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1-29-2020

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Recommended Citation

Georgia Health Policy Center, "Maternal and Child Health at the Georgia Health Policy Center" (2020). *GHPC Briefs*. 77.

https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/ghpc_briefs/77

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Maternal and Child Health at the Georgia Health Policy Center

The Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) has an expanding portfolio of work in maternal and child health that spans multiple topic and service areas. Partnering with public health agencies, academic institutions, and nongovernmental and private organizations both domestic and abroad, GHPC works on a range of initiatives that aim to improve the health and well-being of mothers, infants, children, and adolescents. GHPC's projects are funded by a range of federal and state agencies, health systems, and national and regional foundations.



As outlined in Healthy People 2020, the well-being of mothers, infants, and children determines the health of future generations and predicts future public health challenges facing families, communities, and health care systems. Accordingly, GHPC brings an informed, multidisciplinary, systems perspective grounded in health equity to its maternal and child health work that helps communities and stakeholders develop, implement, and evaluate programs and initiatives that impact policy, systems, and environmental change.

Services

Technical assistance

Workforce development

Research and evaluation

Policy and economic analysis

Awards and grants management

Strategic planning

Subject Matter Expertise

Behavioral health

Childhood obesity and nutrition

Maternal and child health policy and finance

Medicaid policy and access to care

Perinatal health and health care

Social determinants of health

Project Highlights

Community-based Strategic Planning for Perinatal Health

GHPC worked with the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia to develop a five-year strategic plan to address infant mortality in the Atlanta Perinatal Region through a process that involved surveying key partners and stakeholders and facilitating three convenings across the region. The resulting 2018-2021 Strategic Plan to Address Infant Mortality in the Atlanta Perinatal Region is an actionable plan for agencies and organizations to commit to working together to reduce infant mortality by focusing on access to care, maternal health, social determinants of health, and sudden infant death syndrome.



Evaluation and Technical Assistance in the Global Context

The Public Health Training Initiative is a joint effort between The Carter Center and the Nigerian and Sudanese ministries of health. The program aims to improve front-line health worker training, with the ultimate goal of improving maternal and child health outcomes. GHPC is leading the program's evaluation in both countries by collaboratively developing monitoring and evaluation tools and systems and strengthening evaluation capacity among key stakeholders.



Technical Assistance to Support Healthier Students and Schools

Georgia Shape, the state's childhood obesity initiative, works to implement health-promoting strategies through coordinated efforts with state government agencies, the business community, philanthropic organizations, health care providers, and academic institutions.



Since 2012, GHPC and partners provide technical assistance to elementary, middle, and high schools through Georgia Shape grants. Ultimately, GHPC works to ensure that technical assistance services will guide each grantee to institute evidence-based and sustainable physical activity and nutrition policy, systems, and environmental changes that are desirable for students, staff, administrators, parents, and community partners.

Serving as the Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health

GHPC's Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health was created in partnership with the Office of Children, Young Adults and Families at the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. The center is engaged in providing workforce development through technical assistance and training to build the capacity of the state's behavioral health workforce, research and evaluation to monitor and assess behavioral health services' program effectiveness, and consultative research and policy analysis services focusing on financing structures and service delivery opportunities for improving the behavioral health Systems of Care.



Research and Evaluation to Improve Birth Outcomes

GHPC is conducting an ongoing evaluation of the statewide expansion of CenteringPregnancy group prenatal care in South Carolina, in partnership with Prisma Health and supported by the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Using birth certificate and Medicaid claims, the evaluation compares birth outcomes for group prenatal care to traditional, individual care. The evaluation estimates cost savings to the South Carolina Medicaid program by using the CenteringPregnancy model.



Building Capacity to Improve Maternal and Infant Outcomes

GHPC partners with the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill on two national initiatives funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to address a wide range of maternal and child health challenges. As part of the Maternal Health Innovation and Learning Center, GHPC leads the Policy Core and provides technical assistance to HRSA grantees of the State Maternal Health Innovation Program and the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program. This work involves policy research, analysis, and capacity building to advance efforts to eliminate preventable maternal deaths, reduce morbidity, and address disparities in outcomes. GHPC also supports the National Maternal and Child Health Workforce Development Center, sharing systems thinking expertise as a thought partner and trainer in the competencies of cross-sector collaboration, finding leverage in policies, and addressing social determinants of health and health equity.

