Ohio’s Infant Mortality Crisis

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Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)
- Substance abuse during pregnancy can lead to:
  - Preterm Birth
  - Low birth weight (24%)
  - Feeding Difficulties (22%)
  - Irritability
  - Respiratory distress (31%)
  - Seizures (2%-10% higher than all OH infants)
  - Fever/Unstable Temperatures
- In 2011, 210 out of 10,000 mothers hospitalized for substance abuse at time of delivery
- 88 in 10,000 live births hospitalized in 2011 (six-fold increase from 2004)
- 15.9 days is the average length of stay for NAS infants (4 times higher than all OH infants)

Types of NAS
- Opioid related
  - Increased 540% between 2004 and 2011
  - 403 infants in 2011
- Marijuana/Cocaine related
  - With 1,559 mothers testing positive at time of delivery, Marijuana was the most commonly abused drug in 2011
- Methamphetamine related

Nicotine Dependence/Secondhand Smoke
- Risk for:
  - Stillbirth
  - SIDS
  - Respiratory Problems
  - Slow Fetal Growth
  - Ear infections
  - Increased medical and hospital visits

Treatments for substance abuse
- Medicinal treatment during pregnancy
  - Methadone (heroin abstinence)
  - Buprenorphine (opioid abstinence)
- Behavioral treatment during pregnancy
  - Cocaine, opiate, and nicotine dependence
- Maternal Opiate Medical Support (M.O.M.S.) project
- Ohio Mental Health and Addictions Services
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Block Requirements
  - 45 intensive outpatient centers
  - 26 outpatient facilities
  - 34 residential facilities with 801 beds for women

Statistics & Learning Objectives
- Learning objectives:
  1. Prevent substance abuse in pregnant women
  2. Prevent preterm labor
  3. Provide community resources for pregnant women
  4. Teach the importance of safe sleep
- 2013 Ohio data:
  - 1,024 infants died prior to their first birthday
  - 7.4 deaths per 1,000 live births (23% higher than national average)
    - Ashtabula: 7/1,093
    - Columbiana: 6/1,094
    - Mahoning: 22/2,409 (9.1 per 1,000)
    - Trumbull: 7/2,151

Safe Sleep
- October is SIDS awareness month
- 75% of these deaths occurred due to an unsafe sleep environment, the other 25% were unidentified sleep related accidents
- In Ohio, 3 infants die per week due to unsafe sleep conditions
- In Mahoning County alone, 4 out of 2,409 infants die per year
- Prevention
  - Mahoning County Board of Health
  - “Going home” kit for safe sleep
  - Akron Children’s Hospital Mahoning Valley
  - Oregon AAP, Children’s Trust Fund, and Children’s Hospital Association 3-prong campaign
  1. Education and Safe Sleep Environment
  2. Injury Prevention/Safe Sleep Learning Collaborative
  3. Public Awareness Campaign
- ABC
  - Alone, on their Back, in a Crib

Women, Infants, and Children and Medicaid
- Nutrition: Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
  - 94 infant deaths in families who receive WIC compared to 190 among non-WIC families
  - Women who receive WIC benefits are less likely to develop pregnancy-induced hypertension (a significant fetal risk) and experience infant death
- Prenatal Care (Medicaid)
  - Allows physicians to diagnose problems or birth defects early
  - Vital tests and procedures necessary to a healthy pregnancy

Preventing Preterm Birth
- 46.7% of infant deaths in 2013 were attributed to preterm births

Taking Action:
- Progesterone Quality Improvement project
- 2014-2015 State Budget
  - Funding to develop protocols for using progesterone in clinical practice
  - Funding for smoking cessation treatment in pregnant women

References
- Morbidity and mortality weekly report. (2011). Retrieved from {http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6016a2h.htm}

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