Toward A National Strategy on Infant Mortality

Michael C. Lu, MD, MPH
Associate Administrator
Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Health Resources and Services Administration

Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality
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Here in the U.S. we’ve seen our infant mortality rates steadily decline. This is thanks to cooperation between federal and local governments, community and faith organizations and the private sector. But today we still lose far too many children in the first years of their lives. They’re gone before they learn to walk or talk, before they throw a ball or give their first smile.

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

June 14, 2012
The United States government has committed to protecting the health of our children with targeted interventions serving the populations who need them most. We’ve focused on reducing the number of preterm births. And we’ve set a national goal, very similar to the kinds of goals you’re setting here, to bring the percentage of all preterm births down to 11.4% by 2020.

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius
June 14, 2012
To reach that goal we’ve launched a nationwide public-private partnership to raise awareness about the importance of bringing pregnancies to full term. We’ve taken a family-oriented approach that educates women and their doctors on the dangers of premature birth. And we’re funding innovative strategies, like maternity medical homes, where pregnant mothers receive coordinated care from psychological support to education on how to care for infants. We have learned that seemingly simple interventions can help reduce preterm births among women at the greatest risk for poor pregnancy outcomes.

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

June 14, 2012
And where infant mortality has taken the highest toll in the US, we’re also partnering with state officials to create strategies and interventions to begin bringing these rates down. Our plan is to find out what works and scale up the best interventions to the national level.

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

June 14, 2012
And today I’m pleased to announce my department will be collaborating in the next year to create our nation’s first ever national strategy to address infant mortality.

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius
June 14, 2012
Reminders

• Check your agenda at the door
Reminders

• Listen and learn
Reminders

- Remember what infant mortality means
Aspirational Goal

• IMR
  • 5.5 infant deaths per 1000 live births by 2015
  • 4.5 infant deaths per 1000 live births by 2020
Aspirational Goal

IMR per 1,000

Actual IMR

Projected IMR based on 2007-2010 average annual trend (-3.1%)
Improve women’s health before pregnancy
Preconception Health & Healthcare

- CDC/ATSDR Preconception Care Work Group & Select Panel on Preconception Care
- Office of Minority Health Preconception Peer Educators
- Regions IV & VI Infant Mortality COIN
- Affordable Care Act
Promote Quality & Safety
Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative

The diagram shows a graph with the percentage of scheduled deliveries decreasing over time. The x-axis represents the data points from 07-08 to 08-09, with the y-axis showing the percentage from 0% to 30%. A key point indicates a clarification of scheduled delivery form in 3-09.

The text below the graph explains: The denominator is the number of scheduled deliveries 36 to 38 weeks gestation (number of scheduled delivery forms submitted). The numerator is the number of scheduled deliveries without indication documented.

Invest in Prevention & Promotion
Prevention & Promotion

• Smoking cessation
• Safe sleep
Strengthen Systems Integration
Strengthen Systems Integration

• Vertical integration
  • Appropriate levels of care

• Horizontal integration
  • Service coordination & systems navigation

• Longitudinal integration
  • Care continuum across the life course
Mobilize Community Transformation
E Pluribus Unum
Support Measurement & Research
We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Declaration of Independence