

Arkansas Children's Hospital Nursery Alliance

A quality collaborative focused on improving neonatal clinical outcomes through partnership and best practice



NURSERY ALLIANCE

BIG PICTURE

- Arkansas statistics:
 - 1st – Highest teen pregnancy rate
 - 2nd – Infant mortality
 - 6th – Premature death



*America's Health Rankings 2020

<https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/IMR/state/AR>



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The Path

TO LOWER INFANT MORTALITY

8.2 per 1000¹

6 per week²

49th



1

Pre-conceptual Care
Education
Pregnancy Planning



2

Prenatal Care
Dental Services
Birth Defects
Education/Prenatal
Interventions
Community Partners



4

Hospital Standardization
Safety
Nutrition
Community



3

Delivery/OB
Delivery Location
Standardization



5

Neonatal Period
Home Visiting
Community Health Care
Access to Newborn Services
Access to Health Services



6

First Year
Early Intervention
Community Health Care
Resources
Injury Prevention
Standard Protocols



7

Beyond First Year
Early Childhood Services
Access to Health Care
Community Health



Infant Mortality

1. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. (2017). Infant Mortality Rates by State. Retrieved from CDC National Center for Health Statistics: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/infant_mortality_rates/infant_mortality.htm
2. Number of Arkansas children that die per week before 1st birthday

MISSION & VISION

- To improve neonatal clinical outcomes through the formation of a quality collaborative and to ultimately reduce infant mortality across the state
- Quality neonatal care, everywhere



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TEAM-BASED APPROACH

- Collaborative
- Holistic/Comprehensive
- Multiple levels of engagement
 - Executives
 - Physicians
 - Nurses
 - Registered Respiratory Therapists
 - Marketing Team
 - Local Community



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5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

- Collaboratively developed with partners
 - Escalation/Stabilization of Care
 - Shared policies and procedures
 - Safety
 - Creation of specific care pathways, specialty roles, and exploring barriers to safety
 - Focus on Safe Sleep
 - Nutrition
 - Expansion of breastfeeding supportive services
 - Expand telemedicine capabilities in partner nurseries
 - Collective sharing of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) resources to promote consistency in management



THE NURSERY ALLIANCE DOES

- Align and recommend best care practices across the network
- Raise awareness about AR Clinical Practice guidelines
- Work to keep patients closer to home
- Allocate resources to partners e.g., educational support, policy sharing, and specialty consultations
- Collaboratively work on initiatives at partner facilities to support “moving the needle” on infant mortality
- Capture and present data for benchmarking
- Help identify community partners to further the mission



THE NURSERY ALLIANCE DOES NOT

- Take over partner nurseries
- Dictate how other nurseries should practice
- Provide governance over partner nurseries
- Recruit patient transports
- Use data to discredit partner nurseries



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NURSERY ALLIANCE WINS

- Helped partners to provide better respiratory support
- Recommended best practices to improve neonatal health in areas such as developmental care, breast support, and non-invasive neonatal hypoglycemia management
- Built better relationships with community partners and resources
- Facilitated conferences to address topics related to infant mortality, telemedicine, neonatal withdrawal syndrome, and COVID-19
- Partner specific trainings for NRP, STABLE, and safety baby showers



NEONATAL LEVELS OF CARE

- Designated by Arkansas Dept. of Health
- Partially adapted from the AAP

| Level I | Level II | Level III A | Level III B | Level IV |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides basic neonatal services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderately ill neonates, problems expected to resolve rapidly • Ventilation <= 24 hrs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have specialty needs but not at a Level IIIB or higher facility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not need services provided by a level IV facility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest level of care • Offer the most advanced care for infants |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low risk infants • Age > 35 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age > 32 weeks • Weight = 1500 grams | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age >= 26 weeks • Weight > =750 grams | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age < 26 weeks • Weight < 750 grams | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialty care ○ ECMO ○ Surgical services |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 facilities in AR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 facilities in AR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 facilities in AR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 facilities in AR ○ Baptist ○ UAMS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACH is the only facility in AR |



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- Expansion of the network
- Growing partnerships
- Pilot opportunities
- State-wide database
- Quality collaborative



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QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Thank you for your time!

Please reach out with any questions, comments, or for more information.

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