

Maternal and Child Health Access



Monthly Virtual Meeting

Thursday, November 16, 2023 - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where?

This is a virtual meeting



10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

After you register, look for the Zoom link in your registration confirmation email

Speaker/Topic:

Adriana Diaz, MPH, Vaccines During Pregnancy Senior Health Program Analyst, Prenatal and Pediatric Immunization Units Lead, Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Prematurity Prevention – Where is CA and Los Angeles?

Updates on the end of Medi-Cal's Asset Test, and the 2024 Medi-Cal Expansion – Health Care4All

November is Prematurity Awareness/Prevention Month

Do you shop at Walgreens? Do you have a Walgreen's app or will you download one? Help Support MCHA!!

You can donate your cash rewards. Participation period is only 'til the end of this month, Nov. 30! Thank you – watch this 40-second video to learn how!

[Walgreens Rewards Donation Video](#)

https://www.mchaccess.org/images/MyWag_Local_Donation_1x1_Final_10.14.2021.mp4

Notes from Monthly Meeting October 19, 2023 ([website](#))

Guest Speaker: Andrea Welsing, Director Office of Violence Prevention "LAC Office of Violence Prevention Gun Safety Platform"

Ms. Welsing explained the implementation and structure of the Office of Violence Prevention - within the Department of Public Health and established by the Board of Supervisors in 2019. A County Leadership Committee and Community Partnership Council guide the work of the office and implementation of the strategic plan. Their work has been impressive, to establish Regional Violence Prevention Coalitions and a Community Accessible Open Data Portal so relatively quickly. Their four-part Gun Violence Prevention Platform calls for legislation, promoting social connections, improving awareness and access to legal restraining orders, and increasing access to mental health supports and services for all students K-12.

Firearm mortality increased overall in the United States and Los Angeles during the pandemic with the increase in LA from 6.7/100,000 people in 2019 to 9.6 per 100,000 in 2021. Most troubling is a statistic we should all be familiar with by now: In 2020, firearm-related injuries became the leading cause of death among children and youth 1-19, nationally, with an increase of nearly 30% from 2019-20 and nearly 50% by 2021. This is not to mention the injuries sustained other than those causing death. Firearm deaths for children 0-18 thankfully have declined in LA County from 2021-22, but from 2019-21 they rose as they did nationally. Medical costs alone for firearm deaths overall in LA was \$6.2 million in 2020 and for non-fatal firearm hospitalizations, \$193 million. Indirect costs such as loss of work, employer costs and impact to quality of life are not tallied. Ms. Welsing summarized gun safety measure statistics, with few gun owners adhering to them.

The Office of Violence Prevention has solid objectives to achieve by the end of this year to reach out to health care providers to talk to their patients or clients about gun safety. People have an increased level of trust and confidence in what their providers say. There are initiatives to train about gun violence restraining orders, how to use them and what the difference is with domestic violence restraining orders, "The Right Tool for the Right Situation" as well as distribution of gun safety locks and educational materials. Ms. Welsing highlighted a Gun Violence Prevention Teach In at Charles Drew University the following Monday, which had been advertised in the MCHA mailing.

Finally, we were left with tons of good materials and information (see our website) and how to contact the Office: Andrea Welsing, Director (626) 293.2998

(office) awelsing@ph.lacounty.gov Kelly Fischer, Deputy Director (323) 236-6858

(cell) kfischer@ph.lacounty.gov WEBSITE: <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ovp/>

As one attendee put it, "It is so refreshing to hear gun violence discussed as a public health issue!"

Make sure people get "full breadth" Medi-Cal during pregnancy and for the year after!

Note: we run this every month because we still see so many problems with post-pregnancy Medi-Cal/MCA coverage.

On May 18, 2023, about one year after implementation of ARPA postpartum coverage (April, 2022), DHCS issued the strongest language yet about coverage postpartum:

- It is for the "full breadth" of medically necessary services;
- There is no difference between "full breadth" and "full scope";
- Coverage lasts for 365 days post-pregnancy;
- Coverage is regardless of immigration status;
- The 365 days coverage is regardless of how the pregnancy ends: "(for example live birth, stillbirth, miscarriage or termination)"

Please see the [DHCS Reminder Publication](#)

Please contact MCHA (213-749-4261 or info@mchaccess.org) should you have questions, or if you are trying to help a post-pregnancy client who has been denied services, or is being billed, or if you are a clinic or other provider whose bills for post-pregnancy care have been rejected, please call MCHA as well: 213-749-4261.

Published July 31, 2023

Note: The guidance in this article supersedes the previous Aid Code Master Chart (aid codes) published June 16, 2023.

Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Postpartum Care Extension, pregnant Medi-Cal beneficiaries in restricted scope aid codes are eligible to receive the “full breadth of medically necessary services” as long as the service is a covered benefit of Medi-Cal.

The descriptions for aid codes M0, M8, M4, M2, and 76 have been updated for clarity. The updated language is to advise providers that restricted aid codes, when accompanied by aid code 76, are eligible for full breadth of medically necessary Medi-Cal benefits including medical, dental, specialty mental health, vision, and substance use disorder services.

The description for full breadth of medically necessary programs was updated due to an increase in denial of vision services. For providers that have vision services claims that were denied, please send denied claims to Pregnancy@dhcs.ca.gov.

Please let us know if you are having difficulty with Medi-Cal’s post-pregnancy care for someone

New Since Last Meeting

All doors to Medi-Cal open for **real time Accelerated Enrollment (AE) into MAGI Medi-Cal on **November 1!** State should also grant AE to applicants still stuck in the COVID-era backlog.**

What is AE? It provides temporary Full Scope coverage in real time when a person’s application information shows they are eligible for MAGI (non-disability, non-aged) Medi-Cal. AE lasts until the county completes the final eligibility decision, even if that takes more than the 45-day limit. AE also frees up county time to process the small minority of applications that are not based on MAGI. AE is provided under Medi-Cal eligibility aid code 8E. All immigrants, regardless of status, and pregnant adults who are waiting for a final eligibility decision also go into 8E for Full Scope under AE when their application information shows they are eligible for any MAGI category

AE expands to applications submitted directly to the county: Starting November 1, MAGI-eligible individuals applying for Medi-Cal directly to the county using BenefitsCal or by mail, phone, fax or in person will also be granted AE. [MEDIL I 23-45](#); [ACWDL 22-24](#)

See [full MCHA Bulletin here](#)

It’s getting increasingly dangerous to be a newborn in the US - How maternity care deserts are leading to a spike in infant syphilis and mortality rates.

For two weeks in a row, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released data with a clear and dismal message: It’s getting increasingly dangerous to be a newborn in the United States.

First, last week, the agency published statistics showing that in 2022, the [death rate for American infants increased](#) for the first time in 20 years. Then, on Tuesday, the agency released a report showing rates of congenital syphilis — that is, syphilis infections acquired in the womb — have [risen tenfold](#) over the past decade.

Although a lot of different risk factors drive each of these trends, there's an important one they have in common: bad — and worsening — [health care](#) access for mothers and babies. In the US, the obstacles mothers face in accessing health care are too often insurmountable — and as this latest data shows, the consequences to American children are dire. Things might only get worse, some experts fear, as financial, political, and social pressures drive providers further from many of the places where they're needed most.

"We only are hearing about more [obstetricians] leaving and more maternity wards closing," said [Tracey Wilkinson](#), a pediatrician who specializes in reproductive health issues at Indiana University's medical school. "I am terrified about what the data is going to look like next year."

[Read the entire article here](#)

Vaccines During Pregnancy

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health wants to collaborate on efforts to increase awareness and access to vaccines recommended during pregnancy. One of their priorities this fall is to protect pregnant persons and newborns from vaccine preventable respiratory diseases, such as RSV, or Respiratory Syncytial Virus. [RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization among infants in the United States](#) and can cause severe illness such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia in newborns and young infants.

The good news is that we now have **two** vaccine products available that can protect newborns and young infants from RSV.

1. [Pfizer's Abrysvo vaccine](#)

is a maternal RSV vaccine that provides protection to a newborn from birth through the first months of life. Pregnant persons can receive this vaccine between 32-36 weeks of pregnancy.

2. [Nirsevimab \(Beyfortus\)](#) is an immunization product recommended for infants, from newborns to 8 months old, who are born during RSV season or entering their first RSV season.

With a current national shortage of Nirsevimab, it is critically important to inform pregnant persons that [receiving the maternal RSV vaccine may be the only way to protect their newborn from RSV this fall.](#)

We will soon have an inventory of **printed 1-page information sheet** on [Vaccines for Pregnant Persons](#) in English and Spanish. If your organization would like to receive printed copies to share with community members and community partners, please notify us. To download the flyer in multiple languages, use this link: [Vaccines for Pregnant people](#).

If you have any questions or have any feedback to share regarding maternal immunization, please reach out to us anytime by emailing BLeggis@ph.lacounty.gov. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

PHI Study: Participants in Food as Medicine Program Showed Clinically Significant Improvements in Managing Diabetes

A study of Abbott's Healthy Food Rx, a food as medicine program that provides home-delivered medical prescriptions of healthy food to help address diabetes, showed clinically important

benefits for people with diabetes. The real-world study, which was conducted by the Public Health Institute's Center for Wellness and Nutrition (PHI CWN) in an active community clinic over a 12-month period, found that Healthy Food Rx participants had lower A1C levels, improved diabetes self-management, and improved overall diet quality and food security.

[Click here to read the article!](#)

MCHA is thrilled at the attention to "food as medicine" and early on, noted (on our CalFresh page) that, "Access to fresh, healthy food is as integral to good health as access to insurance." Our flyer noting the criteria for each Medi-Cal plan in Los Angeles is linked [here](#) – we will be revising in January as plans change. Please let us know your feedback or any changes, to Yvette Leon – YvetteL@mchaccess.org

We support the work of the [California Food Is Medicine Coalition](#) "The leading coalition of medically tailored meal providers for low-income Californians with chronic or severe illnesses". They believe Medically Tailored Meals (MTM) should be a healthcare benefit and sponsored legislation to that effect, which did not pass. We are also pleased that DHCS is working to standardize across counties and plans the confusing eligibility and benefits for Community Supports and Enhanced Care Management in CalAIM- see [here!](#) (slide 11)

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Rent Could Go Up 7% for Many LA Tenants Next Year - October 26, 2023 - By Anna Scott

What's happening

On February 1, 2024, the City of LA's pandemic-era rent freeze ends, opening the door for price increases as high as 7% in rent-stabilized apartments, plus an additional 1% each for gas and electric if utilities are included in the rent. It will be the first rent increase since March of 2020, and the biggest jump the city's seen in Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO) units for decades.

Why is this a big deal?

Nearly 600,000 apartments in the city are rent-stabilized, so any increase could impact hundreds of thousands of tenants, if not millions. (You can look up whether your City of LA apartment is rent-stabilized [here](#). Enter the address and then look under the "Housing" tab.) At the same time, three out of four renters in the city are considered "rent-burdened," according to the U.S. Census Bureau, meaning they spend at least a third of their income on rent. Tenant advocates fear that a 7% increase could be catastrophic for tenants on the financial edge.

Read more [HERE](#)

ebtEDGE app launched Nov. 10 for CalFresh customers

The app will enable CalFresh customers to manage their EBT cards and help protect against electronic theft. See the CDSS announcement [HERE](#).

- **Freeze and Unfreeze Card:** Enables the cardholder to Freeze and Unfreeze a card's status within seconds and has no limit to number of times it is utilized. All point-of-Sale purchases and Automated Teller Machine (ATM) withdrawals are blocked when the card is frozen. In the event the card is temporarily misplaced, it

can be frozen until it is found. **Cardholders could significantly help prevent fraud to their account by KEEPING THE CARD “FROZEN” and unfreezing their card only during transactions.**

- **Reset PIN:** Permits cardholder the ability to select or change Personal Identification Number (PIN) as frequently as they like. Regularly changing a PIN, especially at the end of the month, has been shown to reduce vulnerability to electronic theft.
- **Block Internet transactions:** Prevents card from being used for all internet purchases. This feature is turned on by default but can be instantly turned off/on by the cardholder at any time. For example, cardholders can use their card for online purchases and block the card after the transaction is complete.
- **Block out of state transactions:** Prevents card from being used for all out of state transactions for both cash and food benefits. This feature is turned on by default but can be instantly turned off/on by the cardholder at any time. Cardholders can use the card for purchases while out of state and block the card after the transaction is complete.
- **Biometrics to login**
- **Account Services**
- **View and Enter dispute**
- **Transaction History**
- **Troubleshoot sign-in issues**
- **Delete account and profile from app**
- **Language preference**

RESOURCES

WOMEN'S HEALTH & MONEY™

A series of two 1-hour health education and financial wellness programs to help women achieve optimal health and financial security

CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH OR SPANISH VIA ZOOM

For non-profit organizations, social service agencies, health care organizations, government agencies, faith based organizations, and other community based organizations serving women

HEALTH EDUCATION	COACHING	FINANCIAL LITERACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Healthy eatingActive livingManaging chronic conditionsHealth behavior changesReducing risks for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Patient navigationHealth insurance enrollmentSecuring a medical homeCredit counselingEligibility for public benefitsCOVID-19 recovery enrollments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Asset buildingTimely bill paymentsSaving moneyEmergency planningFinancial goal setting

Complete the survey to request a training:
<https://forms.gle/9nec311A5cmM0n6>

HEALTH EDUCATION: 800.191.8224, 970.311.1111, 970.311.1111

COACHING: 970.311.1111

FINANCIAL LITERACY: 970.311.1111

If you have questions, please contact:
Deborah Peacock
Program Coordinator
970.311.1111
970.311.1111
970.311.1111

FREE Women's Health & Money Workshops via Zoom in English or Spanish! Offered by the Iris-Cantor Women's Health Education and Research Center. This workshop includes two 1-hour sessions that focus on:

- Health education - healthy eating, active living and mindfulness
- Financial wellness - building & fixing credit, budgeting, and money management

The workshop aims to help women achieve optimal health and financial security by moving towards reaching financial and health goals. Participants will benefit from:

- coaching
- peer support
- skill building

To request a workshop, please fill out this [survey](#).

Free COVID tests

[COVID.gov](https://www.covid.gov) - [Free at-home COVID-19 tests](#)

Every U.S. household is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests.

www.covid.gov

HIV videos

In the latest installment of [KFF's Greater Than HIV](#) and [CDC's Let's Stop HIV Together](#) video series on sexual health, Charlene Flash, MD, MPH, joins to discuss women and HIV!

From why women need to know about PrEP, to preventing HIV transmission during pregnancy, to taking your power back and more, Dr. Flash covers it all in these easy-to-understand one-minute explainer videos. [Watch & share.](#)

Remember Project Place monthly housing sign-ups:

Project Place is a free monthly listing of rental properties for low-income, senior, and veteran residents throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. *Information* on rental assistance, shared housing, and transitional housing is also included.

SAVE THE DATE

**Coalition for Economic Survival Tenants' Rights Clinic
Every Saturday at 10 AM PT**

Via Zoom

- Individual, one-on-one counseling
- Registration required no later than 5 PM on Friday
- Serving renters in the entire Southern California area
- Accommodations for Spanish and Russian speakers provided
- **Request a registration link via email at** helpinglarenters@gmail.com

Job opportunities available!

MCHA is an Equal Opportunity Employer; women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply.

- [Finance Associate – Full Time](#)
- [Health Care/Practical Support Navigator – Women's Health](#)
- [Parent Coach – Bilingual English & Spanish](#)
- [Health Programs and Benefits Trainer](#)
- [Social-Digital Media Consultant](#)
- [IT Support Technician](#)

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