

MCAH Highlights

A publication of the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Bureau Solano County Public Health Division

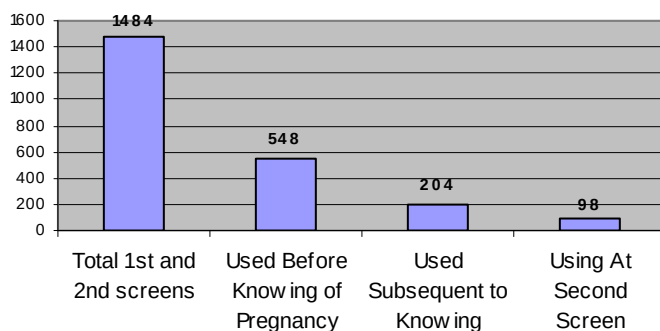
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Two New Clinics Begin 4P's Plus Screening For Substance Use

In June of 2006, a number of sites in Solano County began screening all women receiving prenatal care for drug and alcohol use using the 4Ps Plus screening tool. This tool can quickly identify a client's risk of substance use (alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs) by asking brief questions about the women's Parents, Partner, Past use of substances, and Pregnancy. If the screen is positive, the client will be given a brief intervention and/or referred to substance abuse or other needed services. All clients receive the screen at intake, and may receive a second and a postpartum screen. Data collected from the 4P's Plus screening is used to see the impact we are having on reducing substance abuse in pregnant women. In late 2009, both the Community Medical Center in Dixon and the Community Medical Center in Vacaville started using the 4Ps Plus screening tool.

Rates of Substance Use Among Women With 4Ps Plus Screens Solano County, 2006-2009



Data from the first three years of the program show that women who received 4PsPlus screens when they enter prenatal care decreased their rates of substance use by 82% by their third trimester of pregnancy. Babies born substance free are less likely to be born prematurely. Since the cost of caring for a premature baby can run between \$50,000 and \$250,000, the 4PsPlus program is both saving lives and saving money.

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Working to Standardize Health Education Messages

The MCAH Bureau is embarking on a project aimed at standardizing health education messages and materials across all MCAH programs. The goal is to ensure that all clients receive the same health education messages and utilize appropriate materials when they are seen in WIC, MCAH programs, or their doctor's offices.

In February and March MCAH Bureau Health Educators assessed staff who work with clients. The assessment asked about topics that are currently addressed, how they are addressed, and when—prenatal or postpartum. Responses to the assessment will be compiled to construct a county-wide snapshot of topics and materials used.

When the assessment is complete and results compiled, staff from contributing organizations will be invited to learn the results, and contribute ideas on appropriate next steps. Materials may need to be developed or revised. In the end, we hope to help our partners provide the best messages using the most appropriate materials.



**MCAH
Toll-Free Line
1-877-680-
BABY**

PPPIP

In 2007, the Solano County Maternal Child & Adolescent Health Bureau (MCAH) formed a Prenatal Care Access Committee, which was charged with reviewing prenatal care access issues. Solano County falls short of the Healthy People 2010 goal of having 90% of all women enter prenatal care in the first trimester. The committee was composed of key prenatal and community stakeholders, particularly those involved with prenatal care for Medi-Cal recipients. The resulting recommendations were contained in the Prenatal Care Report 2009. In response to these recommendations, in 2008 Partnership Health Plan of California (PHC) convened a group of obstetrical health care providers, Solano County Health & Social Services Employment and Eligibility staff, and the MCAH Bureau staff to share information about perinatal services. Their goal was to increase the percentage of pregnant women who access prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, and to increase the rates of postpartum visits. The project partners identified barriers to early care and developed interventions to improve access to prenatal care. The barriers include lack of insurance coverage, delays in obtaining Medi-Cal, substance abuse by pregnant women, and delays caused by systems of care at prenatal practices along with member issues such as denial of pregnancy and not knowing how to obtain Medi-Cal coverage. The group has made recommendations for improvement and has been working with prenatal care providers to implement changes. Some tasks the group has accomplished include:

- Prenatal care sites collect monthly data for the numbers of women who enter care in the first trimester of pregnancy
- Shared outreach methods and strategies for getting women to seek early prenatal and postpartum care
- County Employment and Eligibility has improved the processing of Medi-Cal applications for pregnant women
- Training from UCSF on communication and change management
- Implementing the "Go Before You Show" Campaign designed to educate women about early access to prenatal care.

Early data is demonstrating a significant improvement in the number of women in Solano County accessing prenatal care within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) is Accepting Referrals

Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence-based, nurse home visiting program that operates by partnering mothers with registered nurses early in their pregnancies to receive ongoing home visits that continue through their child's second birthday. The goal is to improve pregnancy outcomes, improve child health and development, and improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future.

On March 15, 2010, the Solano Co. NFP started accepting referrals! Criteria for enrollment include:

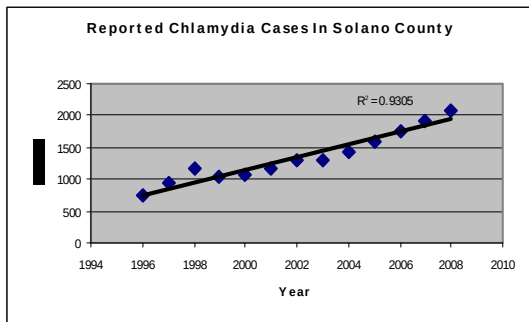
- First-time mothers (No previous live births)
- Low Income
- Not greater than 28 week's gestation
- Resident of Solano county

The goal is to have 100 families enrolled in the next 6-9 months. Please CALL 1-877-680-BABY to have clients enroll! For more information about NFP, please call Shari Garger at (707) 784-8780.



Adolescent Resource Network

The Adolescent Resource Network (ARN), is a subcommittee of the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Advisory Board. It is open to anyone with an interest in adolescent health issues. For the 2009-2010 year ARN members have chosen to focus on rising rates of Chlamydia among youth in Solano County. Chlamydia is an extremely common sexually transmitted disease which, if left untreated, can cause serious infection and infertility. ARN is in the process of creating a wallet-sized "Chlamydia fact sheet" aimed at teens, which will include information on symptoms, treatment and where to get tested. ARN members have also made presentations to the community about chlamydia and have created fun educational materials to use at community events. If you would like to join ARN, the next quarterly meeting will be held on June 9 at 3 pm at 275 Beck Ave. in Fairfield, Conf. Rm 1. Please call Susan Whalen at (707) 784-8397 for more details.



Congratulations!

Nancy Calvo - has been selected in a competitive process for the Maternal and Child Health-Public Health Leadership Institute (MCH-PLI) at the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health for a Fellowship for the 2010-11 year.

Employment and Eligibility—the E&E (employment and eligibility) Division has been able to reduce the processing time for pregnancy-related Medi-Cal from 120 days to 25 days. A Celebration Event was held at all four sites; Fairfield, Vacaville, Vallejo and Dixon on Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

H&SS - received a \$119,000 grant to continue the Baby Coach Project, a one-to-one mentoring program for low-income pregnant women in Solano Co. Children's Nurturing Project is administering services.