



Mother and Child Health Coalition

Press Release

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Missouri Governor's Proclamation: September - National Infant Mortality Awareness Month

Kansas City, MO – Dr. Jean Craig, director of Kansas City Healthy Start, a program of Mother & Child Health Coalition, will join Gov. Jay Nixon in Jefferson City on Tuesday for the signing of a proclamation designating September as National Infant Mortality Awareness Month. Joining Dr. Craig will be members of Healthy Start sister sites from St. Louis: the St. Louis Maternal, Child and Family Health Coalition and Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium, Inc.

Infant mortality is a problem in the Kansas City metro area, Wyandotte County, Kansas having the highest rate of infant mortality among the five counties. From 2000 – 2009, the rate of infant death in the 5-county greater Kansas City area (ranked by level of infant mortality) is, as follows:

1. Wyandotte County, KS = 7.96 (per thousand births)
2. Jackson County, MO = 6.65
3. Platte County, MO = 5.83
4. Clay County, MO = 5.40
5. Johnson County, KS = 4.75

Kansas City Healthy Start is a bi-state, home visitation program that seeks to improve the health of pregnant women and babies, and to decrease infant mortality and ethnic disparities in the Kansas City metro area. It offers outreach, care coordination, depression screening, and health education. The Healthy Start program also integrates two national programs, The Perinatal Periods of Risk Practice Collaborative (PPOR) and The Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Program, to reduce infant mortality. Its focus is learning what in the community causes babies to die, particularly among African Americans, and combining area resources to implement changes.

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Mother & Child Health Coalition believes that every child deserves a healthy start. MCHC promotes the health of mothers and children through community planning, education, advocacy and collaboration with organizations addressing infant mortality, immunization, childhood obesity, maternal health and child safety. Interviews are available upon request.