Background

Healthy People 2020 Infant Mortality (IM) goal is 6.0. In 2012, the Montgomery County, Ohio IM rate of 8.0 was 5% higher than the state rate. The black infant mortality rate was 14.2, over 2 times the white rate. Based on Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) analysis, much Montgomery County racial IM disparity was due to Maternal Health and Prematurity. This holds true regardless of socioeconomic status.

Montgomery County’s Infant Mortality Coalition was established in 2012. In 2013, the Coalition was accepted into both the CityMatCH National Equity Institute and Ohio Equity Institute. Utilizing knowledge of our community’s data, birth equity issues, and resources, appropriate interventions were identified.

Our downstream intervention is progesterone therapy. Progesterone reduces recurrent preterm birth (PTB), and also reduces preterm birth in women diagnosed with short cervix.

Our upstream intervention is CenteringPregnancy®. Through Centering®, women are empowered to choose health-promoting behaviors. Evidence-based Centering outcomes include decreased preterm birth.

Contact

Sylvia Ann Ellison, MA, MPH
Research Assistant Professor, Epidemiologist
Department of Community Health
Wright State University,
Boonshoft School of Medicine
Project Facilitator, Infant Mortality Reduction
Public Health-Dayton & Montgomery County
sylvia.ellison@wright.edu

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### Progesterone Therapy

**Outputs**

Premier Health Network:
- Sonographer training program developed for accurate ultrasound diagnosis of short cervix
- All sonographers trained at Miami Valley Hospital
- Sonographer training held at Life Stages Samaritan Centers for Women
- Sonographer training planned for Atrium Medical Center

**Short Term Outcomes**

Miami Valley Hospital – Five Rivers Center for Women’s Health, Fall 2012 – Spring 2015:
- Eligible women enrolled: 100 (PTB history)
- Births: 77 (42 expected PTB)
- Births ≥37 weeks: 48 (62%)
- Preterm births: 29 (38%)
- 13 PTB averted with 17P

### CenteringPregnancy®

**Outputs**

Life Stages Samaritan Centers for Women:
- July 2014: additional staff Centering training
- Expanded dedicated Centering space
- Centering groups started January 2015

**Short Term Outcomes**

Life Stages Samaritan Centers for Women:
- Centering group average size: 6
- Young (≤23 years) at-risk population
- Majority black group members
- Centering deliveries 2011-2015: 226
- Preterm births 2013-2015: 13% (not adjusted for preeclampsia indicated preterm delivery)

### Challenges

**Overall**
- Awareness of infant mortality and prematurity
- Community engagement
- Communication
- Partnership agreements

**Progesterone**
- Facilitation of 17P injections
- High cost of name-brand 17P
- Availability of compounded 17P

**CenteringPregnancy®**
- Centering practice capacity

### Future Planning

**Overall**
- Community engagement
- Communication
- Update PPOR data
- Upstream, Social Determinants, Life Course focus in county strategic planning

**Progesterone**
- Temporary change to vaginal Progesterone for all
- Work with State Medicaid to facilitate 17P

**CenteringPregnancy®**
- Recruit new practice sites