

Maternal Child Health Contract Community Evaluation Report

The Pettis County Health Center, in conjunction with our community partners, has completed an assessment of the needs related to maternal child health services in Pettis County. To develop a plan for the maternal child health contract funds for the next 3 years, we examined the data available related to maternal child health issues, conducted a survey and held discussions with coalitions and other partners. The highlights of the findings are listed below:

Maternal Health Issues:

Women in Pettis County seek care in the first trimester of pregnancy at a lower rate than the state rate based on 2015 data, the most recent data available. This is an area of concern, as early prenatal care provides the opportunity to identify problems early and take steps to reduce the risk of premature birth or other complications of pregnancy. Pettis County was above the state rate for inadequate prenatal care, but not at a significant difference.

Women who report smoking during pregnancy at a higher rate than the state rate, although the difference is not significantly different. Smoking during pregnancy is a risk factor for premature birth, low birth weight, babies who are born addicted to nicotine and other longer term complications.

On the positive side, women in Pettis County are utilizing available resource for funding prenatal care through Medicaid, WIC and food stamps.

Infant Health Issues:

Pettis County infants were doing as well or better than the state rates based on 2015 in most areas. Pettis County has a lower rate of infants born prematurely or with low birth weight as compared to state rates. Infants participated in WIC and on Medicaid at a high rate than the state rate.

One significant area of concern was the number of infant deaths related to unsafe sleep practices that occurred in 2017. The deaths occurred in a cluster within a 2 week period. These deaths are preventable.

Child and Adolescent Issues:

For many child health indicators, the children of Pettis County are being impacted in areas of Lead exposure, asthma and death rates at about the same rate as other children in Missouri. There are, however, several areas of concern.

For the 1-14 and 15-19 age groups, the rate for ER visits due to injury is higher than the state rate for the time period 2005-2015, the most recent data available. Another concerning statistics was that the number of child fatalities has increased in Pettis County from 2 in 2015 to 7 in 2016, the most recent data available.

Other areas of concern were reports on the Missouri Student Survey 2016 for Pettis County that use of illegal substances for teens were generally higher than the state rates, with alcohol use being the highest rate reported. Although the number was low, students did report carrying a weapon to school at a higher rate than the reported state rate.

From the Uniform Crime Statistic reporting for 2017, 80 children ages 10-14 were arrested and 258 adolescents 15-18 were arrested. Of those arrests, 3 in the 10-14 age group involved possession of marijuana. Of the arrests in 15-18 age group, 38 involved illegal drug possession or sale, 7 involved driving under the influence and 18 involved liquor law violations. For arrests related to age related offenses, in the 10-14 age group, 4 were curfew violations and 11 were runaways. In the 15-17 age group, there were 14 arrests for curfew violations and 4 arrests for being a runaway.

Discussion with adolescent health coalition members highlighted concerns related to the increasing use of prescription medications not prescribed for the user, the attitude that marijuana use is not a concern and concerns related to the stressors on students impacting their mental health. All of these concerns contribute to increasing the risk of injury – both unintentional and intentional for adolescents.

During 2017, approximately 14 children between 1-14 were involved in automobile accidents with varying degrees of injury. In the same time period, approximately 33 adolescents between 15-19 were involved in automobile accidents with varying degrees of injury and 1 fatality. A survey of 2 school districts in Pettis County indicated less than 50% of adolescent drivers were buckled up in their vehicles when leaving school.

On the positive side, there are more opportunities in the community for parents to receive low cost car seats for their children. We have not had a properly restrained child fatality for an extended period of time. Safe cribs are available through Early Head Start for families in need of a safe place for their infants to sleep. The West Central Safe Kids Coalition Safe Kids Day has provided safety education for over 100 children and families last year as well as providing other safety equipment for families such as outlet plug covers, cabinet locks, and carbon monoxide detectors. The American Red Cross partnered with local volunteers to provide smoke alarms in the county and smoke alarms are available through the Sedalia Fire Department.

Survey Results

The recently completed survey regarding MCH services had 223 responses, which is a statistically significant number for the county. The questions asked reflected the state and national MCH priority health issues. The results of the survey are as follows:

What are your biggest concerns regarding the health of mothers and children in Pettis County? (Check top three)

Answer Choices

Preventing and reducing smoking among women of childbearing age and pregnant women

Response: 40.19% 86

Promoting safe sleep among newborns to reduce sleep related infant deaths

Response: 32.24% 69

Reducing childhood exposure to second hand smoke

Response: 38.79% 83

Access to pre conception, prenatal and postnatal care (Women's Health Services)

Response: 36.92% 79

Care for babies born to addicted mothers

Response: 56.07% 120

Reducing Injuries to children, both accidental and on purpose (including suicide and substance abuse)
Response: 62.15% 133

Childhood obesity
Response: 33.18% 71

Obesity among women of childbearing age
Response: 12.62% 27

Other (please specify) 6
Answered 214
Skipped 9

What areas would you like to learn more about to help you and your children stay healthy?
(Check all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Stop smoking	19.58%	37
Substance abuse prevention	21.69%	41
Mental Health	47.62%	90
Safe Sleep	26.98%	51
Children's Safety	56.61%	107
Chronic disease prevention/care – such as diabetes, high blood pressure	55.56%	105
Other (please specify)		16
	Answered	189

The complete results of the survey are available by contacting the Pettis County Health Center.

Conclusion

Based upon the data identified in the assessment process and conversation with community partners, the Pettis County Health Center has chosen 2 priority health issues. The first target is to prevent and reduce the impact of toxic stress on and build resilience in adolescents ages 15-19 years to prevent and reduce intentional and unintentional injury related to substance use and motor vehicle accidents. The second target is to prevent infant deaths related to unsafe sleep practices through education and provision of safe sleep spaces.

The assessment is the first part of this process. During March and April, the Pettis County Health Center will be working with community partners, parents and interested community members in developing strategies to address these 2 priority health issues. Anyone interested in helping the Health Center develop strategies, please contact JoAnn Martin, Administrator at 660-827-1130 or joann.martin@lpha.mo.gov. The time frame to develop the strategies is very limited.

The focus of the funding for the Maternal Child Health contract is narrow by design. The funding is directed toward showing improvement on those state and national health priorities so as to “move the needle” on target issues. This focus does not mean that the Health Center staff will stop providing the MCH services we have been providing in the community for many years. We will still be providing immunizations for children, work with schools,

provide WIC services, provide car seats and bike helmets, reduce the risks of lead exposure, follow up on communicable diseases, provide community education, provide pregnancy testing and referral, and be available to answer questions.

Pettis County Health Center is dedicated to helping Pettis County residents live the healthiest possible lives.