



# Perinatal e-News

LA BEST BABIES NETWORK



Healthy Babies. Our Future.

Presented by First 5 LA



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[www.LABestBabies.org](http://www.LABestBabies.org)

### Reducing Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "perinatal HIV transmission is the most common route of HIV infection in children and is now the source of almost all AIDS cases in children in the United States."

In an effort to increase HIV testing among pregnant women, increase treatment for HIV-infected women and reduce perinatal HIV transmissions, LA Best Babies Network joins the CDC in observance of **National HIV Testing Day on June 27**, in recommending the opt-out approach to HIV Screening.

Research shows that by making HIV testing a routine exam in prenatal care, more women will get tested. To implement HIV screening in a health care setting:

- Tell all pregnant women that a test for HIV will be performed as part of their routine prenatal lab tests.
- Tell them that they may decline this test.
- Give them information about how to prevent transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections during pregnancy and about treatment for pregnant women who are HIV positive.

In LA County the ten clinical sites participating in the Healthy Births Care Quality Collaborative are actively working to ensure that all pregnant women receive the recommended screening, treatment and follow-up for infections like HIV that can cause problems for pregnant women and newborns.

Learn more:

View the CDC's ["Reducing HIV Transmission From Mother-to-Child: An Opt-Out Approach to HIV Screening"](#)

### New Report Highlights Oral Care and Birth Outcomes

The new report "Research to Policy and Practice Forum: Periodontal Health and Birth Outcomes - Summary of a Meeting of Maternal, Child, and Oral Health Experts" highlights evidence-based research, such as the increased risk of preterm birth and low birthweight, in individuals of lower economic status with periodontal disease.

In observance of **Dental Awareness Week** which begins on **June 29**, LA Best Babies Network recommends the following actions by healthcare providers:

- **Ask** - During the preconception visit (or as early as possible during prenatal care), ask all women if they have a regular dentist and if they have seen a dentist in the past year.
- **Advise** - Recommend oral hygiene routines, use of antimicrobial mouth rinse, and regular dental examinations for all pregnant women.
- **Assess** - Inspect the mouths of all pregnant women for swollen or bleeding gums; irritation; discolored, broken and missing teeth; and visible tooth decay. Refer to appropriate dental care.
- **Assist** - Provide a referral for dental care to all pregnant women who have not seen a dentist within at least one year, and those with evidence to periodontal disease.
- **Arrange** - Provide office system reminders to promote follow-up on

completion of dental referrals.

Learn more

View the Network's brief "[Periodontal Disease.](#)"

Read the report "[Research to Policy and Practice Forum: Periodontal Health and Birth Outcomes - Summary of a Meeting of Maternal, Child, and Oral Health Experts](#)"

### **Newborn Hearing and Blindness Screening**

Did you know that every day 33 babies are born deaf in the United States, with the average age of diagnosis at 2 ½ to 3 years? LA Best Babies Network joins the American Academy of Pediatrics in observing the **Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness week June 24-30** and in recommending newborn hearing and blindness screening before families leave the hospital.

Learn more:

View information on [newborn hearing screening](#) visit.

For information on newborn blindness screening visit

<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics%3b111/4/902>

### **A New Report on Women's Health Disparities from the LA County Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health**

The LA County Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health recently released "Health Indicators for Women in Los Angeles County: Highlighting Disparities by Ethnicity and Insurance Status." The report highlights key indicators of health for women in LA County in an effort to identify priority communities with health issues that need to be addressed immediately. The principal factors contributing to the poor health status of women were poverty, lack of health care and insurance, among others.

For example, many women (especially those without medical insurance) do not receive appropriate preventive health screenings for conditions such as blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes. According to the report:

- 21.7% of women ages 18-64 are uninsured
- 31% of women report difficulty accessing medical care
- 74.6% of uninsured women report difficulty accessing medical care

"We must mobilize collaborative efforts to improve the health status of women and therefore, the family and community," write Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, and Ellen Eidem, MS, in the report's foreword.

Learn more

View "[Health Indicators for Women in Los Angeles County: Highlighting Disparities by Ethnicity and Insurance Status](#)"

### **The Joint Commission Releases Report on Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Health Care**

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) released a new report on the efforts of 60 national hospitals to provide their patients with culturally and linguistically appropriate health care. The report, "Hospitals, Language and Culture: A Snapshot of the Nation," identified various cultural and linguistic challenges affecting the health care of patients. Recruitment of culturally and linguistically proficient staff was the primary challenge cited by hospitals.

Culturally competent care is a strategy that is being implemented by LA Best Babies Network in its Healthy Births Care Quality Collaborative.

To learn more:

For more information on the Healthy Births Care Quality Collaborative visit

[www.labestbabies.org/cqi/cqi.htm](http://www.labestbabies.org/cqi/cqi.htm)

"Hospitals, Language and Culture: A Snapshot of the Nation" can be viewed here [www.calendow.org/reference/publications/pdf/cultural/hospitallanguageculture.pdf](http://www.calendow.org/reference/publications/pdf/cultural/hospitallanguageculture.pdf)

## Healthy Teen Network Calls for Promising Practices

### *Teen Births in Los Angeles County*

In 2005 there were 150,377 live births in Los Angeles County. Nearly 10% of those births were to women under the age of 20. Although African Americans had only 7% of all live births and Latinas 63%, they made up 10% and 82% of teen births, respectively.

The [Best Babies Collaboratives](#) aim to reduce repeat teen births by providing intensive and comprehensive case management services to pregnant and parenting teens. The services provided include those which address life skills and social support needs such as housing; education; health insurance; access to health care; counseling for intimate partner violence; alcohol; tobacco and/or illicit drug use; child development and parenting; family support and economic needs.

A national organization also working on programs for pregnant and parenting teens is the [Healthy Teen Network](#), which focuses on adolescent health and well-being with an emphasis on teen pregnancy prevention, teen pregnancy, and teen parenting.

The Healthy Teen Network invites all organizations to submit their programs/services for consideration to be included in a new resource currently in development - *Working with Young Families: A Compendium of Promising Practices*. Organizations are also invited to nominate their programs/services for the "Outstanding Emerging Innovation" award. Submissions can be made online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=252513616388>.

## Educational Events

### **National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Sixth National Conference, August 2-4, 2007**

August 2-4, 2007

"National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Sixth National Conference"

Marriott Hotel Crystal Gateway, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202

7:00 a.m - 8:00 p.m.

Registration deadline: July 20, 2007

All conference participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements.

Sponsored by: the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

Learn more:

To register, visit [www.acog.org/departments/dept\\_notice.cfm?recno=10&bulletin=4236](http://www.acog.org/departments/dept_notice.cfm?recno=10&bulletin=4236)

### **Critical Updates for the Lactation Professional, August 3, 2007**

August 3, 2007

"Critical Updates for the Lactation Professional"

Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Saban Building Auditorium, 4661 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90027

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Registration deadline: June 27, 2007

Registration fee: \$90 before June 27. \$100 on or after June 27.

Sponsored by: Breastfeeding Task Force of Greater Los Angeles.

Learn more:

View pamphlet for registration form

[www.breastfeedingtaskforla.org/seminars/080307.pdf](http://www.breastfeedingtaskforla.org/seminars/080307.pdf)

### **17<sup>th</sup> Annual CityMatCH Maternal and Child Health Leadership Conference, August 26-28, 2007**

August 26-28, 2007

"Building the Best Environments for Families and Children"

Denver Marriott Tech Center, 4900 S. Syracuse, Denver, CO 80237

Registration deadline and fee: Through June 30 - \$399 for members, \$449 for non-members. After June 30 - \$449 for members, \$499 for non-members. Single day: through June 30 - \$175, after June 30 - \$200.

All conference participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements.

Sponsored by: CityMatCH

Learn more:

For more information call (402) 561-7500. To register, visit

[http://citymatch.org/apps/conf\\_agenda.php](http://citymatch.org/apps/conf_agenda.php)

**Second National Summit on Preconception Health and Health Care, October 29-31, 2007**

October 29-31, 2007

"Second National Summit on Preconception Health and Health Care"

Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607

Registration deadline: Early registration: September 15, 2007. Regular

registration: October 15, 2007.

Registration fee: \$200 for early registration. \$250 for regular registration.

Sponsored by: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and California Preconception Care Council of California, March of Dimes California Chapter, California Department of Health Services and numerous other organizations.

Learn more:

For more information call (415) 217-6373 or view March of Dimes California

Chapter Web site at [http://www.marchofdimes.com/california/4947\\_24789.asp](http://www.marchofdimes.com/california/4947_24789.asp)

**SAVE THE DATE Healthy Births Through Healthy Communities Partners Symposium 2007, November 14, 2007**

November 14, 2007

"Healthy Births Through Healthy Communities Partners Symposium 2007"

California Endowment, 1000 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

9:30 a.m - 3:45 p.m.

Sponsored by: LA Best Babies Network.

Attendees will share planning, process and accomplishments of the Healthy Births Learning Collaboratives, the Best Babies Collaboratives and the Healthy Births Care Quality Collaborative. Build health realization skills and build relationships and increase knowledge of community assets and resources.

**SAVE THE DATE Thirteenth Annual Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference, December 12-14, 2007**

December 12-14, 2007

"Thirteenth Annual Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference"

Crowne Plaza Hotel Atlanta-Ravinia, 4355 Ashford Dunwoody, Atlanta, GA 30346

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration deadline: to be announced.

Sponsored by: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Learn more:

For more information call (770) 488-5200. View conference information at

[www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/MCHepi/2007/AboutConference.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/MCHepi/2007/AboutConference.htm)

**Women's Health Fair, July 5, 2007**

July 5, 2007

"Women's Health Fair"

AltaMed Clinic, 3945 E. Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90023

Sponsored by: AltaMed Health Services, Inc.

For more information contact Catherine Choi at (323) 307-0464 or e-mail

[cchoi@altamed.org](mailto:cchoi@altamed.org)

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