



HMHB Resource Watch

HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES
Coalition of Georgia

Improving the health status of Georgia's families.

Public Health News

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Georgia's Infant Mortality Rate Down by 34 Percent

The Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health reports that the state's infant mortality rate has declined by 34 percent since 1990. According to the 2007 United Health Foundation's America's Health Rankings, Georgia's infant mortality rate was 8.3 per 1,000 live births in 2007 compared to 1990 when the rate was 12.6 per 1,000 live births. The national infant mortality rate was 6.8 per 1,000 live births in 2004. Despite an overall decrease in the state's rate, the racial disparity in infant mortality continues to raise serious concerns among public health experts. The death rate for African-American babies was more than twice as high as the death rate for white babies in 2004. Experts indicate that high infant mortality in Georgia is an important indicator of the overall health status of the state's women and children and quality of life in surrounding communities.

"Decreasing the state's infant mortality rate and improving birth outcomes are our major priorities," said Dr. Stuart Brown, Director of the Division of Public Health. "Every child born in Georgia deserves to live a healthy life – free of physical ailments and life threatening illnesses. While our 2007 rate is an accolade worth applauding, we have to continue pushing forward to improve the health status of Georgia's women and children."

The decline in Georgia's infant mortality rate is the result of activities, programs and services offered by the Division of Public Health to help improve birth outcome among the state's children. The Division has worked to improve the technologies and facilities for treating newborns who are dangerously underweight, increase access to prenatal care for pregnant women and raise public awareness about ways to reduce the risk of SIDS.

Since the 1980's, the Division has worked diligently to tackle low birth weight by training and hiring additional nursing staff to provide prenatal care in county health departments.

Access to prenatal care has improved since the 1980's and the racial disparities gap among African-American women is beginning to close. Babies Born Healthy, which covers prenatal care costs for uninsured pregnant women, is one of many programs offered by the Division that provide services and support to ensure better outcomes for infants.

The Division of Public Health also recently launched a crib matching initiative that seeks to combat SIDS, the sudden and unexplained death of a baby under the age of one by providing qualified families with safe sleep education and resources for children. More than 500 infants in Georgia died from SIDS between 2002 and 2005.

Babies with low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds) account for more than two-thirds of Georgia's infant deaths. African-American babies are also twice as likely as white infants to be born at a low birth weight. Birth defects are the second most common cause of infant mortality equally affecting both whites and African-Americans. SIDS is the third leading cause of death among infants over one month of age and impacts nearly twice as many African-American babies as whites.

According to public health many causes of death after the first month of a child's life are often preventable. However, these preventable deaths occur twice as often among African-Americans. Factors that contribute to infant mortality rates and low birth weight include:

1. Poor health and/or nutritional status of the mother
2. Substance abuse (e.g., tobacco, alcohol and other drugs – illegal and prescriptive)
3. Inadequate prenatal care and folic acid intake
4. Positioning babies on their stomachs to sleep.

For more information about infant mortality in Georgia, please visit: <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/family/index.asp> or call (404) 657-2850.

<http://www.hometowndekalb.com/news30003/Government/georgias-infant-mortality-rate-down-by-34-percent.shtml>

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HMHB in the Community

September 6

American Kidney Fund Congressional Health Fair 2008

Saturday, September 6, 2008 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Henry W. Grady High School Theater Lobby | Atlanta, GA

September 11-12

GA Perinatal Association Conference

Thursday & Friday, September 11-12 | St. Simon's Island

September 13

Schafer Road Church of Christ

Saturday, September 13, 2008 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

September 20

St. Paul AME Worship Center

Saturday, September 20, 2008 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Save the Date!!!

2008 Annual Meeting and Conference

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

9:00 am- 4:00 pm.

Auditorium

State Bar of Georgia

104 Marietta St. NW

Atlanta, GA. 30303

- One of the guest speakers include Dr. Doug Skelton with the Georgia Public Health Association
 - Please go online to www.hmhbga.org to register for the Conference

Come out and support us.....

To volunteer for an event call our office at 770-451-0020, ext. 302



News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies— August 25, 2008

This Week:

- 1) Abstract Deadline for the 2009 Mother-Friendly Childbirth Forum
- 2) HUG: Program for New Parents
- 3) Flu Vaccination Guide for Health Care Personnel
- 4) September is Baby Safety Month
- 5) Vaccine Modeling Initiative
- 6) Report Focuses on Obesity and Obesity Policies in the US
- 7) Nutrition Agenda 2008 and Beyond

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) ABSTRACT DEADLINE FOR THE 2009 MOTHER-FRIENDLY CHILDBIRTH FORUM

The Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS) is accepting abstracts for its 2009 Mother-Friendly Childbirth Forum. The 2009 Forum will take place March 5-7, at the Handlery Hotel in San Diego, California, and will focus on strategies for promoting normal birth and evidence-based maternity care practices. Abstract submissions are due by September 15, 2008. The annual event addresses issues of interest to health professionals, birth advocates, and consumers. The Forum highlights the most current evidence by national experts and includes workshops on applying that knowledge to everyday maternity care. For more information, including the 2009 Abstract Submission Form, go to <http://www.motherfriendly.org/forum.php>

2) HUG: PROGRAM FOR NEW PARENTS

The Help, Understanding and Guidance (HUG) program's Web site and DVD teaches new parents ways to understand the language of their newborn. This resource provides parents with information about their baby's special ways of communicating and how best to respond. The HUG program includes tips on topics such as how to recognize a baby's cues in order to get them to eat and sleep well, and tips on playing with a baby and how best to calm them. To learn more about this resource, go to www.hugyourbaby.com

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

3) FLU VACCINATION GUIDE FOR HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL

With flu season coming soon, health care professionals are invited to submit their orders for the Influenza Vaccination Pocket Information Guide, developed by the National Influenza Vaccine Summit. These guides are available for free, but are NOT intended for patient use. The purpose of the guide is to provide front-line healthcare personnel with information about indications and contraindications for the injectable and intranasal influenza vaccines, information on targeted populations to be vaccinated, and details on how to administer the vaccines. Organizations are asked to distribute the pocket guides to their members or constituents along with encouragement to use the guides to avoid missed opportunities for influenza vaccination. To order the guide in quantity, go to <http://www.preventinfluenza.org/pocketguides>.

4) SEPTEMBER IS BABY SAFETY MONTH

This September marks the 25th anniversary of Baby Safety Month, sponsored annually by the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA). This year, in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, JPMA is helping educate parents and caregivers on the safe selection and use of child restraint seats by providing valuable information for keeping child passengers safe in the car. JPMA's emphasis on child restraints during Baby Safety Month complements the nationwide observance of Child Passenger Safety Week (September 21-27), which will be kicked off by National Seat Check Satur-

day on Saturday, September 20. To view JPMA's Web site for Baby Safety Month 2008, please visit <http://www.jpma.org/bsm/2008/>. For more information on CPS Week, please visit <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/childps/planner/index.cfm> and in Spanish, go to <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/childps/planner/Spanish/index.cfm>

5) VACCINE MODELING INITIATIVE

A new program at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health will identify vaccine strategies to control outbreaks of infectious diseases. The Vaccine Modeling Initiative (VMI) is a four-year project, funded by a \$10 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Utilizing computer simulations of epidemics, the VMI will evaluate new vaccines and the best ways to provide vaccinations. The overall purpose of the initiative is to improve decision-making in epidemic-control policies and in choosing new vaccines. Initially it will focus on dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever in southeast Asia, measles in central Africa, pandemic flu in Indonesia, and malaria in a region still to be determined. To access the program online, go to http://www.psc.edu/publicinfo/media/08-18-08_GatesVMI.php

6) REPORT FOCUSES ON OBESITY AND OBESITY POLICIES IN THE US

"F as in Fat: How Obesity Policies Are Failing in America" highlights obesity rates and rankings for each state, a review of national and state obesity policies and recommendations on ways Americans can fight obesity. Sponsored by the Trust for American's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the report was released on August 19th. It recommends that a wide group of partners, including the federal government, schools and businesses, work together to create and implement a realistic, comprehensive National Strategy to Combat Obesity. To access the report online, go to <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/obesity2008/>.

7) NUTRITION AGENDA 2008 AND BEYOND

An upcoming symposium at the Friedman School at Tufts University in Boston, MA will feature leading national and international experts discussing subjects that will affect food policy and industry in 2008 and beyond. "Nutrition Agenda 2008 and Beyond" will be held on September 24-26, and will include sessions with a focus on childhood nutrition. The keynote address will be delivered by former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. For more information, including a meeting program and details on registration and discount housing, go to <http://friedmansymposium.com>.

Sources:

<http://friedmansymposium.com>
<http://healthyamericans.org/reports>
<http://www.hugyourbaby.com/index.html>
<http://www.jpma.org/bsm/2008/>
<http://www.motherfriendly.org/forum.php>
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/childps/planner/index.cfm>
[http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08231/905102-115.stm?cnpid=news.xml](http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08231/905102-115.stm?cmpid=news.xml)
<http://www.preventinfluenza.org/>
http://www.psc.edu/publicinfo/media/08-18-08_GatesVMI.php

Information is reported as provided and does not necessarily represent the view of or the endorsement by the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition. A complete copy of HMHB's disclaimer is available on the HMHB Web site at <http://www.hmhb.org/disclaimer.html>

Public Health Conferences and Events

25th Council for the International Conference on Physical Activity Fitness Research (ICPAFR) Symposium- (Council for the International Conference on Physical Activity and Fitness Research (ICPAFR)) - September 2-4, 2008, Loma Linda, CA

Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020 Meeting- (Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) U.S.) - September 4-5, 2008, Washington, DC

AHRO's 2008 Annual Conference Promoting Quality - Partnering for Change - (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)) - September 7-10, 2008, Bethesda, MD

Building a Framework for Healthy Housing: 2008 National Healthy Homes Conference - (Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) U.S.) - September 15-17, 2008, Baltimore, MD

International Health and Tropical Medicine 2008 Meeting - (Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, UK) - September 17-19, 2008, Brighton, UK

Public Health Informatics 2008 (PHI2008) - (Global Partners in Public Health Informatics) - September 18-19, 2008, Seattle, WA

September Health Observances

1-30

National Infant Mortality Awareness Month
National Healthy Start Association
www.healthystartassoc.org

1 - 30

National Cholesterol Education Month
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Health Information Center
<http://hp2010.nhlbihin.net/cholmonth/>

1-30

Childhood Cancer Month
Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation
www.candlelighters.org

1 - 30

National Pediculosis Prevention Month/ Head Lice Prevention Month
www.headlice.org

1-30

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition
www.ovarian.org



healthy mothers, healthy babies[®]

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