Local Innovations in Congenital Syphilis Prevention

In partnership with CDC’s Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP), the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) is supporting a diverse set of local jurisdictions/health departments across the U.S. to implement and evaluate a program strategy to improve congenital syphilis prevention and control efforts in their areas. The objective is to help galvanize local efforts to address rising rates of congenital syphilis and syphilis among pregnant individuals and individuals of child-bearing capacity. Specifically, innovations or improvements focus on one or more of the following areas of congenital syphilis prevention:

- Improving support for pregnant individuals who have syphilis
- Improving support for pregnant individuals who do not have syphilis
- Improving support for individuals with syphilis who could become pregnant but are not currently pregnant

Innovations and improvements incorporate components such as, pregnancy testing, pregnancy intention ascertainment, STI testing and treatment, partner services, case management, and referral to care. Funded jurisdictions will implement and evaluate the innovation or improvement over approximately 12 months.

The project is guided by the following questions:

1. How feasible was the innovation or improvement to implement?
2. What barriers and facilitators affected successful implementation?
3. To what extent did the innovation or improvement reach its intended targets and outcomes?

The six funded jurisdictions selected through a competitive process to collaborate on this project are as follows:

**New York City, NY:** The Bureau of STI (BSTI) is piloting a Congenital Syphilis Prevention Investigator (CPI) Model. BSTI will shift the assignment of disease intervention specialist (DIS) investigations by designating one CPI per region (8 total) to be assigned all syphilis investigations among persons who are or may become pregnant in their respective region. Estimates are that each CPI will conduct an average of 16 investigations per month among persons who are or may become pregnant — accounting for approximately 46% of their total workload — and that this focus on that population will improve proficiency, knowledge, and skill in conducting such investigations.

**Maricopa County, AZ:** The Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) is collaborating with a community partner, CAN Community Health, to utilize their mobile healthcare clinics to provide STI diagnosis and treatment to those individuals at highest risk of a pregnancy with congenital syphilis—including those experiencing homelessness, engaging in drug use, or recently incarcerated. MCDPH will provide...
The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.

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