



Mother & Child Health Coalition is a bi-state catalyst promoting the health of families through community planning, education, advocacy and collaboration with organizations addressing infant mortality, immunization, breastfeeding, childhood obesity, and child safety.

VISION: Every mother and child in greater Kansas City will be healthy.

MISSION: Every child deserves a healthy start; it is the best gift a community gives its children and itself. Mother & Child Health Coalition works together with community partners and families to promote wellness and advocate excellence in health care.

MCHC PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

Kansas City Healthy Start

A bi-state, home visitation program that seeks to improve the health of pregnant women and babies, and to decrease infant mortality and ethnic disparities. It offers outreach, care coordination, depression screening, and health education. The Healthy Start program also integrates two national programs (The Perinatal Periods of Risk Practice Collaborative and The Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Program) to reduce infant mortality. Its focus is learning what in the community causes babies to die, particularly among African Americans, and combining area resources to implement changes.

Breastfeeding Public Awareness Project

Works toward increasing breastfeeding initiation and duration to improve the health of mothers and babies. Activities to promote breastfeeding include advertising campaigns, educational workshops, World Breastfeeding Week events, and promotion of The Business Case for Breastfeeding, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ongoing initiative to promote breastfeeding-friendly work environments.

Dedicated Dads

Dedicated Dads was developed to connect fathers and men to community resources that help them become better role models for their children and families, through workshops, activities and other resources.

Mid America Immunization Coalition

This program works to increase the number of children who are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. Activities include Bee Wise Mondays, which promotes free or low-cost immunizations at area health departments, and a biennial immunization symposium for health care professionals from throughout Missouri and Kansas. Educational events are also held on a quarterly basis.

Safe Haven for Newborns

This public awareness effort seeks to educate the public about the Safe Haven laws in Missouri and Kansas, in order to reduce the incidence of infant abuse, abandonment or murder. Provides resources for Safe Havens such as hospitals, health departments, police, fire and ambulance stations.

Safe Kids Metro KC Coalition

Safe Kids is a four-county effort to educate parents on the need to prevent injuries to children under 15. Focus areas include motor vehicles, bicycle, pedestrian, drowning, and home safety. Initiatives include education and advocacy.

Weighing In

Mission: Prevent and reduce childhood obesity through community collaboration. Weighing In promotes nutrition and physical activity in the home, school and community organizations; provides news, information and education on healthy lifestyles; advocates for policies that promote healthy lifestyles; builds a network for organizations that focus on childhood obesity and treatment, and uses evidence-based science and best practices.