

Breaking Ground for Success

- PRENATAL CARE

The groundwork for a child's healthy development is laid during the brain's rapid growth throughout pregnancy. To ensure babies are healthy, we have to support mothers with timely and frequent, high-quality prenatal care. In Ohio, many babies are born prematurely and too many do not make it to their first birthday. Poverty disproportionately impacts young children and families of color, making it even more difficult to overcome adversity and maintain healthy development. Empowering parents and caregivers to support their baby's development through health and educational interventions allows Ohio to ensure that babies are positioned to thrive during their first year and beyond. Ohio must do a better job of reaching our most at-risk babies and families early.





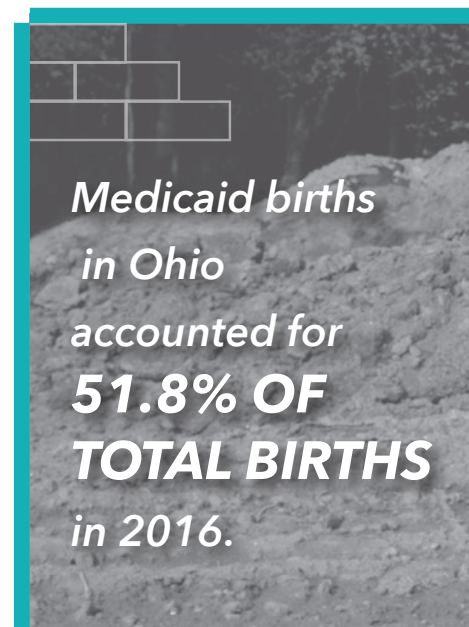
Prenatal Care

Experiences occurring before birth can have consequences for the physical and mental health of a child that persist across the lifespan.

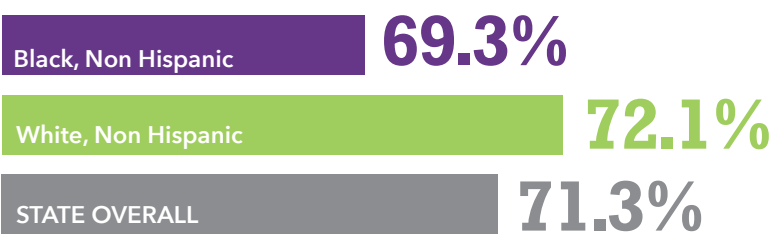
Having a healthy pregnancy is one of the best ways to promote a healthy birth and is critical for a child's development as his or her brain begins developing rapidly early in gestation. In order to influence a baby's development, pregnant women require timely, high-quality health care, as well as emotional support. Factors that influence prenatal brain development include maternal stress and anxiety, social and cultural stressors, poverty, nutrition and substance use.

In 2016, there were 69,683 births by Medicaid recipients and 64,978 births by non-Medicaid recipients in Ohio. Medicaid births thus accounted for 51.8% of total births in 2016. Pregnant women in families with income up to 200% of the federal poverty level are eligible for the Medicaid program Healthy Start (also called the State Children's Health Insurance Plan, SCHIP).

Of the pregnant women served by Medicaid, the following chart shows the difference in timeliness of prenatal care received by white and black mothers in the first quarter of 2017. "Timely" is defined as the percentage of deliveries that received a prenatal care visit in the first trimester or within 42 days of enrollment in the Medicaid program.



2017 (Q1) Statewide Percentage of Medicaid Mothers Receiving Timely Prenatal Care by Race



Data Source: Ohio Department of Medicaid Maternal and Infants Health Measures Report, Winter 2017

GIVEN THE FACTORS IMPACTING PRENATAL BRAIN DEVELOPMENT INCLUDE MATERNAL STRESS AND ANXIETY, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STRESSORS, POVERTY, NUTRITION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE...**WHAT OTHER METRICS WOULD BE HELPFUL IN EVALUATING DISPARITIES AMONG THE EXPERIENCES OF PREGNANT WOMEN?**

Prenatal Care:

SOURCES

www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/pregnancy/conditioninfo/prenatal-care

www.marchofdimes.org/pregnancy/prenatal-care.aspx

www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/prenatal-care

www.zerotothree.org/resources/706-vol-34-no-4-prenatal-influences-on-child-development

DATA SOURCE

Ohio Department of Medicaid Maternal and Infants Health Measures Report, Winter 2017



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@GroundworkOhio

SHANNON JONES

Executive Director

SJones@GroundworkOhio.org

LYNANNE GUTIERREZ

Policy Director & Legal Counsel

LWolf@GroundworkOhio.org

JULIA HOHNER

Communications & Policy Associate

JHohner@GroundworkOhio.org

172 E. State Street, Suite 400 • Columbus, Ohio 43215

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