

The Perinatal Services Update

News, Announcements, Trainings, Resources & Opportunities to Get Involved
2025

September 2,

September 7-14 is Folic Acid Awareness Week!



Folic acid is a vitamin that everyone needs to build healthy cells. It is especially important to take 400 mcg of folic acid before pregnancy and in early pregnancy to prevent birth defects of the brain and spine.

According to [2017-2019 Maternal and Infant Health Assessment \(MIHA\) data](#), only 37% of birthing people who gave birth in California reported daily folic acid intake the month before pregnancy. Daily folic acid use varied by race and ethnicity. In the month before pregnancy, 27.7% of Hispanic individuals, 31.6% of Black individuals, 46.4% of White individuals, and 48.9% of Asian/Pacific Islander individuals used folic acid daily. To learn more about the importance of folic acid, visit [CDHP Folic Acid](#).

September is Sepsis Awareness Month

According to the California Maternal Quality Care Committee (CMQCC), obstetric sepsis is now the second-leading cause of maternal mortality. It is also the primary cause of severe maternal morbidity during both the antepartum and postpartum periods, and the third-leading cause at delivery. To learn more about the Improving Diagnosis and Treatment of Maternal Sepsis Toolkit and to register for the CMQCCs toolkit launch webinar scheduled for September 5, 2025, visit <https://www.cmqcc.org/toolkits-quality-improvement/sepsis>.



Low Dose Aspirin Campaign

CMQCC, in partnership with March of Dimes, is collaborating with select hospitals and community organizations statewide to promote the use of daily low-dose aspirin for women and birthing people at risk for preeclampsia. Low-dose aspirin, as recommended by a healthcare provider, is the only known effective solution to prevent preeclampsia. If you are interested in learning more about this campaign,

would like a presentation, or a tabling event, please reach out to Lindsay du Plessis, DrPH, MPH, Community Engagement Lead, CMQCC Stanford University, School of Medicine, at lduplessis@stanford.edu. You can also visit <https://www.cmqcc.org/toolkits-quality-improvement/low-dose-aspirin-prevent-preeclampsia-and-preterm-birth-initiative> for more information.

Community Resources

St. Agnes Substance Use Navigators

If you have patients or clients linked to Saint Agnes Hospital and they could benefit from a substance use navigator (SUN), please visit <https://www.samc.com/about-us/community-benefits/health-hub>.



Neighborhood Navigator

A hub of community resources where you can find food, housing, transportation, employment aid, legal aid, and financial resources for patients and clients, visit <https://www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/the-everyone-project/neighborhood-navigator.html>.

Opportunities to Get Involved

If you are interested in helping plan the 2026 Central Valley Lactation

Conference, please reach out to Yvonne Lopez at yvolopez@fresnocountyca.gov or call 559-600-6387.



If you serve any patients or clients enrolled in CalViva, please note that California Black Infant Health (BIH) is one of CalViva's new community partner. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Black Infant Health (BIH) is a unique program that provides support within a culturally affirming environment, honoring the unique history of African American women. Women can be referred by their doctors, school nurses, Fresno County outreach workers, public health nurses, or self-referral.

Provider Referral:

Public Health Nursing Referral Form
Fill out form and fax to (559) 455-4705
or

email to phnfx@fresnocountyca.gov.

Self-Referral:

In office: 142 E. Cesar Chavez Blvd,
Fresno, CA 93706

By phone: (559) 600-1021

Email: bih@fresnocountyca.gov

[Facebook Fresno Black Infant Health](#)

Fresno County PSC Contact Information:

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