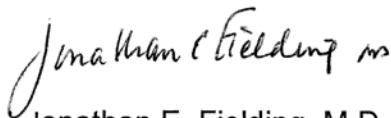


## FOREWORD

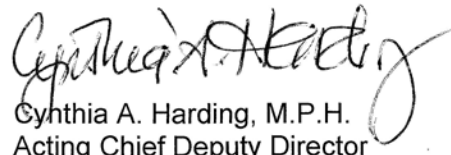
We are pleased to present the 2010 Los Angeles Mommy and Baby Survey Surveillance Report. This is a unique report developed by the Department of Public Health dedicated to examining the key indicators of health for new mothers and infants in Los Angeles County. It was compiled to list indicators related to poor birth outcomes in Los Angeles County. The health care needs of pregnant women and babies are unique, reflecting the influence of complex and challenging economic, social and biological factors. For the past decade, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Program has taken a life course approach to improve maternal and infant health. Life course theory provides the opportunity to focus on health equity and social determinants with an updated understanding of how biology and environment interact, and an understanding of how health develops over a life time and across generations.

This report identifies health disparities for women by race/ethnicity and geographic areas in an effort to determine which communities and health indicators require more immediate attention. Comparison data from 2007 is included where appropriate to highlight trends in maternal and infant health. For example, in examining the indicators for pre-pregnancy health and health access, Latinas were more likely than any other group to be uninsured prior to pregnancy. African American women had the highest rate of asthma. The prevalence of being overweight or obese prior to getting pregnant increased from 2007 to 2010. Similarly, uninsured women report more difficulty accessing medical care and have lower rates of receiving preventive health screenings compared to insured women. Disparities in these factors are often related to increased health risks and illness. Multi-faceted strategies are needed to eliminate the health disparities identified by this report and to promote prevention and quality health care for all women and infants. Both bold and incremental policy changes are needed to address the disparities in the determinants of health in the social and physical environments. In addition, the areas of need highlighted by this report can assist funders, advocacy groups, community-based organizations, civic programs, and state and local government in outlining a plan that will address these areas. Collaborative efforts will be required to improve the health status of women of reproductive age, infants, and thereby, the family and community.

Thanks to the dedicated County Staff, our community partners, and funding from First Five Los Angeles, we are now able to present this report to you.



Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Public Health and Health Officer



Cynthia A. Harding, M.P.H.  
Acting Chief Deputy Director