



National Public Health Week April 5, 2023

Theme: Reproductive and Sexual Health

When people receive quality reproductive and sexual health care, education, and access, they can fulfill a happier and healthier life. A lack of inclusive and accessible reproductive and sexual health care and education negatively affects everyone, but marginalized communities carry a greater burden of harm. Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women.

Dr. Daniel Edney, Mississippi State Health Officer, has identified one of his top priorities as reduction in maternal mortality in Mississippi. There were 41 maternal deaths in Mississippi in 2021. We need to all work together to make maternal mortality **ZERO** in our state. There are several programs in place to help, and more are under development, as we heard Dr. Edney say last week at the MPHA Annual Conference. All of them are evidence-based. Some examples of the programs already in place include:

- **The Mississippi Perinatal Quality Collaborative (MSPQC) partners with the Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Healthcare (AIM)** to implement the Obstetric Hemorrhage Initiative (OHI), Hypertension & Heart Initiative, and the Initiative to Support Vaginal Births (Cesarean Reduction) throughout Mississippi since 2016. These are examples of straightforward sets of evidence-based practices that, when performed collectively and reliably, have been proven to improve patient outcomes.
- **Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies of Mississippi** is a maternal and infant health support program working with families and communities to help ensure

that all Mississippi moms and babies have safe birthing experiences and healthy infant development. The program goals are to decrease preterm births; improve maternal health; decrease infant mortality; and, support infant physical and mental development.

- On March 16, 2023, Governor Tate Reeves signed postpartum **Medicaid extension** (SB 2212) into law. This new law, which extends postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 12 months, will help ensure that women have access to post-partum care. It is important for all MPHA members and our partners to ensure that eligible women know about this provision and take whatever steps they need to take to extend their coverage. This law goes into effect **July 1, 2023**.
- One of MPHA's conference sponsors, Converge, is bringing reproductive health care to more Mississippians. Now, anyone across the state, regardless of their insurance status can get the care they need for free or low-cost. GetPersonal is a telehealth service offered by Converge in partnership with Twentyeight Health to ensure no Mississippian will go without access to birth control and other reproductive health services because they're unable to make an in-person visit to a doctor's office. GetPersonal allows a patient to meet with a provider via a computer, phone, or tablet and get the care they need from wherever they are most comfortable.

Schedule a Telehealth visit or order a free reproductive health kit at [Personally.care/GetPersonal](https://personally.care/GetPersonal). Coming mid-April 2023! See the attached flyer for more information and share it with others.

MPHA stands ready to support the health department and our other partners in innovative, evidence-based initiatives to ensure that women get access to the reproductive and sexual care they need to be healthy and to have healthy families.

For more information, see www.msdh.ms.gov; <https://msphi.org/what-we-do/>; <https://convergeaccess.org/>