



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 19-25, 2012

Black Maternal and Infant Health Week

The California Department of Public Health believes that every mother and infant deserves the safest, healthiest birth possible.

Research indicates that improvements in African-American maternal and infant health cannot be achieved through prenatal care alone. Health issues are linked to chronic social and environmental stressors that have been shown to result in hormonal and inflammatory dysregulation in both mothers and babies and may lead to long-term impairment.

The California Department of Public Health's Black Infant Health (BIH) Program has played a lead role in addressing health disparities in the African-American community. In 2010, the BIH Program began implementing a group intervention that promotes social support and encourages healthy behaviors including optimal nutrition, exercise, stress reduction, and the avoidance of substance use.

During the month of February, California reaffirms its commitment to the health and well-being of African-American mothers and babies through continued support for the BIH Program and partnerships with public and private community organizations and faith-based organizations.

Sincerely,


EDMUND G. BROWN JR.