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**Mission:** To reduce the infant mortality rates in the Minneapolis and St. Paul African American and American Indian communities.

**Purpose:** To establish a comprehensive and coordinated approach to reduce infant mortality throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul among the African American and American Indian communities.

To enable and empower these communities to create permanent institutional responses to the problem of infant mortality.

To improve access to health care and social services for women and their families.

**Beneficiaries:** All women residing in Minneapolis and St. Paul regardless of race/ethnicity who are defined by program criteria as at risk psychosocially for poor birth outcomes.

**Facts:**

- The infant mortality rate from 2007 to 2009 (years combined) was 7.1 per thousand (up from 6.5 for 2004 to 2006). The total number of deaths from 2007 to 2009 was 242 compared with 218 from 2004 to 2006. Death rates are highest in the African American and American Indian communities.
- In 2010, 986 pregnant women were screened at TCHS sites and 487 women were provided case management services.
- Core services are provided for pregnant women through their baby's second year of life. Activities include case management, health education, community based consortium and a plan that mobilizes community-based organizations and local, state, public and private providers to identify and eliminate barriers to quality, family-centered services.
- Directed by a community-based consortium comprised of local health departments, social and health providers, educational institutions, community based agencies, faith based agencies and community members.
- TCHS has provided services since 1999 and is one of 100+ projects nationwide.
- Founded in 1991, the National Healthy Start Initiative was established on the premise that community driven strategies were needed to address the cause of infant mortality and low birth weight, especially among high risk populations. Focus is on strengthening community systems knowledge of maternal and infant care and work with communities to address the medical, behavioral, social services and cultural needs of women and infants.