

National Action Plan for Preventing Preterm Birth

Professional Education and
Training

Issues

- Medical
 - Prior Preterm delivery
 - Multiple Gestation
 - Co morbidities
- Social
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Resources
- Psychosocial
 - Exposure to Violence
 - Substances

Facts To Remember

Prematurity is not a defined disease or syndrome and there is no one specific cause or fixed set of outcomes.

AND

Neither gestational age nor birth weight is a sufficient or complete indicator of the level of immaturity of any specific newborn.

Professional Education and Training

WHO?

- Physician Providers and Researchers
- Advanced Practice Professionals
 - CNM, NP, PA
- Nurses
 - Labor and Delivery, Office/Clinic, Outreach
- Others
 - Social Workers, Mental Health and Addiction Clinicians

Education and Training

WHAT?

- Outpatient Risk Factor Screening
 - Preconception (primary care clinics including family planning, GYN, STI, chronic disease, family medicine, etc)
 - Prenatal
- Physical Findings
- Laboratory
 - Screen
 - Assessment

Education and Training

WHAT?

- Ultrasound
 - Screen
 - Assessment
- Mental Health / Substance Use Disorders
- Social Stressors (neighborhood, violence, ACE)
- Areas of Needed Research

Education and Training

WHERE?

- Medical School, Nursing School, and Graduate Medical and Nursing Education Programs
- Courses
 - Meetings
 - On-Line
- On Site
 - Labor and Delivery
 - Office/Clinic including Federally Funded Community Health Centers
 - Clinics serving Special Populations – American Indian/Alaska Natives, Homeless, Adolescents, Addicted Prenatal Patients

Education and Training

HOW?

- Stimulate and Support Research
 - Screening Tests
 - Therapeutic Interventions
- Develop Educational Programs
 - ACOG, AAP, SMFM
 - AWHONN, ACNM
 - MOD, NICHD

Prevention of Preterm Labor: GOAL

- Improved perinatal morbidity and maternal outcomes
 - The actual prevention of preterm birth is subordinate to this improvement
 - Continuation of pregnancy may increase the risk to mother, baby, or both

Preterm Delivery

- Current obstetrical and neonatal strategies have resulted in improved rates of neonatal survival and an earlier threshold viability
- Strategies for the prevention of preterm birth are urgently needed



Healthy Women and Infants: Priceless

