



The MACHC Review

A Quarterly Update by the Mid-Atlantic Association of
Community Health Centers (MACHC)

SUMMER 2002

Industry Issues

Community Health Centers: Filling the Gap of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care

A new congressional-mandated report from the National Academies' Institute of Medicine (IOM) states that minorities are more likely to receive lower-quality health care, regardless of income and insurance coverage. Minorities are more often enrolled in "lower-end" health care plans with stricter limits on covered resources, higher deductibles and co-pays. The lack of doctors in minority communities precludes establishing a consistent relationship with a primary care provider.

Unequal treatment occurs in the context of persistent discrimination with bias, prejudice and stereotyping by health care providers contributing to the differences in care. Real or perceived discrimination leads to distrust of doctors and nurses by minorities.

Community health centers across the nation are bridging this gap by reducing and eliminating racial disparities in health care delivery. "Inequality in America: The Contribution of Health Centers in Reducing and Eliminating Disparities in Access to Care", published in the June 2001 edition of the *Medical Care Research and Review*, details the success of health centers in reducing and eliminating health disparities.

The IOM report states that minorities are less likely to undergo cardiac bypass surgery or receive appropriate cardiac medications, less likely to receive kidney dialysis and transplants, appropriate cancer diagnostic tests and treatments, as well as sophisticated treatments for HIV infection. The *Medical Care Research and Review* article outlines

the success story of community health centers in reducing health care disparities. Community health center clients had significantly lower rates of low birth weight babies, were more likely to receive prevention and screening services, counseling on lifestyle issues, and were less likely to be hospitalized for avoidable conditions.

The complete IOM study, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, can be viewed at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10260.html> or a printed copy can be purchased by calling 1-800-624-6242 or 202-334-3313.

"Inequality in America: The Contribution of Health Centers in Reducing and Eliminating Disparities in Access to Care", was published in the June 2001 edition (Volume 58, No. 2, pages 234-248) of *Medical Care Research and Review*.

Infant Mortality in Maryland

In Maryland, the infant mortality rate declined to a record low of 7.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 – an 11 percent decline from the previous low of 8.3 deaths in 1999. The main decline occurred among infants between 28 days and one year of life.

Despite this progress, the mortality rate for black infants in Maryland remains nearly three times higher than that of white infants, a rate identical to that of the preceding two years. The mortality rate for black infants fell from 14.7 to 13.1 deaths per live births between 1999 and 2000 – a 10.3 percent decline. During the same period, white infant mortality dropped from 5.1 to 4.7 deaths – a 7.7 percent decline. The neonatal mortality rate (deaths of infants under 28 days of age per 1,000 live births)



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among blacks, while not declining significantly in the last decade, has fallen steadily since 1997.

The leading causes of infant deaths in 2000 were short gestation and unspecified low birth weight-related disorders, congenital anomalies and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Among black infants, the leading causes of deaths were low birth weight, maternal complications of pregnancy and congenital anomalies.

Infant mortality rates in 2000 ranged from a low of 2.8 per 1,000 live births in Frederick County to a high of 22.1 per 1,000 live births in Caroline County. While many counties and regional areas showed significant declines in both white and black infant mortalities, Caroline County's black infant mortality rate of 73.5 for 2000 was the highest race-specific rate in Maryland for the second year in a row.

Both black and white infant mortality rates in Maryland in 2000 were lower than those of the most recently available national figures. The rate for white infants in Maryland was 4.7 in 2000, versus a national rate of 5.8 in 1999. Comparable figures for black infants in Maryland were 13.1 in 2000 versus 14.6 nationwide in 1999.

"Infant Mortality in Maryland 2000" was prepared by the Vital Statistics Administration of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. For more information, contact the Department at 410-767-5950 or 1-877-4MD-DHMH.

Members & Partners

Westside Health and The Robert Wood Johnson "Covering Kids" Project

Delaware Health and Social Services recently honored Westside Health for its success in enrolling children in the Delaware Healthy Children Program. The awards are presented to agencies and individuals whose service to healthcare coverage for children exemplifies vision and excellence, making a difference in the lives of children and families throughout Delaware.

As one of twelve partners contracted for outreach and enrollment, Westside Health enrolled 83% or 552 of the total number of eligible children enrolled in the program. Three Westside Health employees, Orlando Rodriguez, Caroll Ramos and Johanna Figueroa, received individual awards acknowledging their contributions to the success of the program.

The Delaware Healthy Children Program, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's "Covering Kids" initiative, provides low cost health insurance for Delaware's uninsured children. Targeted to children under age 19 whose family income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and who do not qualify for Medicaid, the program provides prescription services, doctor visits, hospital care, lab and x-rays, as well as mental health and substance abuse treatment services.

Westside Health, a Section 330(e) Federally Qualified Health Center located in Wilmington, Delaware, provides bilingual primary care services ranging from prenatal to elder care to vulnerable individuals and families. With an emphasis on providing equal access to quality



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health care regardless of ability to pay, Westside Health focuses on disease prevention and health promotion. Opened in 1988, Westside Health currently has over 17,000 patient visits per year. Nearly 40% are uninsured, and 80% live at or below 200% of the poverty level. The majority of patients come from a minority background, including 75% Hispanic, and 16% African American.

Community Health Centers Win Funding

Congratulations to the following MACHC Community Health Centers who recently received funding awards from the Bureau of Primary Health Care for Community Health Center Program new access point expansion:

- Tri-State Community Health Center
Hancock, MD
- Baltimore Medical System, Inc.
Baltimore, MD
- Park West Medical Center, Inc.
Baltimore, MD
- Delmarva Rural Ministries, Inc.
Dover, DE

Alerts

“All for One” Infant Mortality Prevention Campaign

The Maryland Commission on Infant Mortality Prevention recently launched the first phase of a two-year, statewide multimedia public awareness campaign aimed at increasing awareness of the problem of infant mortality in Maryland. The campaign, titled “All for One”, focuses on infant mortality as a significant problem, especially among African-Americans.

Key players include the Maryland Governor’s Office for Children, Youth, and Families

(OCYF); the Maryland Commission on Infant Mortality Prevention; Campaign for Our Children (CFOC); and Maryland’s Friends of the Family.

The campaign has two goals: to increase awareness about the importance of early and regular prenatal health care, and to increase awareness of health issues affecting infant mortality such as perinatal infections, substance abuse and cigarette smoking. Campaign informational materials can be ordered by email or phone at: allforone@mail.ocyf.state.md.us or 410-7676219.

➔ MACHC Offices Relocating ◀

As of August 1, 2002, the new address for the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers will be changed to:

**4483-B Forbes Blvd.
Lanham, MD 20706**

Please make a note for future correspondence.

National Health Center Week – August 18-24

This is the week when we focus the public spotlight on the contributions and impacts of our community health centers in the communities they serve. This year’s theme is “**America’s Health Centers: Delivering the Promise of Health for America’s Families and Children.**” Now is the time to start planning your activities for this celebrated week among our nation’s community health centers. In anticipation of this week of celebration, MACHC will be seeking to procure proclamations from both the Maryland and Delaware legislatures.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



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Calendar of Events

June 11

Congressman Elijah Cummings Press
Conference on Health Disparities
Total Health Care, Inc.
1501 Division Street
Baltimore, MD
10:45 a.m.

Click for [pictures](#) and [speech](#).

June 19

MACHC Annual Meeting

August

Corporate Compliance Development Program

August 18-24

National Health Center Week

Contact Us

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Specialist**

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About MACHC

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Community
Health Centers (MACHC) is comprised of
federally qualified community health centers in
Maryland and Delaware.

Maryland

Baltimore Medical System, Inc.

Jay Wolvovsky
Executive Director
Phone: 410-558-4891

Chase Brexton Health Services

David Shippee
Executive Director
Phone: 410-752-0954

Choptank Community Health System, Inc.

J. Wayne Howard
Executive Director
Phone: 410-479-1102

Community Clinic, Inc.

J. Mark Langlais
Executive Director
Phone: 301-340-7525

Greater Baden Medical Services

Dr. Sarah Leonhard
Executive Director
Phone: 301-599-0460

Health Care for the Homeless

Jeff Singer
Executive Director
Phone: 410-837-5533

Park West Medical Services

Dr. Allen Bennett
Executive Director
Phone: 410-542-7800



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People's Community Health Center

Pat Cassatt
Executive Director
Phone: 410-467-6040

South Baltimore Family Health Center

Paula McLellan
Executive Director
Phone: 410-354-2001

Three Lower Counties Community Services, Inc.

Joan Robbins
Executive Director
Phone: 410-651-9852

Total Health Care, Inc.

Dennis Cherot
Executive Director
Phone: 410-728-4090

Tri-State Community Health Center

Paul Capcara
Executive Director
Phone: 301-678-7256

DELAWARE

Delmarva Rural Ministries

Debra Singletary
Executive Director
Phone: 302-678-200

Henrietta Johnson Medical Center

Frederick Carey
Executive Director
Phone: 302-427-9696

Westside Health, Inc.

Lolita Lopez
Executive Director
Phone: 302-655-5576

MACHC is the voice of communities in need, and is dedicated to building and strengthening programs in the delivery of quality community-based healthcare to the medically underserved and underinsured. We seek partners who share our vision and look for opportunities that enable us to achieve our mission.