



Ohio Institute for Equity in Birth Outcomes

About the Ohio Equity Institute

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and CityMatCH are partnering with nine (9) Ohio communities to improve overall birth outcomes and reduce the racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality. Ohio ranks near the bottom of U.S. state rates in overall infant mortality and Black infant mortality. This is unacceptable.

CityMatCH is a national membership organization that supports urban MCH efforts at the local level and whose mission is “to strengthen public health leaders and organizations to promote equity and improve the health of urban women, families and communities”. Based on the model and the work being done in the existing Institute for Equity in Birth Outcomes - a W. K. Kellogg-funded CityMatCH initiative – 9 participating communities across the state will make up the Ohio Institute for Equity in Birth Outcomes (Ohio Equity Institute).

The Ohio Equity Institute is an initiative designed by CityMatCH to strengthen the scientific focus and evidence base for realizing equity in birth outcomes. The Institute is a data-driven, high-visibility movement by 9 urban Ohio communities. During a three-year span, these communities will participate and receive training to support them as they select, implement, and evaluate equity-focused projects.

This effort marks the first time that CityMatCH has planned to reduce the disparities in birth outcomes in so many cities in a single state at the same time. This effort has real potential to become a template for other states to spur our national collective success in making measureable reductions in birth outcome inequities. The nation is watching.

Ohio Equity Institute Cohort

Butler County ♦ Canton – Stark County ♦ Cincinnati ♦ Columbus ♦ Cuyahoga County – Cleveland ♦ Mahoning County – Youngstown ♦ Montgomery County – Dayton ♦ Summit County ♦ Toledo - Lucas County

The Strategy

Our challenge is to assess local capacity, examine local data, design and implement an equity project, and demonstrate the evidence base for local interventions that reduce inequities in birth outcomes. Ohio Equity Institute teams will work together and with experts in the fields of public health, epidemiology, birth outcomes, health inequities, and evaluation to accomplish the following two main tasks:

1. Complete the Equity Institute Curriculum with its 5 Major Topics

- Race, Racism, and Inequities in Birth Outcomes in the U.S.
- Epidemiology of Birth Outcomes and Racial Disparities
- Evidence-Based Interventions for Vulnerable Populations
- Leadership
- Evaluation

2. Consider, Design and Implement a Local Equity Project

Through the combination of strategies shown to improve birth outcome disparities (ex. 17P, birth spacing, safe sleep, etc.), and data-driven decisions specific to the target populations in each community, teams will engage in two local equity projects aimed at reducing the disparity in birth outcomes. One project will employ upstream strategies, and one project will employ downstream strategies. Teams will receive technical assistance as they consider their capacity, and design and implement their project.

Through face-to-face Equity Institute Trainings, monthly calls and webinars, online curriculum components, mentoring relationships with experts, and topical technical assistance, Ohio Equity Institute teams will arrive at a final summit where they will share their process and results and add to the equity evidence base.

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|  | Ohio Institute for Equity in Birth Outcomes Value Propositions |
| <p>1. Clear Compelling Data to Garner Support and Drive Practice CityMatCH is a data-centric organization and believes data should drive public health practice. CityMatCH staff is partnering with Ohio data experts to develop a brief that will highlight local data across all 9 participating communities in the Ohio Equity Institute.</p> | |
| <p>2. Maternal and Child Health Systems Review, Improvements and Additions CityMatCH will assist each participating community in a review of their current MCH systems. This top-to-bottom review will be aimed at improving and augmenting capacity to make our shared goal of measurable reductions in birth outcome inequities possible in every participating community. CityMatCH will provide this assistance directly or through national experts.</p> | |
| <p>3. “Downstream” Project Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation Support Once MCH systems are fine-tuned, CityMatCH will provide a data-driven review of available strategies for reducing birth outcome inequities. CityMatCH staff has subdivided these strategies into two tiers based on the evidence of effectiveness. Detailed calculations regarding poor outcomes averted and cost savings will be provided for each strategy. Technical assistance will help each community create a logic model, implementation plan, and evaluation protocols. CityMatCH has retained the University of Kansas’ Work Group for Community Health and Development—creators of the Community Toolbox—to provide expert evaluation support.</p> | |
| <p>4. “Upstream” Project Planning and Implementation Support Birth outcome inequities exist due to unfair differences in the social determinants of health. Until we see equity in housing, education, economics, health care, vocation, transportation and so on, health disparities will persist. These “upstream” issues tend to take longer, require broader coalitions, and have impacts that are difficult to quantify. Yet, they remain the ultimate solution. CityMatCH will assist each community in the planning and implementation of one major “upstream” initiative.</p> | |
| <p>5. National Dissemination CityMatCH plans to work with each community to create “Project Launch Reports”. These reports will be published by CityMatCH as soon as each community is ready to implement their “downstream” project, and will highlight local data, detail the project itself, and outline the expected outcomes. These reports will then be disseminated nationally to our partners and handed out at conferences where CityMatCH is invited to speak. Additionally, at the close of the three-year initiative, we will host an Ohio Equity Summit that will feature the teams’ projects and outcomes along with other nationally known speakers. The national Maternal and Child Health community will be invited, and Ohio’s successes will be put on display.</p> | |

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