

Black Infant Health Program

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Perinatal Collaborative of Pierce County

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Tacoma-Pierce County
Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

“People don’t care how much you know
until they know how much you care.”
Teddy Roosevelt

UNNATURAL CAUSES-

A Four hour, 7 episode documentary series
broadcast by PBS in 2008

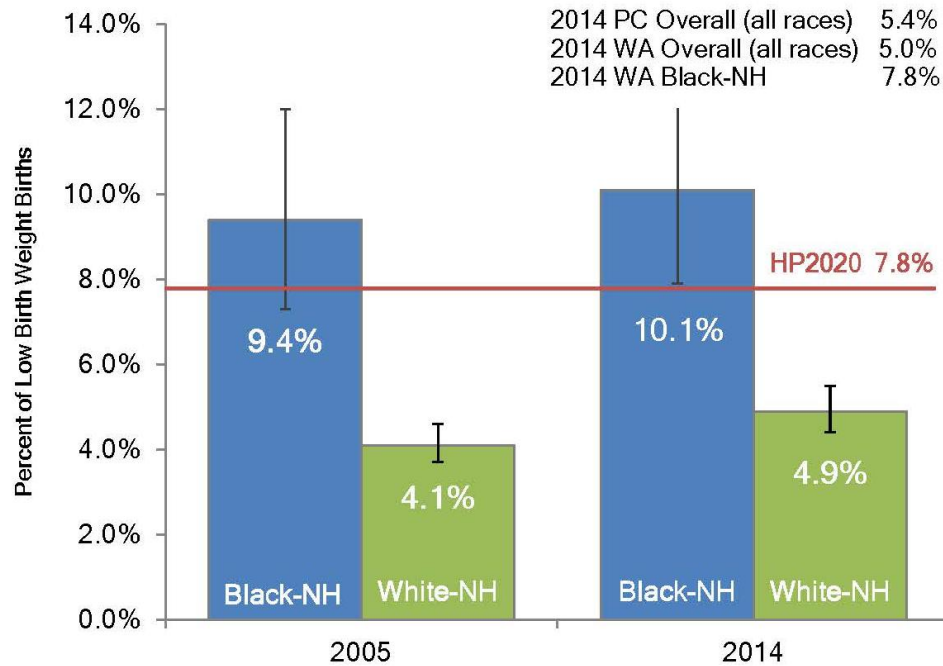
Tackles the root causes of our alarming socio-economic and racial inequities in health and Increase public awareness about the inequities and their human and financial costs

Episode 2 -[When the Bough Breaks](#)

http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/about_the_series.php

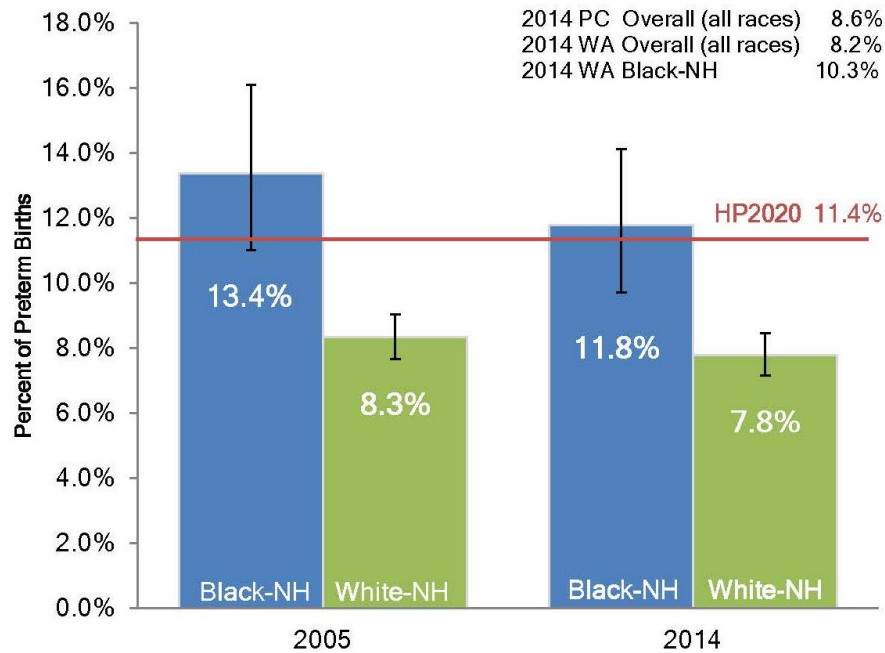
Break for Networking

Low Birth Weight



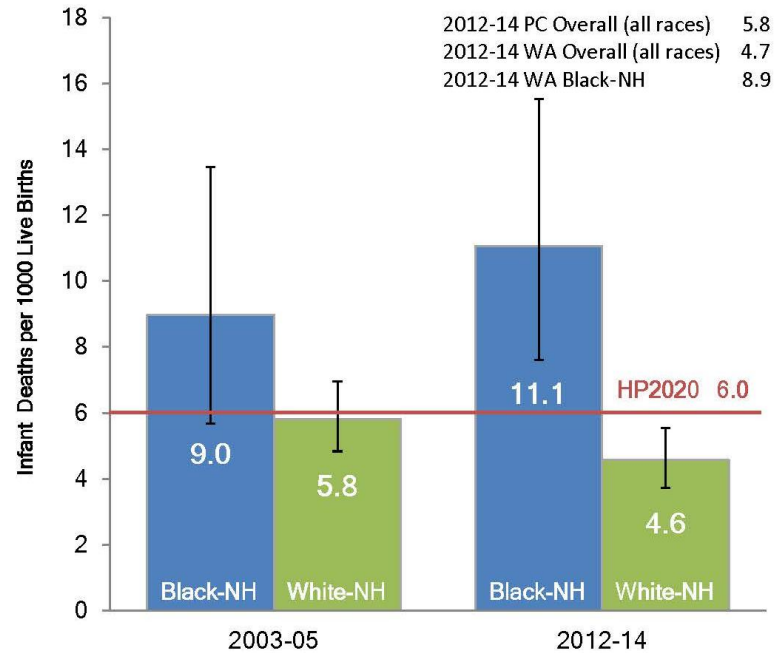
Source: Birth Certificate Database, WA State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2005 and 2014
NH=Non-Hispanic

Preterm Births



Source: Birth Certificate Database, WA State Dept of Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2005 and 2014
NH=Non-Hispanic

Infant Mortality



Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data, 2003-05 and 2012-14 3-year estimates
NH=Non-Hispanic

Black Infant Health Program of Antelope Valley, Lancaster CA

-Improve IMR and LBW rates

Collaboration between Faith Based Communities - Public Health – WIC,
Prenatal Outreach to AA women using CHOW

Social Support and Empowerment

Case Management

Activity Based Incentive program

Celebration of Life

Our Theory for Improvement

PHN partner with Community to engage AA women:

IF we engage MSS eligible women early

(1st trimester) in pregnancy for health

promotion education and referral for

behaviors and conditions associated with

LBW, such as smoking, drug-use, poor

nutrition and lack of medical and dental

care THEN we can impact positive birth

outcomes.

The Model

PHN and Church Appointees

Engage Pregnant Women

Link to Services

Support throughout pregnancy

Celebrate each baby that survives the first year of life



2008 Building a Network of Churches and Health Ministers

2008 Peace Lutheran Church.

2009 Roosevelt Heights COGIC.

By 2012 There was 20 participating churches and community groups.

In January 2013, we ended active recruitment of churches due to budget reductions however the network continued to grow.

Today there are 22 participant churches and 5 community groups and 54+ HM's and supporters.

Public Health Nurse Role

Provide training opportunities for churches around Medicaid linkage, Safe sleep, Breastfeeding, Tobacco Use, Nutrition Linkage to Community Resources, Early Head Start, Maternity Support Services, Medical Providers Maintain.

Contact with churches and provide support Coordinate Monthly Meetings, 1:1, OV's, Church Visits, Joint HV's.

Participate in Groups that address Health Issues for Communities of Color, Promote a focus on outreach to Medicaid eligible AA women, provide info about First Steps, Early Prenatal Care, Access to PNC, and Maternal Infant Health disparities.

PCBA

CHW Coalition

Pierce County Perinatal Coalition and Housing Sub-group

Pierce County End Homelessness Coalition

What is a Health Minister?

A member of a health focused group or board within a church.

Health Minister Role

Engage women from congregation and community early in pregnancy, link to resources such as prenatal care and WIC, provide basic health messages around topics such as Safe Sleep and Tobacco Cessation.

Attend training sessions and partner with the PHN.

Reaching those that are hard to reach!

Barriers to some are opportunities to serve.

After hours (outside of the 8-4:30).

Meet where they are- homeless, motel, in the church or in the community, does not need to be a member of a church.

Holistic- serve the entire family and the whole person, physical need, social and spiritual need.

What serving looks like

Confidential

Non-Judgmental

Compassionate

Strength Based

In the community or where ever the women is

Loving

What the Health Minister really does!!

Models Family and the Maternal and Paternal Role Model.

Mentor.

Help with Navigation of Systems.

Validate.

Normalize.

Gives Back to the Community.

Becomes a support system.

Knows and is known by the community in which they serve.

Provides food, transportation, linkage to services.

Watch families learn, grow and mature in their maternal and paternal roles.

Why this works!!

The church is the back bone of the community.

Culturally- AA's turn to the church in times of need.

The HM's are valued and trusted long time community members.

The HM's are wise and experienced leaders.

Young women are looking for maternal role models!

The mission is to serve.

Work to build confidence.

Build Relationships not Walls.



Results

Healthy pregnancies and births.

Increases in breastfeeding and community support of breastfeeding.

Uptake of health messages that go beyond pregnancy to impact each church more widely. (i.e. healthy eating messages impact church potlucks, concern about second hand smoke).

Strong social network is developing between churches as they work to support pregnant women.

Health Ministers are seen as community leaders in the African American and wider community.

Increasing social cohesion within the African American community in Pierce County.

Strategies for Engaging AA Women and Improving Birth Outcomes

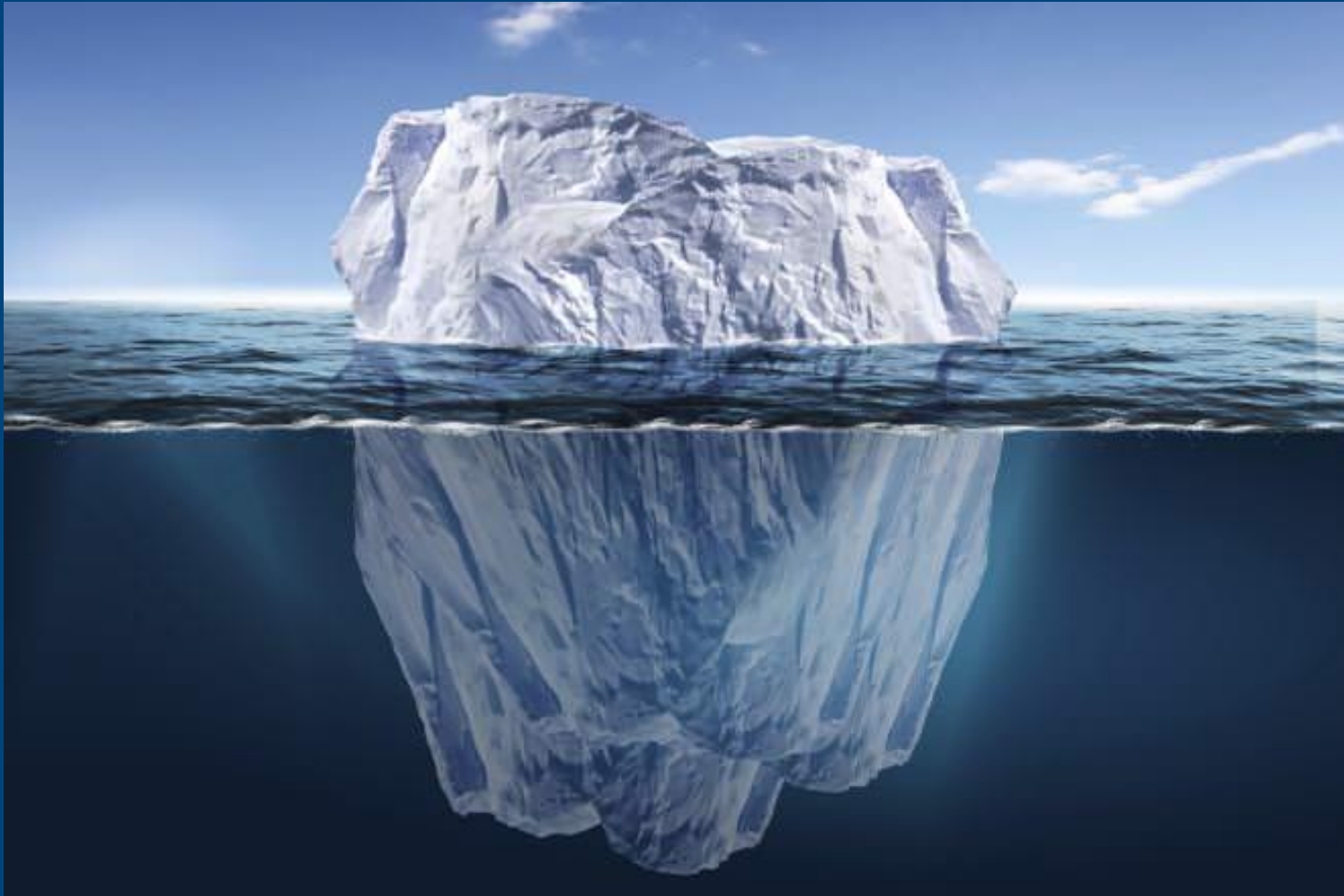
Understand Your Bias.

Do No Harm.

Partnerships.

Understand Your Bias





Black Infant Health Program

Do No Harm

Fear and Uncertainty triggers a stress response.

Your Body goes on ALERT.

B/P ↑

HR ↑

Glucose Floods the bloodstream.

All so we can HIT harder or RUN faster until the THREAT is gone!

When the threat is constant and unrelenting our physiological systems don't return to normal.

Like GUNNING the engine of a car, this constant state of arousal, even if low level WEARS us DOWN over time.

What are some of the Stresses that your clients bring to your worksite??

Commit to not adding stress!

Partnerships: It Takes a Village

The Stories:

Some of the Health Ministers



Black Infant Health Program

Questions and Next Steps- Beth Wilson

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