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## Using Your Findings from a Community Health Assessment to Address Health Equities in Maternal and Infant Health

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*Abstract:* A Healthy Start: Spokane's Future" is a comprehensive community health assessment project with statistical analyses that address maternal and infant health in Spokane County. This analysis and evaluation was conducted with community partners whose main objective is to improve and develop effective, outcome-based maternal and infant health interventions. Findings were used to identify key factors that affect determinants of health for pregnant women and infants resulting in poor birth outcomes.

Indicators for maternal concerns focused on medical and behavioral risks and their affects on maternal morbidities. Indicators for infant concerns concentrated on birth outcomes, specifically on abnormal conditions of the newborn and congenital anomalies. When available, indicators were analyzed by age, race, and service utilization to identify health disparities. Indicators were evaluated over time and by geography to help identify areas of concern.

The results were presented, reviewed, and prioritized by internal programs of Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) and by community partners interested in examining, addressing, and resolving the unique challenges and risks pregnant women and infants face in Spokane County. Maternal smoking was identified as a priority and interventions that could impact poor outcomes for maternal and infant health were initiated. SRHD's Tobacco Prevention and Control program along with the First Steps program and WIC began a smoking cessation intervention for pregnant mothers. The intervention incorporates the use of fetal carbon monoxide (CO) monitoring as an additional vital sign during a prenatal visit. The effectiveness of fetal CO monitoring as an intervention to decrease maternal smoking will be examined.

The process and method for conducting a community health assessment on maternal and infant health will be discussed. Significant finding and outcomes of the project will be presented and shared with participants. Lastly, an overview regarding the intervention on maternal smoking will be presented.