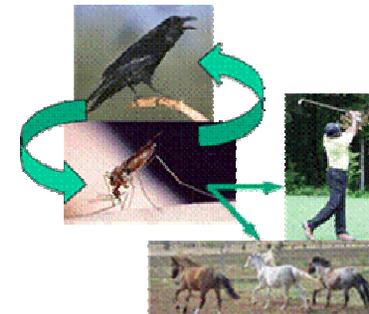




QUARTERLY EPIDEMIOLOGIC REPORT

July-Oct 2003



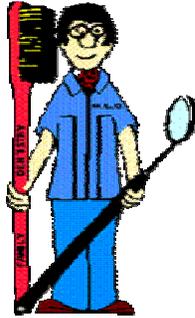
Inside this issue:

- Highlights from the Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment 2003
- West Nile Virus Arrives in Arizona
- Aseptic Meningitis

Maternal & Child Health Needs Assessment 2003

ORAL HEALTH SURVEY: A PRELIMINARY LOOK AT DENTAL CARE DURING PREGNANCY

Findings from the 2001 South Phoenix Pregnant Women's Oral Health Needs Assessment were included in this year's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Needs Assessment. The MCH Needs Assessment is produced by a joint effort between the MCDPH Divisions of Maternal, Child, and Family Health and Epidemiology/BDPR.



The Oral Health Needs Assessment Survey sought to determine the beliefs, habits, and knowledge of pregnant women in South Phoenix towards oral health in relation to pregnancy. Most of the respondents (94%) reported that the health of their mouth was important to them. However, 62.7% did not know if it was safe to get dental care during pregnancy and more than 93% had not been to a dentist during the current pregnancy.

Strong links have been found between oral health and total health, therefore, improving the public's understanding of these may help reduce health disparities. Many opportunities exist to improve the public's perception of oral health and to increase their awareness regarding the connections between oral health and total health. Improving access to dental insurance and dental care services will be necessary.

Other topics included in the 2003 Needs Assessment were results from the 2000 Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) and the Perinatal Periods of Risk, which tracks infant mortality rates within the county.

The 2000 PRAMS survey, originally designed by the CDC, consisted of a questionnaire targeted at South Phoenix mothers, concerning a wide range of topics, including health insurance coverage during pregnancy, reasons for not using birth control, prenatal care, infant's sleep
(continued on page 3)

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To report communicable diseases, unusual health occurrences, and public health emergencies (all 602 area codes unless otherwise noted)

	Business hours M-F 8a-5p	After 5p
Bite reports	506-7387	506-2752
Communicable diseases	506-6868 or 506-6767	480-303-1100
Death/birth certificates, funeral homes, human remains	506-6805	450-9982 or 420-2839
HIV (reports)	506-6426 or 506-6871	Not available
Public health emergencies	339-8749	480-303-1100
Rabies	506-7387	Not available
STDs (other than HIV)	506-6364 or 506-6147	Not available
TB	372-6661	480-303-1100

For change of name or address or to be removed or added to this mailing list, please email Heather Wanatowicz at: heatherwanatowicz@mail.maricopa.gov or call (602) 372-2604.

Aseptic Meningitis on the Rise

As of September 19, 2003, over 900 cases of aseptic meningitis were reported to the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, compared with 160 reported by the same time the prior year. No deaths have been reported during this increase. The age group showing the highest increase is 5 to 14 year olds.

Aseptic or viral meningitis is the most common type of meningitis and is commonly caused by enteroviruses. The dramatic increase in cases seen this year is largely due to an increase in circulation of Echovirus type 30. Aseptic meningitis is a viral infection of the central nervous system characterized primarily by onset of fever, headache, neck pain and stiffness, and often accompanied by nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, and general malaise. Complications are rare and is normally a self-limiting disease.

Enteroviruses are typically spread from person to person through fecal-oral routes and respiratory droplets. Therefore, it is important to prevent the transmission of this virus through good hygienic practices, such as frequent hand washing.

For more information go to: www.maricopa.gov/public_health

There's no easier way to fight germs than a good 'ol fashion hand washing....



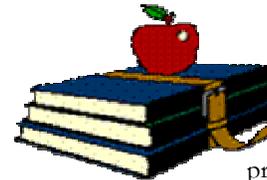
Maternal & Child Health Needs Assessment 2003 - continued

position, and barriers to well-baby care. This survey was repeated in 2002 and provides valuable information regarding maternal needs, experiences, and behaviors from the period just prior to conception through infancy.



The Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) program provides direction for prioritizing and targeting prevention and intervention efforts to reduce fetal and infant mortality at specific points in the health care continuum: maternal health and prematurity, maternal care, newborn care, and infant health. The approach compares the fetio-infant mortality in an area to a reference group with low mortality rates providing an estimate of excess or preventable mortality.

The needs assessment and the accompanying data tables are available on-line at the Maricopa County Department of Public Health web site, http://www.maricopa.gov/public_health/epi.



BACK TO SCHOOL IMMUNIZATIONS

With the return to school each fall, health care professionals' offices become very busy updating children immunizations.

For most grades, the three dose hepatitis B series is required and can take from four to six months to complete. For students in K-12th grade, DTaP, polio, and MMR are required. In addition, students in selected grades must get a second MMR. However, beginning in 2005, students in every grade from K-12 will be required to receive the 2nd MMR and hepatitis B immunization series.

The MCDPH Division of Community Health Nursing holds immunization clinics across the county. For a complete schedule of these clinics, visit: http://www.maricopa.gov/public_health/docs/immune/child-immune-schedule-2003.pdf or call 602-263-8856.

