WeCare Indiana: Improving Maternal and Infant Health to Reduce Infant Mortality

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Abstract:

The overall objective of the proposed project is to reduce infant mortality in Marion and Delaware Counties by partnering with community organizations to co-develop, document and evaluate strategies that support maternal and infant health with a focus on health coaching supported by mobile health (mHealth) technologies.

To achieve this goal, the research and education team will build on: existing partnerships with state, healthcare, and community organizations within these two targeted counties; pilot work led by members of the study team already underway in Delaware County; and previous successful work, by members of the study team, training and deploying community health workers. The project is conceived as a path finding community research and education program to establish best practices tailored to Indiana populations. This program, if proven successful, may be used as a model for reducing infant mortality statewide as well as addressing other high priority health challenges identified in the IUH Community Health Needs Assessment Report, including smoking, obesity and mental health.