



# Los Angeles County Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Programs Black Infant Health (BIH) Program

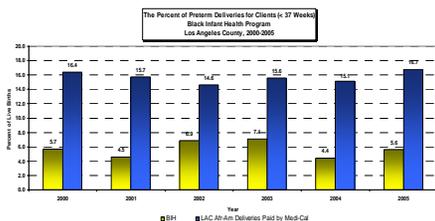
Yolonda Rogers, County BIH Coordinator and Irma Wilson, Staff Analyst

## Program Success

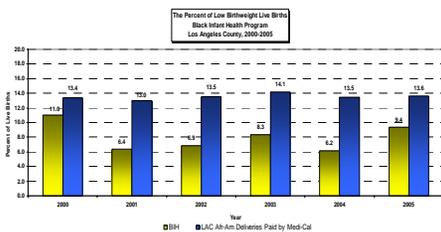
Through the implementation of Prenatal Care Outreach (PCO) and Social Support and Empowerment (SSE) services, **BIH** clients continue to experience better pre-term and low birth weight rates compared to African American women not enrolled in the program. These successes can be attributed to:

- Implementation of educational strategies that help pregnant women understand the causes of low birth weight
- Culturally competent community engagement to inform and educate African-American women about the importance of initiating prenatal care early
- Increased awareness of social risk factors that contribute to infant death
- Facilitation of social support classes that enhance a woman's social support network and that enrich her sense of identity

### Accomplishment: Pre-Term Births



### Accomplishment: Low Birthweight



## BIH Program - Communities in Action

These are the five community-based organizations (CBOs) that partner with MCAH Programs to provide **BIH** services in Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, Antelope Valley and San Gabriel Valley:

- The Children's Collective, Inc.
- Great Beginnings for Black Babies Inc.
- Partners In Care Foundation/The Living Stone Missionary Baptist Church
- Mission City Community Network, Inc.
- Prototypes

In aggregate, the five CBOs:

- Conducted 6,372 community contacts to inform and educate local communities about infant mortality disparity
- Provided care coordination services to 1,243 African American mothers
- Graduated 204 women from the SSE intervention

Each agency maintains a community advisory board to:

- Help expand outreach efforts
- Serve as community liaisons that will give voice to the needs/concerns of the African American community
- Assist in developing BIH program services that will address local issues impacting African American infant mortality

### Community Events



Health Fair Sponsored by Assemblymember Karen Bass



SSE class



Health Fair Sponsored by KJLH Radio "Eggstravaganza"



### Prenatal Care First Trimester Enrollment Campaigns



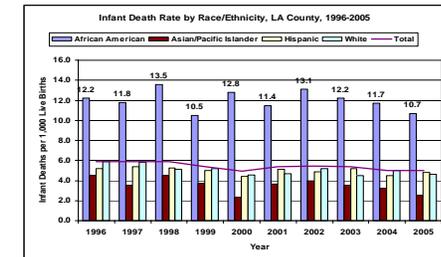
KABC-7 hosts a Town Hall meeting

## Goals

Historically, African American women have had extremely high rates of infant mortality in L.A. County. The following are a few major goals of the **BIH** Program:

- Conduct a comprehensive community-based effort assuring that at-risk pregnant and parenting African-American women, their infants up to age one, and their families have access to quality maternal and child health services
- Increase the number of African-American women obtaining prenatal care in the first trimester
- Reduce the number of African-American women who smoke, use alcohol, and/or non-prescription drugs during pregnancy
- Reduce the number of African-American babies who die due to SIDS

### Los Angeles County



## Challenges

Since the 1850's infant mortality disparity has been 2 - 21/2 times greater for African American women; and this persistent disparity can't be totally explained by medical, behavioral, or economic risk factors. The medical community is now taking a look at the role racism may play in the birth outcomes for African American women.

Over the next 18 months, MCAH Programs will explore the topic of racism as a factor in infant mortality disparity in Los Angeles County.