



OPQC GOES TO THE CDC!



Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative (OPQC) was pleased to be invited to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta December 1 and 2. The CDC hosted Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (PQCs) from 28 states that had received five-year funding awards. The OPQC attendees were **Dr. Carole Lannon**, OPQC collaborative science lead; **LaCrecia Thomas**, RN, MSN, CPNP-AC/PC, senior quality improvement specialist; **Dr. Nichole Nidey**, maternal child health epidemiologist and **Dr. Kamilah Dixon**, OPQC OB faculty, diversity and equity. Senior quality improvement specialist **Susan Ford** RN, MSN, CPNP-PC attended virtually.

The funding award is intended to build the capacity of PQCs to conduct population-level perinatal Quality Improvement (QI) with an emphasis on reducing disparities and ensuring equitable distribution of benefits from these QI initiatives.

Representatives from the CDC, the March of Dimes, the National Institute for Children’s Health Quality, and all 28 states discussed strategies for equitably improving maternal and birth outcomes through collaborative learning, use of data and improvement science support. OPQC looks forward to being a part of the National Network of Perinatal Quality Collaboratives - “All teach, all learn.”



Syphilis cases are rising across Ohio among adults as well as newborns of infected mothers, and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is asking healthcare providers to help reverse this trend.

Data through December 2021 suggests total syphilis cases increased 96.3% over a three-year period from 2,015 cases in 2019 to 3,955 cases in 2021. Over the same three-year period, congenital syphilis (CS) cases increased 157.9% from 19 cases in 2019 to 49 cases in 2021. *In 2022, the state surpassed 2021 CS case counts by July.* Congenital syphilis cases can cause a range of other medical conditions and lead to low birth weight, long bone deformities, developmental delays, prematurity, miscarriage, stillbirth, and death.



“There are some key steps that healthcare providers can take to help reverse rising syphilis cases in Ohio,” said ODH Director Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA.

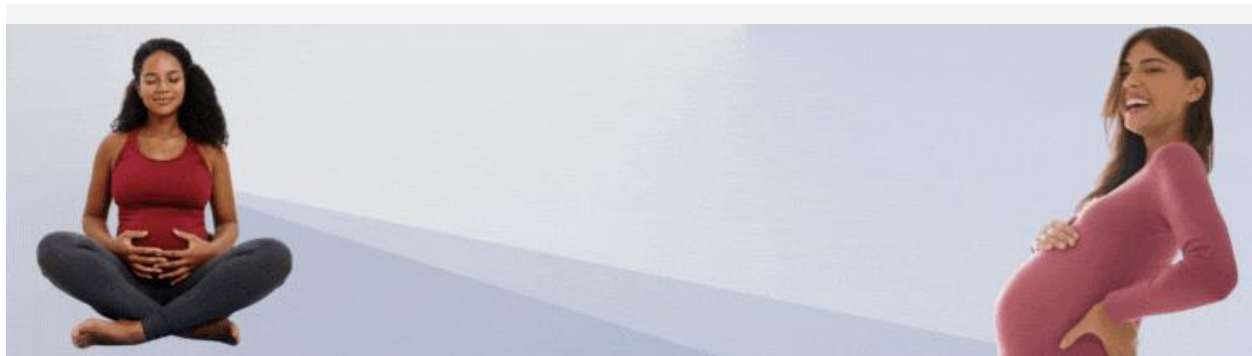
- Implement third trimester screening for syphilis for pregnant individuals as a standard of care to prevent congenital syphilis.

While Ohio law mandates syphilis screening at the first prenatal visit, it may not be sufficient for those at increased risk. **It is recommended that pregnant individuals be screened**

again at 28 weeks gestation to identify and treat syphilis prior to delivery to prevent congenital syphilis, **and a final syphilis screening should be conducted at delivery.**

- Consult the [Ohio Syphilis in Pregnancy Warmline](http://www.OhioSyphilisInPregnancy.com) (www.OhioSyphilisInPregnancy.com)

This free, consultative service provides practicing Ohio clinicians with prompt, expert consultation on clinical questions regarding individuals who are pregnant, breastfeeding or of pregnancy potential. It is staffed by experienced physicians and nurse practitioners through the University of Toledo Medical Center.



Bold Beginning! Website Adds New Resources

New resources are now available on the State of Ohio's Bold Beginning! website. On the website, find information for [Plans for Safe Care for providers](#) and Plans for [Safe Care for Expectant Mothers](#) among the wealth of available resources. These resources are designed to assist all community partners to understand and implement the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), specifically Plans of Safe Care (PoSCs) and support pregnant and postpartum people with substance use disorder.



OPQC participated with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Child Protective Services Unit members in the State of Ohio's Practice and Policy Academy (PPA), a collaboration with other state agencies and Ohio organizations to add new resources to the [Bold Beginning! website](#). Members of the ODJFS Child Protective Services unit worked with Governor DeWine's office to publish new information on the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016 and Plans of Safe

Care (PoSCs), which describe the services and supports to address the needs of infants prenatally exposed to substances, both legal and illegal, and their families.

Ohio was selected as one of the states to participate in the Practice and Policy Academy (PPA) in May of 2020. The state's PPA team provides education, training and implementation strategies on PoSCs by addressing the needs of both pregnant and postpartum people with substance abuse disorders. While the Practice and Policy Academy has officially ended, the ODJFS Child Protective Services unit members, along with all of Ohio's state team members, continue the work of educating and implementing CARA/PoSCs) within each of Ohio's counties. The academy included representatives from the OhioMHAS, ODJFS, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Department of Medicaid, Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio State University, Cincinnati Children's Medical Center, Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative and several representatives from Ohio's public children's services agencies.

These additions to the Bold Beginning! website are an exciting accomplishment, and the team hopes that counties, providers and families will find the site beneficial.

**Thank You For all you do every day to improve
maternal and birth outcomes.**

Wishing you Happy Holidays!



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