

Maternal and Child Health Access



Monthly Virtual Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2022 - 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:

David Pisani, Director, Advocacy
and Government Affairs, March of
Dimes

March of Dimes – Two reports!

- 2022 California and Los
Ángeles Prematurity [Report
Card](#) and
- [“Nowhere to Go: Maternity
Care Deserts Across the US”](#)

Health Coverage Updates

Notes from Monthly Meeting October 20, 2022 ([website](#))

**Speakers presented on two of the health-related ballot
measures and city housing measures for November:**

Will Barrett, National Senior Director|Advocacy, Clean Air American Lung Association

Will gave background on the need for greater attention to air quality in California – we are home to the most polluted by ozone, daily particle pollution and annual levels of particle pollution, with Los Angeles being first, eighth and fifth IN THE NATION in these categories. The biggest contributor is transportation pollution, so it makes sense to address vehicle emissions. Will also reviewed the Lung Association's recently released report (in the Oct mailing) "State of the Air 2022 – Air Quality Data 2018-20". California in 2021 had 7 of 10 largest wildfires in that time period.

Prop 30, which unfortunately did not pass, would have levied additional taxes on those with incomes of \$2 million or more, so none of us!! It would have provided \$2 BILLION (45% of revenues) for subsidies for zero-emission vehicles - including heavy-duty trucks and buses – with an emphasis on equity for receiving subsidies. \$1.5 BILLION (35%) would have gone into building charging infrastructure, and \$1 BILLION (20%) into prevention and response for wildfires. It was supported by multiple public health and environmental organizations.

TBD - Prop 31 - Flavored Tobacco Products Ban Referendum - Passed– Lynn Kersey discussed this initiative. Prop 31 bans most sales of flavored tobacco products and tobacco product flavor enhancers, defines them and charges a \$250 penalty on stores and vending machine owners for each violation. Californians reaffirmed a law passed in 2020, but not in effect because a referendum non the law merely qualified for the ballot! In 2020, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed a law—Senate Bill (SB) 793—to ban in-person stores and vending machines from selling most flavored tobacco products and tobacco product flavor enhancers. This law did not go into effect because a referendum on the law qualified for this ballot. When a referendum on a new state law qualifies for the ballot, the law is on hold until voters decide whether to put it into effect.

Kath Rogers, Staff Atty, ACLU of Southern C - Los Angeles City Measure ULA - Funding Affordable Housing and Tenant Assistance through Property Transfer Tax – Passed!

Kath gave background to the housing crisis in Los Angeles – more than 69,000 unhoused people, with more than 42,000 of them in the City of LA. Measure ULA is supported by major housing and anti-poverty groups, generating \$875 million annually through transfer taxes for high value properties valued more than \$5 million. What makes it different is that it is a citizen-led measure written by housing experts and would be enforced by strong oversight. It calls for immediately buying and building housing for people living on the street, sending emergency assistance to low-income seniors in danger of becoming unhoused, and providing legal aid to tenants facing unlawful eviction.

Lynn Kersey – MCH-Related Legislation for 2022

Some good laws and budget-related measures passed! Please see the list of reviewed legislation broken down by topics and noted as to whether passed or not. Please let Lynn know of any legislation you followed that isn't listed! Thank you

New since last meeting:

Dyadic Therapy benefits in Medi-Cal!

Effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2023:

- Dyadic services and dyadic caregiver services are added as Medi-Cal benefits.
- Modifier U1 is defined to designate dyadic services.
- Family therapy for interparental conflict between caregivers of children ages 0 to 20 years, when at least one caregiver is identified as a primary caregiver of a Medi-Cal eligible child, is added as a Medi-Cal benefit.
- Up to six psychotherapy sessions per provider per year for recipients 21 years and older with persistent mental health symptoms in the absence of a mental health disorder are added as Medi-Cal benefits.

Read more [HERE](#)

Three National Reports Provide New Data on Maternal Mortality and Maternal Mental Health

From Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance. Sign up for their newsletters [HERE](#)

The United States averages 700 maternal deaths out of 3.7 million live births per year, a rate exceeding all other developed, high-income countries. Additionally, racial and ethnic disparities in rates of maternal deaths persist in the United States, with Black individuals experiencing maternal deaths at a rate 2.5 times higher than their white counterparts in 2018 and 2019. These pervasive disparities were present even in states with the lowest pregnancy-related mortality ratios and among groups with higher levels of education.

These concerns prompted the Department of Health and Human Services to state in December, 2020 that maternal deaths are a public health crisis. Three recent reports – two from the Government Accounting Office (GAO) and one from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – provide updated information about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on maternal health and maternal mental health, maternal mortality and maternal mental health among our nation's military and veteran communities.

GAO Report: Maternal Health Outcomes Worsened and Disparities Persisted During the Pandemic

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- Maternal deaths increased during the COVID-19 pandemic with COVID-19 as a contributing factor in 25% of all maternal deaths in 2020-2021.
- While deaths among all women increased, Black women experienced much higher rates of maternal deaths than Hispanic or White women.
- Rates of perinatal depression increased during the pandemic.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES NUMBER OF DEATHS PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS

	2019	2020	2021
BLACK	44.0	55.3	68.9
HISPANIC	12.6	18.2	27.5
WHITE	17.9	19.1	26.1

CDC Report: Pregnancy-Related Deaths Data from Maternal Mortality Review Committees in 36 States 2017-2019

In September, the CDC published data from 36 states and over 1000 pregnancy-related deaths:

- 84% of maternal deaths were determined to be preventable.
- The majority of pregnancy-related deaths occur 7-365 days postpartum.
- Suicide and overdose combined were the leading cause of death.
- Leading causes of death differed by race and ethnicity.

GAO Report: Defense Health Care. Prevalence of and Efforts to Screen and Treat Mental Health Conditions in Prenatal and Postpartum TRICARE Beneficiaries

Data from 2017-2019 show that about 36% of beneficiaries in the Department of Defense's (DOD) TRICARE* program received mental health diagnoses during the perinatal period. Servicemembers and their spouses face both unique risk factors for perinatal mental health conditions (separation from spouses due to deployment, isolation from social support networks, and a culture of "service before self"), as well as significant barriers to accessing mental health care, including fear that seeking treatment will negatively impact their career and make them appear "weak".
**TRICARE is the health program for servicemembers, retirees, and their families.*

- Rates of perinatal mental health diagnoses among TRICARE beneficiaries is significantly higher than among the general public.
- The highest rates of perinatal mental health diagnoses were among individuals with a history of deployment.

- The vast majority (72%) of individuals diagnosed with a perinatal mental health condition received treatment (i.e. therapy and / or medication).

Syphilis in Women and Congenital Syphilis An Update for Healthcare Providers in Los Angeles County (LAC)

Increases in female syphilis cases has led to a dramatic and steady increase in congenital syphilis cases in LA County with a total of 113 cases in 2020, 123 cases in 2021, and 75 cases as of Sept. 21 in 2022. See the following handout [Syphilis in Women Update for Health Care Providers](#)

Please share this [Syphilis in Women Action Toolkit](#) with your staff and forward the toolkit and [Syphilis in Women Action Toolkit Dear Colleague Letter](#) to any delivery hospital that is not appropriately screening for syphilis at delivery. The hospitals can also call the Clinical Guidance & Nursing Unit consultation line for more guidance.

The toolkit includes clinical resources for your practice and educational materials for your patients. The kit is structured around these four core syphilis prevention practices for women:

1. **Take a thorough sexual history from all patients as part of routine medical care.**
2. **Screen all women of reproductive age (15-44 years) for syphilis at least once.**
3. **Screen all pregnant women for syphilis during the 1st trimester or at their initial prenatal visit. Re-screen pregnant women for syphilis early in the 3rd trimester (28-32 weeks) and at delivery.**
4. **Stage syphilis correctly in order to treat correctly.** Assess for signs and symptoms of syphilis in last 12 months to determine if early or late syphilis.

For help interpreting test results and guidance on appropriate staging and timely treatment, call the Clinical Guidance & Nursing Unit consultation line at 213-368-7441, Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to provide perinatal services to Los Angeles County residents.

[The Hurdles Facing Black Families Navigating Serious Illness](#)

Black Americans are at higher risk for many serious illnesses like dementia and kidney failure. But data show they are less likely to have their pain treated and less likely to

access services like hospice and palliative care that can reduce suffering, especially at the end of life.

This [week](#), we explore what stops seriously ill Black patients and their families from getting the care they want in life and in death.

A few big takeaways...

Note: Just to be aware, there is palliative care in Medi-Cal and it provides support for families as well. Celia Valdez at MCHA has worked on that, if you are aware of such a situation. Palliative care does not have to mean for the dying - it is pain-relieving.

“Is palliative care just for the dying?”

No, palliative care does not mean death. However, palliative care does serve many people with life-threatening or terminal illnesses. But, palliative care also helps patients stay on track with their health care goals.

Students Experiencing Homelessness Are Supposed to Get Extra Help. Here's How California Can Do Better

Almost all children who experience housing insecurity also experience trauma because of the stress and instability of their situation. California and the federal government recognize this, and require schools to provide these children with additional support.

[Read More](#)

Social Security Payments Go UP, But Some CalFresh Benefit Amounts Will Go Down!

[ACIN I-72-22](#) addresses the SSA COLAs that are effective December 30 and payable in January 2023. There will be a separate letter regarding the SSI COLA for people getting CalFresh. I will forward it when it is available.

For CalFresh households with Social Security income (not SSI), the counties will factor in the 8.7% COLAs in January. **This may result in decreased CalFresh benefits for some households.** For more information see the [ACIN](#).

ICAN No Hit Zone Campaign:

The ICAN No Hit Zone campaign officially launched in LA County following a successful pilot at Harbor General Hospital. **The Board of Supervisors declared all LA County Facilities and Contracted Agencies to be No Hit Zones, with posters displayed and brochures shared with families they serve.**

As always, we appreciate the critical support of ICAN Associates, including a Public Service Announcement narrated by Justin Chambers. The Board also recognized and

supported the ICAN Associates Child Abuse Prevention Poster Art contest, to promote participation of schools in underserved communities.

If you are interested in obtaining posters and brochures for any of our campaigns, please visit our website at Ican4kids.org to download.

[Digital Breast Tomosynthesis Added into the EWC Program](#)

November 1, 2022

Effective retroactively for dates of service on or after January 1, 2022, CPT® code 77063 (screening digital breast tomosynthesis, bilateral) and HCPCS code G0279 (diagnostic digital breast tomosynthesis, unilateral or bilateral), are Every Woman Counts (EWC) Program reimbursable services. From Stanford Health Care:

With conventional digital mammography, the radiologist is viewing the tissues of your breast overlapping on flat images. This tissue overlap can sometimes make cancers hard to detect. Also, overlap can sometimes create areas that appear abnormal, but require that you be “called back” for additional tests to determine that cancer is not present (so-called false positives). Tomosynthesis or “3D” mammography directly addresses the current limitations of standard 2D mammography. Multiple studies have shown that “3D” mammography increases the detection of breast cancer by approximately 25%, and decreases the number of false positive call backs by approximately 15%.

CPT code 77063:

- The code is reimbursable when provided for a recipient 40 years of age or older at average risk for breast cancer.
- This code is also reimbursable when provided in conjunction with a breast MRI for a recipient of any age with a BRCA gene mutation, has a first-degree relative who is a BRCA carrier or when the recipient has a lifetime risk of 20 percent or greater.
- Screening digital breast tomosynthesis, bilateral, should be listed separately in addition to CPT code 77067 for primary procedure.
- Screening is limited to once per 365 days, any provider.

HCPCS code G0279

- This code does not have an age limit
- The code is reimbursable if the recipient either:
 - Has distinct signs and symptoms for which a diagnostic mammogram is indicated, or
 - Has a history of breast cancer, or
 - is asymptomatic, but on the basis of history and other significant factors diagnostic mammogram is indicated and appropriate

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, Nov. 17. 3 PM – YO! Disabled Voices of Color Series: Dante Allen. Sponsored by Disabled and Proud.

Mr. Allen is the Executive Director of CalABLE. CalABLE is an organization that specializes in savings and interests plans for people who have disabilities. Join as they talk with Mr. Allen about disability injustice issues, his message to youth and intersectionality of fitting multiple communities. Register [here](#)

This is a FREE virtual event and open to all. Captioning and ASL will be provided. If additional accommodations are needed, please indicate it on your registration form. Please share this with your friends, colleagues and partners-this is one not to miss!

Thurs Nov. 17, 4:30-6 PM “Perinatal and Infant Loss” webinar – South Los Angeles/South Bay African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) and Sisters in Loss. Click [HERE](#) to access the flyer, click [HERE](#) to register!

Friday, Nov. 18, 10 Am – 11:30 AM Conversations on Food Justice – Food as Fuel for the Movement

For many communities at the margins, food has also long served as a tool for self-expression, empowerment, solidarity, and profound meaning. It has always been a crucial part and at the center of movements for justice and equality throughout history. In Part I of an ongoing series, we’ll explore the role that food has played in the social movements that have shaped our nation’s history. We’ll unpack what each of these movements can teach us about our world today, and how we can continue to use food in the fight for justice and as a means to bring us together as a nation.

Moderated by Award-winning journalist and historian **Cynthia Greenlee**, and featuring historian **Monica M. White** and community activist and historic Ben’s Chili Bowl owner **Virginia Ali**, this panel will share stories about the evolution of food and social movements, and share reflections on how we can continue to use food in the fight for justice. Register [HERE](#)

Maternal and Child Health Access

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