



Closing the Gap

Reducing Infant Mortality in African American Communities

African American women in Chicago are twice as likely to deliver their babies prematurely.

What is Closing the Gap?

Closing the Gap is an initiative to address the racial disparities between African-American and White babies in the primary areas of prematurity and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Who is the target population?

Closing the Gap will work in four Chicago community areas with the highest rates of prematurity and SIDS: Auburn-Gresham, Austin, Englewood and West Englewood.

How is it funded? And for how long?

Closing the Gap is a three-year initiative funded through the Illinois Department of Human Services Office of Family Health.

What are the program goals?

- To reduce the number of very low birth weight infants in the targeted areas.
- To reduce the number of African-American infants who die from SIDS and other post neonatal causes in the targeted areas.
- To facilitate collaboration among community partners from various fields of health, social service, business, environment and religion.
- To identify and refer people at risk and to community resources.
- To conduct educational campaigns in the community to effect healthier babies.

Who are the Primary Partner Agencies?

Access Community Health Network, Chicago Health Connection, Englewood Neighborhood Health Center, Chicago Department of Public Health, March of Dimes, SIDS of Illinois, and Westside Health Authority.

How can you help?

- Host an educational session in your home, business, church or agency.
- Post flyers and/or brochures at your business, church or agency.
- Identify and refer women or families who are at risk.

Contact Information:

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