



Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & Awareness Program ***“Saving babies’ lives one family at a time.”***

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Second Quarter

Increased Births to Unmarried Women, Highlighted in CDC Report, Impacts SBS Education Efforts

“A report released in May 2009 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention examined data on nonmarital births from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS). **The number of infants born to unmarried women in the United States reached an historic peak in 2007, at 1,714,643.** This number is 26% higher than the number in 2002 (1,365,966), 2.5 times the number reported in 1980 and 19 times the estimate for 1940 (89,500). **Nearly 4 in 10 U.S. births in 2007 were to unmarried women.** From 1980 to 2007 the proportion of births to unmarried women in the United States has more than doubled, from 18 percent to 40 percent.

CDC researcher Brady Hamilton, PhD noted that “the decline in teenage childbearing has been documented across all race and ethnic populations, but most impressive has been the decline in these rates for non-Hispanic black teenagers.” However, the overwhelming majority of births to teenagers are to unmarried women. In 2007, 93% of births to 15-17 year-olds and 82% of births to 18-19 year olds were nonmarital.

The recent increases in nonmarital births have been widespread across race and Hispanic ethnicity groups. Adult women aged 20 and over have accounted for much of these increases. Sixty percent of births to women aged 20-24 years in 2007 were nonmarital compared with 52% in 2002. Nearly one-third of births to women aged 25-29 years were to unmarried women in 2007, up from one-fourth in 2002. Overall, 45% of births to women in their twenties were to those who were unmarried in 2007.

Nonmarital births are at higher risk of having adverse birth outcomes such as low birth weight, preterm birth, and infant mortality than are children born to married women. Children born to single mothers typically have more limited social and financial resources.

Many infants are also born to couples in cohabiting relationships. According to the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), about 40% of recent nonmarital births were to cohabiting women. Studies show that cohabitation arrangements tend to be less stable than marriages.” (*Ventura SJ. Changing patterns of nonmarital childbearing in the United States. NCHS data brief, no 18. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2009.*)

Across the nation more babies than ever are being discharged from the hospital to homes with unmarried parents or uninvolved dads. As OUR research has shown, victims of infant abusive head trauma, including shaken baby syndrome, in Pennsylvania are born to families who are unmarried. Every effort needs to be made to educate the fathers/father figures of the danger of shaking a child. This can be especially challenging when the parents are not married and father figures change. (*Kesler, Dias, et al. Demographics of abusive head trauma in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics 1:351-356, May 2008.*)

Nurses across Pennsylvania should keep these statistics in mind when educating all parents about shaken baby syndrome!

Special Points of Interest:

- **Unmarried Women Account for More Births Than Ever**
- **SBS Posters Mailed**
- **Closed Caption Video Available**
- **2008 Infant AHT Cases Updated**

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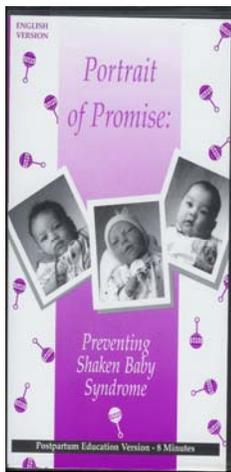
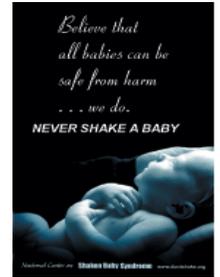
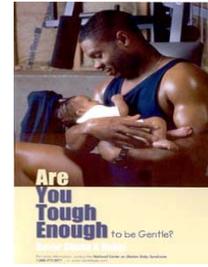
Remind parents to enjoy special moments with their baby!



Shaken Baby Syndrome Posters

In March 2009 the Pennsylvania Department of Health mailed four SBS posters, pictured to the right, to every Obstetric and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at birthing hospitals, children's hospitals and birth centers in PA. If you did not receive the free posters please contact Marlana Sattazahn at the PA Department of Health: 717-772-2762 or msattazahn@state.pa.us. Your hospital can purchase additional posters directly from the National Center for Shaken Baby Syndrome at www.dontshake.org

The posters fulfill the requirement of the law that notes that parents should be exposed to SBS education in easy to understand formats. Although the law does not specifically state that posters need to be visible on the unit this has become the community standard of nursing practice in the state of Pennsylvania and is highly recommended. Unlike the Safe Haven posters, the SBS posters DO NOT need to be visible in the hospital Emergency Department. The SBS commitment statement now has a check box to assist the nurses in documenting that the posters are visible to parents.



Closed Caption Video Available

As published in many prior newsletters the "Portrait of Promise" video has been available in a closed caption version since 2007 in both DVD and VHS formats. All PA children's and birthing hospitals and birth centers can get copies of the closed caption version FREE of charge from the PA SBS Prevention Program office. Please call 717-531-7498 or email any of the three nurse coordinators (email addresses on the back of this newsletter) if you need copies for your hospital.

There was a criminal trial this past winter in Pennsylvania in the death of an infant girl from abusive head injuries. The parents of the victim were both deaf. They were not offered the closed caption video in the hospital at the time of their baby's birth. This was discussed in court since it is the community standard of nursing practice in Pennsylvania that the video be offered to the parents and a closed caption version IS available.

Protect your tiny patients, your hospital & your nursing staff by ordering a closed caption video today!

Hospital Survey Update

The hospital SBS surveys have been distributed to over 102 hospitals since September 2008. The response rate has been very good. Since every PA hospital is asked to participate in survey distribution ONLY ONE MONTH A YEAR we hope that your hospital will make every effort to do so. Just a few reminders:

1. Educate the parents on SBS as usual then ask them to participate in the survey.
2. **Do not photocopy the surveys.** Each survey is individually numbered so **photocopying invalidates the information.** If you need more surveys please contact the SBS office and we will send them to you.
3. **Do not staple, punch holes or fold the surveys.** The survey results are electronically scanned therefore forms with holes, staples or folds cannot be scanned.
4. Return the surveys in the business reply envelope provided.

A special "THANK YOU" to all the hospitals who have participated in the survey distribution since September 2008. The first year survey results (September 2008-August 2009) will be published in the 4th Quarter 2009 SBS newsletter.

Frequently Asked Question of the Month: Is there a more up-to-date SBS video that we can use instead of the "Portrait of Promise©" since parts of it are outdated and seem to clash with the Safe Sleep video which is also being shown in hospitals?

Midwest Children's Resource Center produced the "Portrait of Promise©" video that is now used in all PA hospitals. The PA SBS Prevention & Awareness Program purchased the copyright for this video which permits us to supply all PA hospitals with copies free of charge. Both Midwest Children's Resource Center and the PA SBS Prevention Program acknowledge that the crib toys/bumper pads, telephone, clothing & hair styles in the video are out of date. **However, the very important message about infant crying, the pediatrician's recommendations, the parent's testimonials, the computer generated graphics and the tragic consequences of shaken baby syndrome remain current and significant. Therefore we continue to encourage that this video be offered to all parents!**

Midwest Children's Resource Center and the PA & NY SBS Prevention & Awareness Programs are actively seeking funding to update the SBS video. We will notify you when a new version is available.

We strongly support the Safe Sleep initiative and encourage you to educate parents that the information on Safe Sleep practice is to be followed from their video.

***Revised 2008 Report of Pennsylvania's
Infant Abusive Head Trauma Cases***

In the 1st Quarter 2009 SBS Newsletter we noted that *The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare: ChildLine & Abuse Registry* released the statistics of infant abusive head trauma in Pennsylvania for 2008. At the time of printing the SBS newsletter there were seventy-two documented cases of infants with head injuries that were confirmed to be the result of abuse including shaken baby syndrome in 2008. **Unfortunately eight more cases have been added to that list for a total of eighty children under the age of three who suffered these injuries last year.**

Of the eighty infants injured in 2008: Central PA reported twenty-five cases (31%); Eastern PA accounted for thirty cases (38%); and Western PA had twenty-five cases (31%). Additional cases are still being investigated in Western PA. Of the eighty total infants: forty-six were boys (58%) and thirty-four were girls (42%), ranging in age from 8 days old to 33 months old. Sixty-eight of the eighty perpetrators were parents and/or mom's boyfriend (86%), five were babysitters (6%), one was a grandma (1%) and six were unknown (7%). These statistics were significant because for the first time in PA there was one perpetrator identified from a licensed daycare center and for the first time one perpetrator was a grandmother.

The abusive injuries to the infants included: skull fractures, subdural hematomas, brain edema, retinal hemorrhages, and permanent brain damage. Associated injuries included rib fractures. **Fourteen of these children died from their injuries!**

To report cases of suspected child abuse call: ChildLine 800-932-0313.

Did You Know...

that parent acceptance of SBS education is directly related to how the information is presented. As an OB or NICU nurse you teach the parents about diapering, & swaddling, putting the baby on his back in the crib & breast or bottle feeding. Part of your routine education should also include infant crying. When educating parents begin by discussing crying as normal infant behavior, teach them crying facts, and techniques to quiet a crying infant. THEN discuss shaken baby syndrome. Parents WILL be more open to the discussion once they have the tools necessary to quiet a crying infant. GOOD LUCK!



*Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome
Prevention & Awareness Program
"Saving babies' lives one family at a time."*

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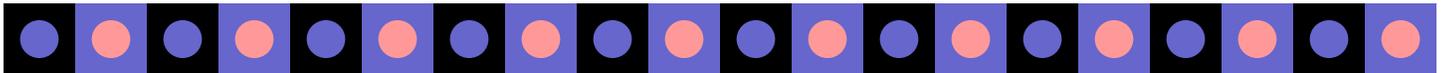
Preventing Infant Abusive Head Trauma through Parent Education

The *Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & Awareness Program* was developed in 1998 in Upstate New York by Dr. Mark Dias, Pediatric Neurosurgeon. Since the inception of the SBS program, Upstate New York has reduced the incidence of infant abusive head injuries by nearly 50%. In 2002, the identical program was started as a pilot study in central Pennsylvania and *Pennsylvania Law 2002-176: The Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Act* was passed. The program partnered with the *PA Department of Health* and in 2006 became the **first state in the nation** to provide SBS education in a consistent and comprehensive manner in 100% of all birthing and children's hospitals and free standing birth centers in Pennsylvania.

In October 2007, The *Centers for Disease Control (CDC)* awarded the *Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & Awareness Program* a \$2.8 million dollar grant to continue the prevention efforts by expanding SBS education into Pediatric & Family Practice offices in 16 counties in Central Pennsylvania. Phase II is funded by the CDC for five years.

The *Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & Awareness Program* provides PNA approved nursing in-services, supplies, educational videos and guidance free of charge.

Our goal, with your help, is to ensure that every parent of every child born in Pennsylvania receives education on shaken baby syndrome!



The Pennsylvania Hospitals/Birth Centers Providing SBS Education

Abington Memorial Hospital
Albert Einstein Medical Center
Allegheny General Hospital
Altoona Hospital
Armstrong Center for Med & Hlth
Barnes-Kasson Hospital
Berwick Hospital Center
Birth Care & Family Health Svcs
Birth Center: Bryn Mawr
Bloomsburg Hospital
Blue Mountain Health System
Bradford Regional Med. Center
Butler Memorial Hospital
Carlisle Regional Med Center
Chambersburg Hospital
Charles Cole Memorial Hospital
Chester County Hospital
Children's Hospital: Philadelphia
Children's Hospital: Pittsburgh
Clarion Hospital
Clearfield Hospital
Community Medical Center
Conemaugh Memorial Med Center
Crozer Chester Medical Center
Delaware County Memorial Hosp
Doylestown Hospital
Dubois Regional Medical Center
Easton Hospital
Elk Regional Medical Center
Ellwood City Hospital
Ephrata Hospital
Evangelical Community Hospital

Excelsa Health: Westmoreland
Forbes Regional Hospital
Geisinger Medical Center
Geisinger Wyoming Valley Med Ctr
Gettysburg Hospital
Good Samaritan: Lebanon
Grand View Hospital
Grove City Medical Center
Hahnemann University Hospital
Hamot Medical Center
Hanover General Hospital
Harrisburg Hospital
Hazelton General Hospital
Heart of Lancaster Regional Med Ctr
Heritage Valley HS: Beaver
Holy Redeemer Hosp & Medical Ctr
Holy Spirit Hospital
Hosp University of Pennsylvania
Indiana Regional Med Center
Jameson North Memorial Hospital
J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital
Jennersville Regional Hosp.
Lancaster Gen Women & Babies Hosp
Lower Bucks
Lehigh Valley Hospital
Lewistown Hospital
Lock Haven Hospital
Magee Woman's Hospital
Main Line: Bryn Mawr
Main Line: Lankenau
Main Line: Paoli
Meadville Medical Center

Memorial Hospital: Towanda
Memorial Hospital: York
Mercy Hospital: Pittsburgh
Mercy Jeannette Hospital
Mercy Suburban General Hospital
Millcreek Community Hospital
Montgomery Hospital
Moses Taylor Hospital
Mt. Nittany Medical Center
Nason Hospital
Ohio Valley General Hospital
Penn State Hershey Medical Center
Pennsylvania Hospital
Phoenixville Hospital
Pocono Medical Center
Pottstown Memorial Med. Center
Punxsutawney Hospital
Reading Birth & Women's Center
Reading Hospital & Med Center
Riddle Memorial Hospital
Robert Packer Hospital
Sacred Heart Hospital
Schuylkill Med Ctr
Sewickley Valley Hospital
Sharon Regional Health
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial
Somerset Hospital Health Center
St. Christopher's Hospital
St. Clair Memorial Hospital
St. Joseph Med Center of Reading
St. Luke's Hospital: Allentown
St. Luke's Hospital: Bethlehem

St. Mary's Medical Center
St. Vincent Medical Center
Temple University Hospital
Thomas Jefferson University Hosp
Titusville Area Hospital
Tyler Memorial Hospital
Uniontown Hospital
UPMC: Bedford Memorial
UPMC Horizon: Shenango Valley
UPMC: Northwest
Warren General Hospital
Washington Hospital
Wayne Memorial Hospital
Waynesboro Hospital
Western PA Hospital
Wilkes-Barre General Hosp.
Williamsport Hospital
Windber Medical Center
York Hospital



Happy Summer!

