

# Maternal and Child Health Access



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## Monthly (Virtual) Meeting

Thursday, August 15, 2024 - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

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### 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:

Tiffany Rivera, Climate Health Project Coordinator,

[Physicians for Social Responsibility- Los Angeles \(PSR-LA\)](#)

**Heat Relief for LA - what's happening, how you can be involved, and what can you do to help the community you work with!**

**Newborn Enrollment for Medi-Cal in hospitals - what's happening!**

**Updates**

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## **Notes from Monthly Meeting June 20, 2024 (no meeting July)**

[www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm](http://www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm)

### **Speakers: Connecting with WIC: Breastfeeding Services, Medical Formulas, Referring Families**

- **Cindy Clapp MS RDN IBCLC: PHFE WIC Deputy Director Breastfeeding Services**
- **Sagrario Nielsen MS RDN: PHFE WIC Deputy Director Nutrition Service and Projects**
- **Blanca Vargas MPA RDN: PHFE WIC Senior Manager, Outreach Department**

MCHA was lucky to be able to provide presentations from three key Deputy Directors and Managers at Public Health Foundation Enterprises WIC, the largest nonprofit WIC nutrition network in the country, serving more than 180,000 low-income individuals each month. WIC's services have been updated and so their presentation was timely! WIC is for families and caretakers of babies and kids under 5, as well as pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum adults. They offer breastfeeding services - guidance, counseling, educational materials, pumps - and also utilize mother to mother support, with monthly virtual support groups in six languages! WIC has also started a "Breast Pump Closet" project where breast pumps are loaned for free, at eight hospitals (see slides).

The presenters informed us of updates for medical formulas and nutritional products. The standard WIC formulas are three kinds of Similac, with a standard soy formula from Enfamil. Soy formula is NOT recommended for preemie babies. Slide 13 shows those formulas and products that require a prescription. These are normally fulfilled through the provider, for Medi-Cal, as WIC is the "provider of last resort" or secondary provider. For children on other insurances, WIC reviews the requests. See slides 14-16 for those steps. A number of references were provided and contacts listed.

THANK YOU WIC!

**New since last meeting**

## PREEMIE Act –

March of Dimes invites organizations to [join a letter](#) urging Congress to pass the [PREEMIE Act](#), which is the only federal law dedicated to the research, prevention, and treatment of preterm birth. The PREEMIE Act supports federal research, education, and promotes known interventions and community initiatives. Please contact, [Andrew Fullerton](#), if you have any questions. Learn more about the PREEMIE Act on March of Dimes' [website](#). Please, help us get to 150 signatory organizations before Congress comes back during September!

If you know of other national or regional organizations that would be interested in signing this letter before the first week of September, please share it!

### Updated Income Self-Attestation Form, Covered CA:

Covered California compares the information entered on the application with government data sources or information previously provided. If the data is inconsistent, consumers are asked to [submit documents to confirm their eligibility](#). To increase the accuracy of income-related information verification and to streamline the data entry process, an [updated Income Self-Attestation Form](#) is now available on the Covered California site. Please discard any saved or printed versions of the previous form and start using this updated form for [Proof of Income](#).

### New Public Health Institute Studies on Cannabis & Health

#### **Prenatal Marijuana Use Linked to Serious Risks for Mother During Pregnancy**

The number of women using cannabis during pregnancy has nearly doubled in the last two decades, but it is not harm free, according to new research from PHI's Lynn Silver and partners. They found that those who use cannabis while pregnant have significantly greater health risks than those who don't, including a 17% greater risk of gestational hypertension and an 8% greater risk of preeclampsia. [Read news coverage in CNN](#) →

#### **Young Adult Retail Purchases of Cannabis in California**

A new study from PHI researchers Dr. Lynn Silver, Dr. Alisa Padon and partners provides the first look at recreational cannabis retail sales in California by age group. They found that young adults are more likely than older adults to spend money on the higher potency categories of vape pens and concentrates, which are often heavily marketed towards youth through packaging designs and flavored products.

[See the study](#) →

## Two articles on Guaranteed Income programs:

### Study details ‘transformative’ results from L.A. pilot that guaranteed families \$1,000 a month July 31, 2024

Some of L.A.’s poorest families received cash assistance of \$1,000 a month as part of a 12-month pilot project launched nearly three years ago. There were no strings attached and they could use the money however they saw fit. Now, a new study finds that the [city-funded program](#) was overwhelmingly beneficial. Participants in the program experienced a host of financial benefits, according to [an analysis](#) co-authored by University of Pennsylvania and UCLA researchers. Beyond that, the study found, the initiative gave people the time and space to make deeper changes in their lives. That included landing better jobs, leaving unsafe living conditions and escaping abusive relationships. Read more [HERE](#):

[Business & Economy](#) July 21, 2024

**The results of the biggest study on guaranteed income programs are finally in**

For three years, 1,000 people received \$1,000 per month — no strings attached. They took better jobs. Some went back to school. Others started opening [businesses](#)

## New State Scorecard Reveals Wide Disparities in Women’s Health and Reproductive Care

A new Commonwealth Fund scorecard comparing state health system performance on women's health and reproductive care reveals significant disparities across the U.S. In particular, the researchers find wide gaps between geographic regions and between racial and ethnic groups in deaths among women of reproductive age and in access to essential health services.

The [2024 State Scorecard on Women's Health and Reproductive Care](#) is the Fund's first comprehensive examination of women's health care in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, based on the latest available data. Among the key findings:

- States with abortion restrictions have fewer maternity care providers.
- Rates of maternal deaths are highest in the Mississippi Delta region, which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.
- Regional disparities in deaths of women of reproductive age are pronounced, with the highest death rates seen in the Southeast.
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The report raises concerns over the state of women's health care and the ripple effects of the Supreme Court's 2022 decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Its findings suggest that disparities could widen, with impacts experienced most acutely by women of color and women with low income who live in states that have restricted access to comprehensive reproductive care.

## SAVE THE DATE

**August 29-30 Birthing Boldly, Fearlessly Feeding Know Your Rights Training**, for parents and providers – Breastfeed LA. At the California Endowment, 1000 Alameda St. LA. CEUs to RNs and IBCLCs. Scholarships Available. Register [HERE](#):

**Monday, October 7, 2024, 12:00pm - 1:30pm Virtual Event, Bridging Divides with Empathy: A Webinar on Understanding and Inclusion** with Kena Chambers, BA I/ECMH-C & Kirsten Sippel-Klug, PT MPP, I/ECMH-C. Sponsored by Infant Development Association. In this webinar, we offer insights into building strong and inclusive partnerships across racial divides based on the personal experiences of a parent and an early intervention provider. Our speakers will delve into their journey, spotlighting the challenges and triumphs of working through and beyond the impacts of structural racism. See information and registration [HERE](#):

## RESOURCES

Serve LA County Residents? Apply to become a **free condom distribution partner**. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is offering free condoms to qualifying businesses and partners. More information [HERE](#).

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Metro has launched and is actively recruiting participants for [Phase II of its Mobility Wallet pilot](#). The Mobility Wallet Pilot is a program designed to provide income-eligible Angelenos with a prepaid debit card that can be used for various transportation services, including public transit, bike-share, regional transportation (Amtrak, FlixBus, Greyhound), buying a bicycle, and shared transportation services like (Uber/Lyft/Access Services). Eligible participants can receive \$1,800 to support their transportation needs.

Help us spread the word with this [toolkit](#) developed by Metro:

The last day to apply is **August 31, 2024** (selection will be randomized) | **Applicants can apply [here](#)**:

If you have any questions, please reach out to us [mobilitywallet@metro.net](mailto:mobilitywallet@metro.net)

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#### **From the Housing Rights Center: Security Deposit Update**

Starting July 1, 2024, the limit a landlord in California can request for a security deposit is 1x the monthly rent. Previously, the limit was limit is 2x the monthly rent (or, for furnished units, 3x the rent).

There is a limited exemption for landlords who own two residential rental properties or less, with no more than four total units for rent. Those landlords can request a security deposit of 2x rent (only if the landlord is a natural person or LLC). *Read more:* [AB 12](#).

Were you forwarded this email? Sign up for email updates on HRC's website to learn more about upcoming events near you: [housingrightscenter.org/email-sign-ups](https://housingrightscenter.org/email-sign-ups)

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**Nine ways to use your EBT card to stay healthy and happy! Discounts available with your EBT Card!! see [flyer](#)**

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#### **[Fifth Edition of the Health of Women of U3 Populations Data Book Is Now Available!](#)** -

National Institutes of Health - Office of Research on Women's Health.

The [understudied, underrepresented, and underreported \(U3\)](#) program was developed in 2017 to draw attention to the lack of biomedical research on persistent disparities and inequities in women's health care, and to support evidence-based research efforts to address these gaps. The U3 program highlights the intersectional experiences of women, exploring the ways in which socially determined categories, like race or gender, overlap and interact to create differing outcomes for individuals and communities.



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