

## 2010 Kentucky Folic Acid Partnership and Greater Kentucky Chapter March Of Dimes Program Plan Community Action

### Community Action Problem Statements

**1. Folic Acid:** Women who take folic acid before and during early pregnancy can help prevent at least 50-70% of serious birth defects of the spine and brain. In 2008 the Gallup Organization conducted a national survey for the March of Dimes and found that of English-speaking women ages 18-45:

- 84.0% reported having heard of folic acid.
- Only 39.0% reported taking a vitamin containing folic acid daily.
- Only 20.0% of the women who were aware of folic acid mentioned that folic acid prevents birth defects.
- Only 11.0% of the women who were aware of folic acid mentioned that folic acid should be taken before pregnancy.

Source: March of Dimes Folic Acid Surveys, conducted by the Gallup Organization, Retrieved 1/27/10 from [www.marchofdimes.com/peristats](http://www.marchofdimes.com/peristats)

**2. Prematurity:** Prematurity is the leading cause of death in the first month of life, and even late preterm infants have a greater risk of short- and long-term health problems. Preterm birth is defined as a live birth before 37 completed weeks gestation. Late preterm birth is defined as a birth at 34-36 weeks. Compared to full-term babies, late preterm babies are six times more likely to die during their first week of life. Nationally 71% of preterm births are late preterm.

- In Kentucky in 2006, 15.1% of babies were born preterm (1 in 7 babies).
- The rate of infants born preterm in Kentucky increased 29% between 1996 and 2006.
- In Kentucky the rate of preterm birth is highest for black infants (19.5%), compared to 14.7% for Hispanics, 14.5% for whites, 11.5% for Asians, and 11.1% for Native Americans.
- In Kentucky in 2006, multiple births were about 5 times as likely to be born preterm compared to singleton births.
- The Healthy People 2010 goal is to reduce preterm births to no more than 7.6% of live births.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, final natality data, retrieved 9/18/09 from [www.marchofdimes.com/peristats](http://www.marchofdimes.com/peristats)

**Folic Acid Goal:** To increase the proportion of women who take a vitamin containing folic acid daily

**Prematurity Goals:** To increase public awareness of the problem of prematurity and to increase the number of pregnant women who know the signs and symptoms of premature labor.

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<b>Objectives</b> (Objectives are measurable statements that specify the outcomes of program activities, products or services within a specific time frame).	<b>Activities to achieve objective</b> (Describe the methods necessary to achieve objectives. Tell who is going to do what, where, how and when.)	<b>Comments</b> (Optional)
<b>Objective 1.1</b> Partners will actively support the Kentucky Folic Acid Partnership	<b>Activity 1</b> The KY Dept. for Public Health and Barren River Dist. Health Dept. will fund the Folic Acid Coordinator position during 2010.	
	<b>Activity 2</b> The Statewide KFAP Coordinator will maintain administrative support for the Partnership including but not limited to, meeting minutes, membership mailing/email lists, completing activity tracking.	
	<b>Activity 3</b> KFAP members will continue active roles in the Partnership and its sub-committees by reporting activities, attending meetings, and/or communicating by mail, fax, phone or e-mail.	
	<b>Activity 4</b> The Folic Acid Partnership Chair and/or the statewide folic acid coordinator will serve on the March of Dimes Chapter PSC.	
	<b>Activity 5</b> The Partnership will have at least three meetings during 2010.	
	<b>Activity 6</b> Members will use the online reporting system to report their activities.	

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<p><b>Objective 1.2</b> Increase public awareness of perinatal health issues</p>	<p><b>Activity 1</b> Orient and update March of Dimes staff and volunteers about folic acid and prematurity at staff and volunteer meetings during 2010.</p>	
	<p><b>Activity 2</b> Display and distribute March of Dimes educational materials on folic acid and prematurity at MOD events, such as March for Babies, special events, and mission/program and volunteer development events.</p>	
	<p><b>Activity 3</b> Expand folic acid and prematurity information on <a href="http://www.kfap.org">www.kfap.org</a>.</p>	
	<p><b>Activity 4</b> Distribute information about prematurity in at least 10 venues for the general public statewide.</p>	
	<p><b>Activity 5</b> Speak to at least 10 community groups about the issue of preterm births.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 1.3</b> Increase knowledge of perinatal health issues within the population of women of childbearing age.</p>	<p><b>Activity 1</b> Provide at least 10 classes to pregnant women to educate them about preterm labor and how to have a healthy pregnancy.</p>	
	<p><b>Activity 2</b> Distribute information about preterm labor signs and symptoms on home visits through the HANDS program.</p>	

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	<p><b>Activity 3</b> Outreach to pregnant women to make them aware of the availability of Kentucky's Tobacco Quit Line by distributing information in a variety of community settings, such as health fairs, HANDS home visits, and health care provider offices.</p>	
	<p><b>Activity 4</b> Provide folic acid and prematurity information at 20 bridal, expectant parent and/or baby fairs or other community events that target women of childbearing age.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 1.4</b> Increase efforts to reach high risk women with information about folic acid and preterm birth.</p>	<p><b>Activity 1</b> Distribute Spanish materials during at least four Hispanic/Latino health fairs and/or faith-based activities that target Hispanic/Latino women.</p>	
	<p><b>Activity 2</b> Partner with the KY Birth Surveillance Registry, Medicaid, Spina Bifida Association of KY, Epilepsy Foundation of Kentuckiana, Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs, Level 3 Diabetes Programs, and Diabetes Centers of Excellence to provide them with information for women the agencies/programs serve.</p>	
	<p><b>Activity 3</b> Provide educational materials during presentations and health fairs at universities, high schools, and other venues that target women aged 18-25.</p>	

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	<p><b>Activity 4</b> Distribute culturally appropriate materials during at least four health fairs and/or faith-based activities that target minority women.</p>	
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