

# project

Fetal & Infant Mortality Review Project

# IMPACT

2009-2010 Community Report



**Project Impact** is a fetal and infant mortality review (FIMR) project for Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties. Its goal is to reduce infant mortality by gathering and reviewing detailed information to gain a better understanding of fetal and infant deaths in Northeast Florida. The project examines cases with the worst outcomes to identify gaps in maternal and infant services and to promote future improvements. Project Impact, which started in 1995, is carried out by the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition with funding from the Florida Department of Health.

Each month, fetal/infant death cases are selected for the project based on specific criteria. These include type of death (fetal vs. infant), residence (target area vs. other areas) and race (black vs. others). The selection process reflects concern with the disparity in infant health and its contribution to overall fetal and infant mortality in the region. Between 2005-2010, more than 144 cases were reviewed through this process. Utilizing an approach developed by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), information is abstracted from birth, death, medical, hospital and autopsy records. Efforts are also made to interview the family. No information which identifies the family or medical providers is included on the abstraction form. Case summaries are developed and presented bimonthly to the Case Review Team (CRT). A multidisciplinary group of community medical and social service professionals, the CRT examines each case to determine medical, social, financial and other issues that may have impacted on the poor birth outcome. Recommendations for community action are crafted by the CRT each year based on review findings. These recommendations are shared with the Community Action Team (CAT), a group of volunteers working with at-risk families, and other partner agencies in the region for implementation.

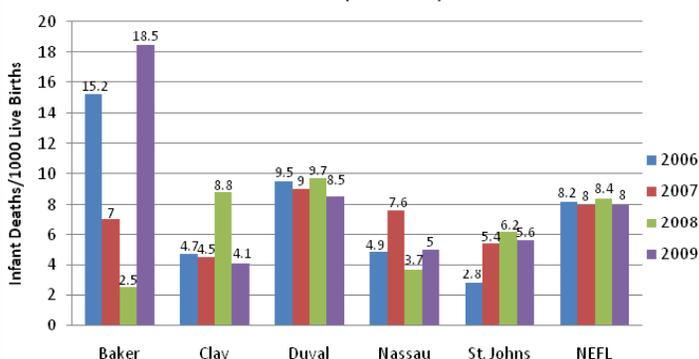
The **INFANT MORTALITY RATE** in Northeast Florida fell to 8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2009 based on preliminary vital statistics data. This compares to a preliminary statewide rate of 6.9 deaths per 1,000. Infant death rates improved for both whites and nonwhites in the region between 2008 and 2009. Rates improved in three of five counties in the Northeast Florida. Baker County reported a significant increase in infant deaths, 43% were sleep-related. A new Task Force has been organized in the county to identify causes and develop strategies for improving infant health.



## C.A.T. Explores the Life Course

Members of the Community Action Team (CAT), a group of neighborhood advocates and service providers in the Jacksonville urban core, are educating residents about the life course and its impact on the health of mothers, babies and families. Life Course issues were identified as contributing factors in nearly 40% of the FIMR cases reviewed over the last five years. These include health, economic, educational and social determinants that influence the outcome of a pregnancy. The group is using the Life Course game, a unique hands-on tool developed by CityMatCH, with neighborhood groups to raise awareness in the target area.

Infant Mortality By County  
Northeast Florida  
2006-2009 (Provisional)





Nationally recognized researcher Dr. Fleda Mask Jackson leads the discussion at the Community Breakfast held as part of Infant Mortality Awareness month at Edward Waters College. More than 120 participants gathered to learn about the impact of stress on birth outcomes and to identify steps they could take as individuals, organizations and institutions to reduce infant mortality.

## Maternal Health: Key Factor in Fetal, Infant Deaths

The mother's health prior to and during pregnancy remains the most frequent contributing factor identified in fetal and infant deaths reviewed using the FIMR process in 2005-2010. In nearly 70% of the cases reviewed, maternal health issues were identified as impacting poor birth outcomes. Family planning issues and pre-term labor were cited as factors in more than half of all cases reviewed over the last five years. Late or no prenatal care, maternal infections and prematurity also impacted on more than 40% of the cases examined through the FIMR process.

### Most Frequently Identified Factors FIMR Case Reviews

| Contributing Factor                         | % of Cases |
|---|------------|
| General Health, Medical History of Mom..... | 68%        |
| Family Planning Issues.....                 | 52%        |
| Preterm Labor.....                          | 51%        |
| Maternal Infections other than STDs.....    | 47%        |
| Later or No Prenatal Care.....              | 46%        |
| Prematurity.....                            | 44%        |
| Life Course Issues.....                     | 38%        |
| History of Fetal, Infant Loss.....          | 36%        |
| Substance Abuse.....                        | 34%        |
| Service Issues.....                         | 30%        |

*Source: July 2005-June 2010 FIMR Case Reviews (n=144)  
Multiple factors may be present in individual cases.*

## UNF Nurses, Partners Work to Promote Safe Sleep

UNF Nursing students provided safe sleep training to nearly 150 WIC staff in the five county region during 2009. The training was designed to assist WIC staff in integrating safe sleep information into their counseling sessions with expectant and new parents. The students, in partnership with the Healthy Start Coalition, submitted an abstract to the American Association of the College of Nursing (AACN), which was selected for a poster presentation at the AACN 2010 Baccalaureate Education Conference in Orlando, Florida.

The Rotary Club of San Marco continued its work to reduce sleep-related deaths by providing "onesies" and information packets to all new mothers delivering at Shands Jacksonville and Orange Park Medical Center. This is the second year the Club has organized an initiative to address this preventable cause of infant mortality.

Staff at the Jacksonville Children's Commission also implemented safe sleep training for child care providers and parenting teens, using a curriculum and material developed as part of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Healthy Child Care America campaign.

### Case Review Team

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### Project Impact Staff

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## 2010 FIMR Recommendations

1. Address the increase in sleep-related deaths in NE Florida through the implementation of an awareness and information campaign. Information should include: proper sleep positioning, dangers of bed sharing, impact of second and third hand smoke, importance of breastfeeding and appropriate use of infant beds. Continue Safe Sleep Partnership activities to target providers, expectant and new parents/families, and the general public. In 2009, smoke exposure was documented in 81% of our sleep related deaths. Focus provider and community education on age of vulnerability (2-4 months).
2. Implement education and awareness strategies to address life course perspective, including pre-conceptual health and planned pregnancies, as well as social determinants that impact birth outcomes. Focus attention substance use, including smoking of all types (tobacco, marijuana, crack) and obesity, including postpartum weight loss.
3. Improve Healthy Start Screening and referral rates.



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