



## TA & Support Center News & Updates

### **Deadlines:**

Nov 15 HSMED-II Report (CSV or XML) Due

### **Events:**

Nov 8 [Fatherhood Talk Tuesday](#)

Nov 8 Community Engagement Cohort Meeting #3 – *Community Engagement cohort members only*

Nov 9 Breastfeeding Cohort Meeting #3 - *BF cohort members only*

Nov 10 [The Impact of Infant Loss: Recognizing the Uniqueness of Black Grief Inservice](#)

Nov 15 Healthy Start COIN Meeting – *COIN members only*

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### **Fatherhood Talk Tuesday**

November is dedicated to celebrating and honoring Native American Heritage Month! This month's Fatherhood Talk Tuesday will highlight Native American traditions and how they can be reflected in the work and services offered throughout Healthy Start communities. We will also hear from our fellow grantee, Onaje Muid from The Foundation for Delaware County, who will present strategies, programming insights, and lessons learned!

Join the Healthy Start TA & Support Center (TASC) for this wonderful session on **Tuesday, November 8 from 3-4:30 pm ET. To register, please [click here!](#)**

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### **The Impact of Infant Loss: Recognizing the Uniqueness of Black Grief Inservice**

Please join the TASC for a 90-minute training about understanding infant loss and African American grief. Throughout the training, participants will learn about African Americans' historical and contemporary experiences with death, including the impact of systemic racism on individuals' reactions to loss. This will equip participants with an understanding of how best to support communities that are disproportionately affected by infant death. Attendees will gain insight into how some women of color deal with compounded loss and trauma and how to best serve them. The TASC will host this training in partnership with Dr. Stacy Scott, founder of the Global Infant Safe Sleep Center (GISS), long-time international and community advocate and educator for safe sleep initiatives, and Vice President of Health Equity Innovation at NICHQ.

The Impact of Infant Loss: Recognizing the Uniqueness of Black Grief Inservice will be held on **Thursday, November 10 from 2-3:30 p.m. ET.** A flyer describing the training can be found [here](#). Please share this flyer with your fellow Healthy Start staff members and consumers. **To register for the training, [please click here.](#)**

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## **In Case You Missed it...**

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Education Webinar Series**

In partnership with the Rapid Response Virtual Home Visiting Project, the TASC hosted a webinar entitled "Ask the Pediatrician: COVID Vaccinations for Children" on September 7. The webinar featured Dr. Mishelle Nace, a pediatrician with Foundation Health Partners. Dr. Nance shared information about COVID vaccinations for all children, including how to speak with families about the vaccine. To view the recording, please [click here](#).

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### **Fatherhood Talk Tuesday**

The TASC welcomed this new season with moments of reflection, thoughtfulness, and gratitude. In observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Dr. Derrick Gordon – a Yale University Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Director of Research, Policy & Program on Male Development – spoke about mental health and positive parenting. We also heard from fellow grantee, Darrell Howell of Pee Dee Healthy Start, who presented

on strategies, programming insights, and lessons learned! To view the recording, please [click here](#).

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### **Healthy Start COIN Creation: Fleshing Out “Out of the Box” Ideas Webinar**

The TASC hosted the second *Healthy Start Collaborative Innovation Network (COIN) Creation: Fleshing Out “Out of the Box” Ideas* webinar on Monday, September 19. The topic for the next HS COIN is structural determinants of health (SDOH). This interactive webinar provided an opportunity for the HS community to come together to explore, imagine, and innovate specific areas of focus within the SDOH topic. This dynamic discussion was led by the creator of the COIN method, Peter Gloor, PhD, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Webinar participants engaged in a collective brainstorming session, where they proposed and voted on areas of focus for further exploration. To view the recording, please [click here](#).

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### **Networking Café: Staff Recruitment & Retention**

In response to technical assistance requests received from Healthy Start grantees, the TASC hosted a networking café on September 21, which focused on staff recruitment and retention. Attendees discussed challenges or successes that they have experienced in recruiting and retaining staff, and shared ideas and strategies for improving recruitment and retention with one another. To view the recording, please [click here](#).

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## **October: Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

According to the United States Department of Justice, [domestic violence](#) is defined as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. [Intimate partner violence](#) (IPV) is abuse or aggression that occurs in a romantic relationship. Domestic violence and IPV can take many forms – including physical and sexual violence, financial abuse, stalking, and emotional or psychological aggression – and can have lasting, harmful effects on individuals, families, and communities. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), about [41% of women and 26% of men](#) have experienced sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported an intimate partner violence-related impact during their lifetime.

Pregnancy can be a period of increased risk for IPV, with many women reporting that their abuse started or intensified when they became pregnant. Each year in the United States, an estimated [324,000 pregnant people](#) are battered by their intimate partners, threatening both the mother and the infant’s health. IPV during pregnancy can have fatal outcomes or a variety of other [health consequences](#), including mental health issues (e.g., depression, anxiety); adverse health behaviors (e.g., smoking, alcohol or substance use); and physical health issues (e.g., broken bones, hemorrhage). As a result, exposure to domestic violence during pregnancy is associated with a significantly increased risk of low birth weight and preterm birth. Additionally, women who experience IPV during pregnancy are three times more likely to suffer perinatal death than those who do not experience IPV.

Despite this, few providers screen pregnant people for abuse during prenatal appointments. Since IPV is [most prevalent among women of reproductive age](#), it is vital to

[screen women](#) during the pre- and interconception stages as well. The Healthy Start program is seeking to do just that, with its [benchmark](#) around increasing the proportion of Healthy Start women participants who receive an IPV screening to 100%. In addition to screening, many of the services that Healthy Start projects provide – such as counseling, home visiting, and mentoring support – have been identified as positive interventions against IPV. Finally, Healthy Start staff can play an integral role in supporting families by sharing key [resources](#) and [prevention strategies](#) that can be used to decrease the risk of IPV, such as:

- Sharing the [warning signs](#) and traits of an abuser
- Teaching safe and healthy relationship skills;
- Engaging influential adults and peers;
- Disrupting the developmental pathways toward partner violence;
- Creating protective environments;
- Strengthening economic supports for families; and
- Supporting survivors to increase safety and lessen harms.

Below are additional resources related to domestic violence and IPV for pregnant people, their families and, their communities. We hope this information equips Healthy Start staff to respond appropriately when assistance is needed, and helps lead to better health outcomes for pregnant women, fathers, babies, and families. We encourage you to share this information with your fellow Healthy Start staff members and consumers.



## Healthy Moms, Happy Babies: Train the Trainer

[Futures Without Violence](#) offers [Healthy Moms, Happy Babies: A Train the Trainers Curriculum on Domestic Violence, Reproductive Coercion, and Children Exposed](#). The curriculum includes training, tools, and resources to help home visitation staff address domestic violence with their clients. Futures Without Violence also provides information on how [home visitors](#) can support women and children who are impacted by abuse.

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## StrongHearts Native Helpline

[StrongHearts Native Helpline](#) is a 24/7 culturally-appropriate domestic, dating and sexual violence [helpline](#) for Native Americans and Alaska Natives. To access the helpline, call or text 1-844-762-8483 or click on the chat icon on their website at [strongheartshelpline.org](#). Advocates can help with crisis intervention and safety planning and provide referrals to Native-centered resources.

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## Get Help & Stay Safe

The [National Coalition Against Domestic](#)

[Violence](#) (NCADV) website houses a comprehensive list of [tips for accessing resources](#) when experiencing domestic violence. This includes advice on getting help from law enforcement and questions to ask when receiving legal assistance. NCADV also has a [personalized safety plan](#), which can help individuals plan how they will respond to future abusive or violent incidents, prepare for the possibility of an incident happening, and plan how to get to safety.

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## PreventConnect Webinar and Podcast

[PreventConnect](#) recently hosted a [webinar](#) on health equity approaches to preventing sexual and IPV. They also produce a [podcast](#), which shares research in IPV and highlights the voices of practitioners developing and implementing sexual assault and domestic violence prevention strategies. During last year's Domestic Violence Awareness Month, PreventConnect launched a two-part series: [Part 1](#) focused on racial justice and [Part 2](#) focused on the impacts of COVID-19.

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## Informed Conversations about Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a very sensitive subject that can be difficult to discuss. The [National Network to End Domestic Violence](#) (NNEDV) created a list of [10 tips to have an informed conversation about domestic violence](#). This information can help friends, family, health care providers, and others talk with survivors of IPV and domestic violence and refer them to resources.

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## Abuse During Pregnancy

As mentioned above, pregnancy can trigger or exacerbate IPV. The [March of Dimes](#) compiled useful information for pregnant people on how to address [abuse during pregnancy](#), including how to identify an abusive relationship and how to make a safety plan.



## Prenatal Exposure to Domestic Violence

In 2019, the [Center on Trauma and Adversity](#) at Case Western Reserve University released a [summary of key research findings](#) on prenatal exposure to domestic violence. The article focuses on the prevalence of prenatal exposure to domestic violence, the economic burden of domestic violence, domestic violence and maternal and child health outcomes, and the implications for policy and practice.

## Violence Prevention in Practice

The [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) created a [resource](#) to support local and state health agencies and other stakeholders in selecting and implementing the strategies presented in the Division of Violence Prevention's (DVP) [technical packages](#). The resource includes information about each step in implementing a violence prevention plan, from planning and partnerships to evaluation.

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## Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities

If your organization is planning activities around Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2022 (#DVAM2022), check out [this post](#) on the [Domestic Violence Awareness Project](#)'s awareness blog. It includes tips and tricks for planning and executing successful #DVAM2022 activities and lists other relevant activities happening this month.

## Domestic Violence and Maternal Mortality

Domestic violence can lead to many negative outcomes, including impacting maternal mortality. [Futures Without Violence](#) has been involved in webinars focused on the connection between maternal mortality and domestic violence and IPV, including:

- [Virtual Hill Briefing – Maternal Mortality and Intimate Partner Violence](#); and
- [Racism, Domestic Violence & Black Maternal Mortality – what Can Advocates Do?](#)



## Other Resources & External Events

### Birth Equity in Medicaid Learning Series

The Institute for Medicaid Innovation (IMI) and Every Mother Counts (EMC) recently launched a free learning series with support from the Community Health Acceleration Partnership (CHAP). The learning series focuses on community-based doula care and perinatal community health workers, and aims to support the creation and strengthening of pathways for Medicaid stakeholders — including Medicaid agencies and health plans, provider groups, and professional associations — to expand access to quality, respectful, and equitable maternity care. The series contains 8 one-hour virtual sessions that will broaden participants' awareness of community-based doula and perinatal CHW support and provide evidence supporting the benefits, cost-effectiveness, and potential to improve health equity of these services in Medicaid. The series will also provide a roadmap for Medicaid stakeholders to explore next steps for implementation of this model within their state, organization, and/or practice setting. [Please click here](#) to learn more and register **by Monday, November 14.**



### Hosting or attending an exciting event or webinar?

We will use the EPIC Center [Training Calendar](#) to share information about events specifically planned for Healthy Start projects, as well as other relevant webinars, trainings, and other events that are open to the public. If you know of events or trainings that you think other Healthy Start projects should be aware of, please feel free to send information to [healthystart@nichq.org](mailto:healthystart@nichq.org).

Have questions? Either respond to this email or contact the sender on [healthystart@nichq.org](mailto:healthystart@nichq.org)

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