3](#)

Oct 12 [Fatherhood Talk Tuesday](#)

Oct 18 TIROE CoP Learning Session #6 - *COP members only*

Oct 20 Healthy Start COIN Meeting #9 - *COIN members only*

Oct 26 [Fatherhood Learning Academy Session #4](#)

Oct 28 [CAN Learning Academy Session #6](#)

Fatherhood Learning Academy Session #3

Please join TASC for the **third session in the Fatherhood Learning Academy on Tuesday, September 28 from 2-4 p.m. ET**. The goal of the Fatherhood Learning Academy is to examine the breadth and depth of the fatherhood movement in the 20th and 21st century, and to deeply examine the policies and practices that have influenced fatherhood programming. The Fatherhood Learning Academy is led by Dean Dr. Jeffrey Johnson of the National Partnership for Community Leadership (NPCL), and will run through November 2021. **To access the slides and recording from the first two sessions, [please click here](#). To register for the third session, [please click here](#).**

Survey: Breastfeeding Series

TASC is looking forward to launching a COVID-19: Breastfeeding webinar series this November! This three-part series will feature Cathy Carothers, IBCLC, FILCA of Every Mother, Inc., who facilitated the TASC's [Breastfeeding & COVID-19 webinar series](#) from October- December 2020. During this new series, we want to provide support around the breastfeeding topics that you feel are most important to your work with Healthy Start participants. **Please take five minutes to [complete this short survey](#) and let us know your greatest areas of interest.** Your input will help shape this series to ensure it meets your needs.

Photo Submission: Virtual Healthy Start Grantees' Meeting

As you may know, this year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Healthy Start Program! DHSPS, TASC, and NHSA look forward to celebrating this milestone at the **virtual Healthy Start Grantees' Meeting (VGM) on November 3, 4, and 5 from 12-5 pm ET**. In honor of the 30th Anniversary, TASC would like to compile photos from the 101 HS projects over the past 30 years. The photos will be shared between sessions at the VGM. **If you have any photos you would like to contribute, please email them to healthystart@nichq.org.**

CAREWare Update

TASC will not be disseminating a CAREWare newsletter this month, as we have not made any changes or updates to CAREWare. Please note, TASC will be holding daily CAREWare Office Hours during the VGM on November 3-5. Healthy Start staff are encouraged to ask questions or share feedback on CAREWare during these office hours. More information, including times for these office hours, will be shared as the VGM approaches. We look forward to connecting with you then!

As always, please do not hesitate to email careware@nichq.org if you have any questions or challenges related to CAREWare.

In Case You Missed it...

An Innovative Approach to Preconception Care for Young African American Men and Women: the Gabe & Gabby Health IT Systems

In partnership with the Project Preconception Care team from the Department of Family Medicine at Boston Medical Center, TASC hosted the "An Innovative Approach to Preconception Care for Young African American Men and Women: the Gabe & Gabby Health IT Systems" webinar on Wednesday, September 15. This presentation explored the background and current state of preconception care for African American and Black men, and the utility of a health IT system - like Gabe - to close the gap and provide care at a tailored and individualized level. **To watch the recording, [please click here](#).**

Understanding Prenatal Alcohol Exposure and Preventing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Webinar #1

TASC is partnering with Kathy Mitchell of the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS) to provide a three-part series related to prenatal alcohol exposure. Session one provided an overview of the historical view on alcohol and pregnancy; the current research on how both alcohol and other substances may impact on the developing fetus; and diagnostic criteria for FASD. The first session was held on Thursday, September 16. **To watch the recording, [please click here](#).**

Fatherhood Talk Tuesday

After a summer break, TASC reconvened its the monthly Fatherhood Talk Tuesday webinars on Tuesday, September 21. Dr. Derrick Gordon of the Yale School of Medicine spoke about data and evaluation regarding fatherhood work within Healthy Start and Dr. Haywood Brown of the University of South Florida spoke about paternal factors and maternal child health. **To watch the recording, [please click here](#).**

Community Action Network Learning Academy Session #5

On September 23, TASC hosted the fifth of six sessions in the CAN Learning Academy. The goal of the CAN Learning Academy is to empower grantees to elevate their CAN to address maternal and child health disparities and other disparities by implementing CAN activities that are developed using a racial equity lens. **To access the slides and recordings from this and previous sessions, [please click here.](#)**

September: Infant Mortality Awareness Month

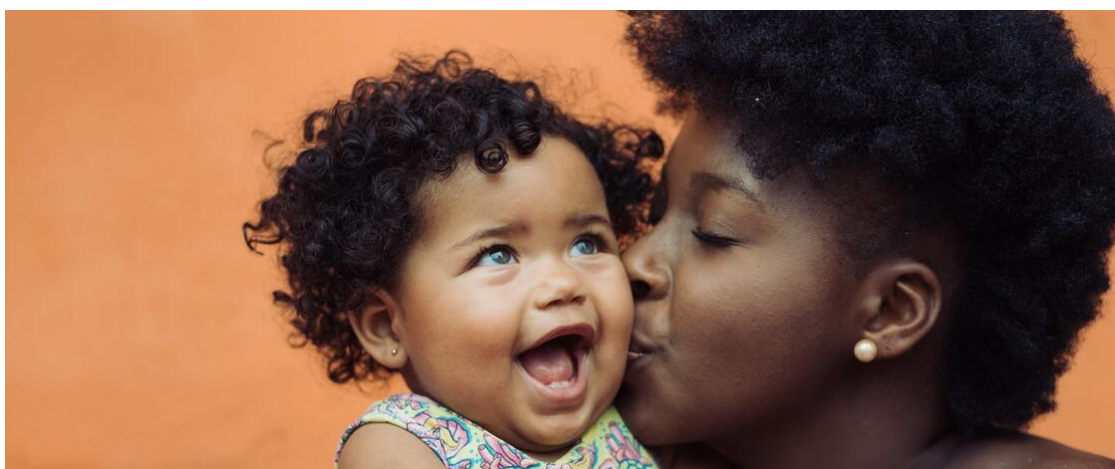
September is [National Infant Mortality Awareness Month](#), a time to raise awareness of [infant mortality](#) (i.e., the death of an infant before their first birthday), including the staggering [racial disparities in infant mortality](#) that exist through the United States. According to the [March of Dimes](#), the U.S. remains among the most dangerous developed nations in the world for childbirth, especially for communities of color. Women of color are [up to 50 percent more likely](#) to give birth prematurely and Black infants are more than twice as likely as White babies to die before their first birthday. In response to this data, [Healthy People](#) has set science-based, 10-year national objectives to improve the health of American infants and mothers as part of its 355 core 2030 objectives. Specifically, Healthy People 2030 focuses on preventing pregnancy complications and maternal deaths and helping women stay healthy before, during, and after pregnancy.

The 22 Healthy People 2030 [pregnancy and childbirth related objectives](#) are classified into seven categories: general birth outcomes; drug and alcohol use; family planning; sexually transmitted infections; tobacco use; vaccination; and maternal outcomes. The objectives aim to help women adopt healthy habits and obtain health care before and during pregnancy, which can help prevent pregnancy complications and, consequently, infant mortality. Examples of objectives include:

- [Increasing abstinence from alcohol among pregnant women](#)
- [Reducing the proportion of pregnancies conceived within 18 months of a previous birth](#)
- [Increasing abstinence from cigarette smoking among pregnant women](#)
- [Increasing the proportion of women who get the Tdap vaccine during pregnancy](#)
- [Increasing the proportion of women of childbearing age who get enough folic acid](#)



This September, we encourage Healthy Start programs to review the Healthy People 2030 objectives related to pregnancy and childbirth, including Healthy People's [evidence-based resources](#) around achieving the objectives. We hope these resources support your program in doing what you do best: sharing information and connecting families to tools that can protect and promote their health and well-being. TASC has also compiled additional resources below to support your program in preventing infant mortality this month and every month. Please feel free to share with your Healthy Start participants.



NICHQ Resources on Infant Mortality

In honor of Infant Mortality Awareness month, NICHQ has created [a resource](#) highlighting its work to improve infant health. Examples include NICHQ's work with the Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network to Reduce Infant Mortality ([Infant Mortality CoIIN](#)); [case study](#) on efforts to address preterm birth rates; and a [webinar](#) on state interventions and policies to reduce preterm birth.

March of Dimes My NICU Baby® App

The [My NICU Baby® App](#) was developed and designed by experts to help parents advocate for the best care for their baby during their NICU stay. The app provides answers, tools and support, including tips and helpful videos on caring for your baby in the NICU and at home; tools for tracking breastfeeding sessions, pumping, and baby's weight; and connections to other families with similar experiences.

Podcast: Baltimore Cut Infant Mortality and Helped Moms Thrive, Too

Over the past 10 years, a city-wide initiative of 150 organizations – called B'More for Healthy Babies – helped Baltimore cut its infant mortality by nearly 30%. This podcast episode from Blue Cross Blue Shield's The Health of America explores this incredible success story, as well as the additional work the initiative plans to do as it enters its second decade. To learn more and listen to the podcast episode, [please click here](#).

The Maternal and Child Health Equity Summit

In January 2021, the New York Academy of Medicine, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Penn Medicine hosted the Maternal and Child Health Equity Summit. National health experts on maternal and infant health shared information and action steps to create more equitable health outcomes for mothers and children. To watch the recordings from the summit, [please click here](#).

Upcoming Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Safe Sleep Webinar

Please join the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Safe Sleep Unit for a free webinar on Tuesday, October 6 from 9-11 a.m. ET. During the webinar, the speakers will discuss how to respond to families who say they "sometimes" follow safe sleep practices. Specifically, the speakers will discuss motivational interviewing techniques and how to use the response "sometimes" as an opportunity. To learn more, [please click here](#).

Previous MDHHS Safe Sleep Webinars

MDHHS has also archived eight of their previous safe sleep webinars on their website. Topics include discussing safe sleep with families; coordinating with emergency medical services to promote safe sleep; engaging fathers in safe sleep; addressing challenges to safe sleep; potential implications of cannabis use on safe sleep; understanding risks of unsafe sleep and protective factors; and more. To view the webinar descriptions and access the recordings, [please click here](#).

1,000 Grandmothers Project

The International Association for Indigenous Aging's 1,000 Grandmothers Project engaged Native American elders (specifically grandmothers) in reducing the rate of sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUIDs). Participating elders educated and mentored young Native parents or future parents about safe sleep practices for infants during traditional activities. To learn more, [please click here](#).

Baby's First Test

Baby's First Test is a newborn screening education resource center for parents and health professionals. Centered on real experiences navigating newborn screening, Baby's First Test provides up-to-date information; support and services for families; and education, materials, and resources about newborn screening at the local, state, and national levels. To learn more, [please click here](#).

Infant Mortality Toolkit: Resources for a Public Health Approach

This toolkit created by the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health at Georgetown University provides resources to help the maternal and child health work force strategically integrate the evidence base into plans for addressing infant mortality. The resources are organized into four parts: surveillance and monitoring; identifying risk

factors and protective factors; developing and testing prevention strategies; and ensuring widespread adoption. To access the toolkit, [please click here](#).

Videos: A Brighter Future- Reducing Infant Mortality

Researchers at Ball State University have developed evidence-based communication methods aimed at reducing infant mortality rates—particularly among minority populations in Indiana. The videos use memorable metaphors that compare pregnancy and maternal health to gardening or shining a light, to address misconceptions about infant mortality and to explain actions parents can take to reduce risk. To watch the video on infant mortality in Black communities, [click here](#). To watch the video on infant mortality in Latino communities, [click here](#).

Other Resources:

Opportunities for Collaboration and Partnership between WIC and MIECHV to Support Child and Family Health Webinar

The Opportunities for Collaboration and Partnership between Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program will host this webinar on September 30 from 3-4:40 p.m. ET. This webinar will inform MIECHV and WIC State and tribal agencies on examples of successful collaborations between programs. **To register, [please click here](#).**

Recordings: National Maternal Health Innovation Symposium

In August, the Maternal Health Learning and Innovation Center (MHLIC) hosted its second annual National Maternal Health Innovation Symposium. Recordings of the symposium plenaries, workshops, and spark sessions can be viewed on [the MHLIC website](#) and [YouTube Channel](#). MHLIC's mission is to foster collaboration and learning among diverse stakeholders to accelerate evidence-informed interventions advancing equitable maternal health outcomes through engagement, innovation, and policy. The National Maternal Health Innovation Symposium aimed to advance this mission and create space for maternal health professionals and others invested in the wellbeing of families to connect, recharge, and to advance maternal health equity in the communities in which they serve and support.

COVID-19 Vaccination

Vaccines are one of the most effective ways to protect your health and the health of those around you. MCHB's Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services (DHSPS) encourages you to consider opportunities to leverage your programs and partnerships to support confidence in and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines among MCH populations, for example:

- The organizing efforts, including Community Canvassing, Phone Banking, Text Banking, and Vaccination Events, will focus on what we know works best to ensure everyone has equitable vaccine access: person-to-person action that connects people with key resources and information. MCH programs can support these efforts by visiting <https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/> which includes available [resources](#) that you can use to support the communities you serve.
- Several nationwide child care providers are offering free child care to all parents and caregivers getting vaccinated or recovering from vaccination.

To learn more about estimates for vaccine hesitancy in the local communities, counties, and states you serve, visit the Office of The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation mapping tool [here](#). For more information on COVID-19

Vaccinations for Children and Teens, visit the CDC resources [here](#) and HHS' We Can Do This resources page [here](#).



Healthy Start Fatherhood Corner

TASC is excited to support Healthy Start staff in their efforts to engage fathers. To that end, we will share resources and information for Healthy Start programs and fatherhood coordinators related to fathers/partners in this “Fatherhood Corner” of the SHSPP monthly newsletter.

If you are doing work that specifically demonstrates successful inclusion of fathers in your MCH program, you are invited to share your story with us so that it can potentially be featured in the Fatherhood Corner or the new quarterly Fatherhood newsletter! Please email your stories to healthystart@nichq.org.

Funding Opportunity: Reentry Program Grants from the Bob Barker Company Foundation

A current funding opportunity from the Bob Barker Company Foundation is offering grants to promote successful reentry for incarcerated people for organizations that serve a minimum of 100 incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals per year. To learn more about grant eligibility and apply, [please click here](#).

TASC Quarterly Fatherhood Newsletter

In July, TASC began distributing a quarterly Fatherhood newsletter! The Fatherhood newsletters will feature TASC events related to fatherhood, as well as external events and resources on the topic. This newsletter will be geared towards Fatherhood Coordinators and other Healthy Start staff who work with dads. The newsletter will highlight and promote learning opportunities, helpful resources, Healthy Start site and staff spotlights, commentary from experts, and so much more! If you or your site would like to share a success story about working with fathers in your community, please email healthystart@nichq.org.

Fatherhood Resources on the EPIC Center Website

The Healthy Start EPIC Center website is home to an abundance of resources geared to support the work of Healthy Start grantees. To further support Fatherhood work within Healthy Start, TASC has compiled all the available Fatherhood resources into one page on the website to make these resources easily accessible to grantees. To view the new Fatherhood Resources page on the EPIC website, [please click here](#).

Partner4Fatherhood (P4F)

TASC is excited to launch Partner4Fatherhood (P4F), an informal group that will bring together new and experienced Fatherhood Coordinators to connect, share wins and barriers, and discuss their Healthy Start projects' work around fatherhood. All Healthy Start Fatherhood Coordinators and other staff who work with fathers are invited to join. In addition to serving as a fellowship opportunity with a mentoring structure, the group will allow participants to share their insights and concerns with the entire group while also being paired with another member for a more concentrated dialogue. If you are interested in participating in this group, please email healthystart@nichq.org.



Hosting or attending an exciting event or webinar?

We will use the EPIC Center [Training Calendar](#) to share information about events specifically planned for Healthy Start projects, as well as other relevant webinars, trainings, and other events that are open to the public. If you know of events or trainings that you think other Healthy Start projects should be aware of, please feel free to send information to healthystart@nichq.org.

Have questions? Either respond to this email or contact the sender on healthystart@nichq.org

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