



Lunch n' Learn Webinar

Tuesday, October 14, 2021



Today's Presenters



SARA JANN
(SHE/HER)

Director of Policy & Advocacy
Maternity Care Coalition



LAURA STEPHANY
(SHE/HER)

Health Policy Manager
Allies for Children



COLLEEN MCCAULEY,
RN, BSN, MPH
(SHE/HER)

Health Policy Director
Children First



MAGGIE LIVELSBERGER
(SHE/HER)

Policy Director
Pennsylvania Partnerships for
Children

BECKY LUDWICK
(SHE/HER)

Vice President of Public Policy
Pennsylvania Partnerships for
Children

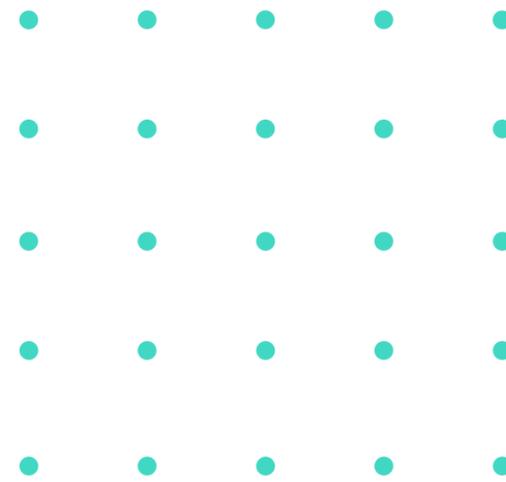


Today's Objective

To partner with you to ensure that mothers and birthing people, infants, and toddlers in Pennsylvania can thrive! That means ensuring our prenatal-to-age-three (PN-3) population has equitable access to quality health and nutrition supports.

This is the goal of Thriving PA.

Thriving PA is a non-partisan, statewide advocacy campaign focused solely on perinatal health (the period around the time of birth) and child health.



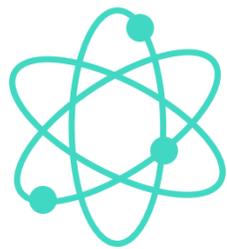
About


Thriving PA



What Does it Mean for Mothers, Infants, and Toddlers to Thrive?

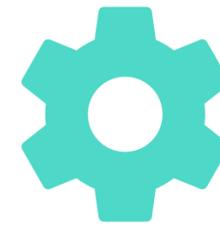
SUPPORTING PRENATAL-TO-AGE-THREE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT



Starting during the prenatal period, all biological systems in the body interact with each other and adapt to the context in which a child is developing—for better or worse.



The brain is most impressionable in the first three years of life, forming more than 1 million new neural connections every second.



The socio-emotional, physical, and cognitive capacities that are built in the first three years are all important for later success in school, the workplace, and the larger community.



When we support them in their earliest years, infants grow into healthy kids who are confident, empathetic, and ready for school and life—and our communities, workforce and economy become stronger and more productive.

What Does it Mean for Mothers, Infants, and Toddlers to Thrive?

SUPPORTING MATERNAL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH



A healthy baby starts with a healthy mom.



Parents play the lead role in their child's healthy development, but all parents are stretched in the earliest months and years of their child's life.



All mothers need access to care during and after pregnancy, and they need access to regular well-child visits, screenings, and mental health care that give their babies the best start in life.

Perinatal Health

GOAL: IMPROVE OUTCOMES AND PROMOTE EQUITY FOR FOLKS WHO USE MEDICAID AS THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE DURING PREGNANCY



**PERINATAL
HEALTH**



In PA, pregnancy-associated deaths increased by 21% over a five-year period and disparities persist.



Non-Hispanic Blacks accounted for 23% of pregnancy-associated deaths in Pennsylvania from 2013 to 2018, while only accounting for 14% of births in Pennsylvania during this time period.

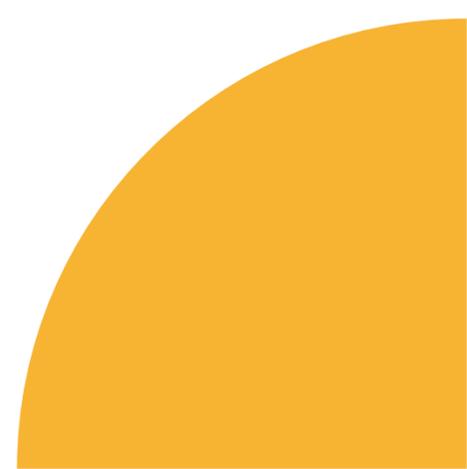


With over one-third of Pennsylvania's births paid for by Medicaid, expanding and enhancing access to high-quality care up to one year after birth is a key strategy for mitigating maternal mortality and morbidity.



Perinatal Health

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE PERINATAL HEALTH OUTCOMES:

-  Expand access to health care while pregnant and the first year following birth
 -  Increase depression and anxiety screenings during the perinatal period & improve coordination of services
 -  Support access to doula services
- 



**PERINATAL
HEALTH**



Children's Health Insurance

GOAL: CLOSE THE UNINSURED GAP FOR PENNSYLVANIA BABIES AND TODDLERS

SIGN UP TODAY FOR HEALTH INSURANCE

WHY? Babies and Toddlers Need Regular Health Check-Ups

Health insurance opens doors to regular doctor's visits for check-ups, shots to help prevent diseases, dental care and more!
Every child deserves a healthy start for success in school and life

HOW? No Health Insurance? Medicaid and CHIP Can Help

If your child needs health insurance, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) can help. **Apply at any time, 365 days of the year!**

No family makes too little or too much to get health insurance
Sign up your child today for free or low-cost health insurance
get the peace of mind of knowing they're covered.

Sign up today!

Medicaid 1-866-550-4355 or [online](#)
CHIP 1-800-986-KIDS (5437) or [online](#)
Pennie™ 1-844-844-8040 or [online](#)

INSCRÍBETE HOY PARA TENER SEGURO MÉDICO

¿Por qué?

Los bebés y los niños pequeños necesitan controles médicos regulares

¡El seguro médico abre las puertas a citas médicas regulares para poder recibir chequeos, vacunas que previenen enfermedades, servicios dentales y mucho más!

Todo niño merece un comienzo saludable para tener éxito en la escuela y en la vida.

¿Cómo?

¿Sin seguro médico? ¡Medicaid y CHIP pueden ayudar!

Si tu hijo necesita un seguro médico, Medicaid y el Programa de Seguro Médico para Niños (CHIP) pueden ayudar. ¡Solicítalo en cualquier momento, los 365 días del año!

Ninguna familia gana ni muy poco ni demasiado como para no poder tener seguro médico.

Inscribe hoy mismo a tu hijo en un seguro médico gratuito o de bajo costo, y ten la tranquilidad de saber que está cubierto.

¡Inscríbete hoy!

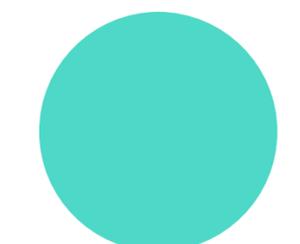
Medicaid 1-866-550-4355 o [en línea](#)
CHIP 1-800-986-KIDS (5437) o [en línea](#)
Pennie™ 1-844-844-8040 o [en línea](#)



PA has the 4th highest uninsured rate in the country for young children under age 3



Families have options! Efforts to reach eligible but uninsured children by educating families about free or low-cost health insurance available through Medicaid, CHIP, and Pennie™



Children's Health Insurance

GOAL: EXPAND COVERAGE IN CHIP TO INCLUDE CHILDREN NOT CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS



**CHILDREN'S
HEALTH
INSURANCE**



Approximately 24,000 children living in PA could gain health insurance by expanding coverage, leading to better health outcomes



Steps to close coverage gaps:

- Reach eligible but uninsured children by educating families about the free or low-cost health insurance options available to them.
 - Expand coverage for kids, regardless of immigration status, through legislative action – Dream Care project
- 

Prenatal and Children's Nutrition (Women, Infants, and Children Program - WIC)

GOAL: SUPPORT THE MODERNIZATION AND FINANCIAL STABILITY OF WIC



Funding tied to participation – a downward spiral



PA trends

- 21% participation drop statewide, across all categories, since 2016
- The infant category had the largest decline, 27.5%
- \$3M reduction in federal funding in FY 2018 followed by a \$1.5M reduction in FY 2019
- PA has been experiencing downward trends in funding for several years: between 2009 and 2019, federal funding to the state for WIC decreased nearly 18%.



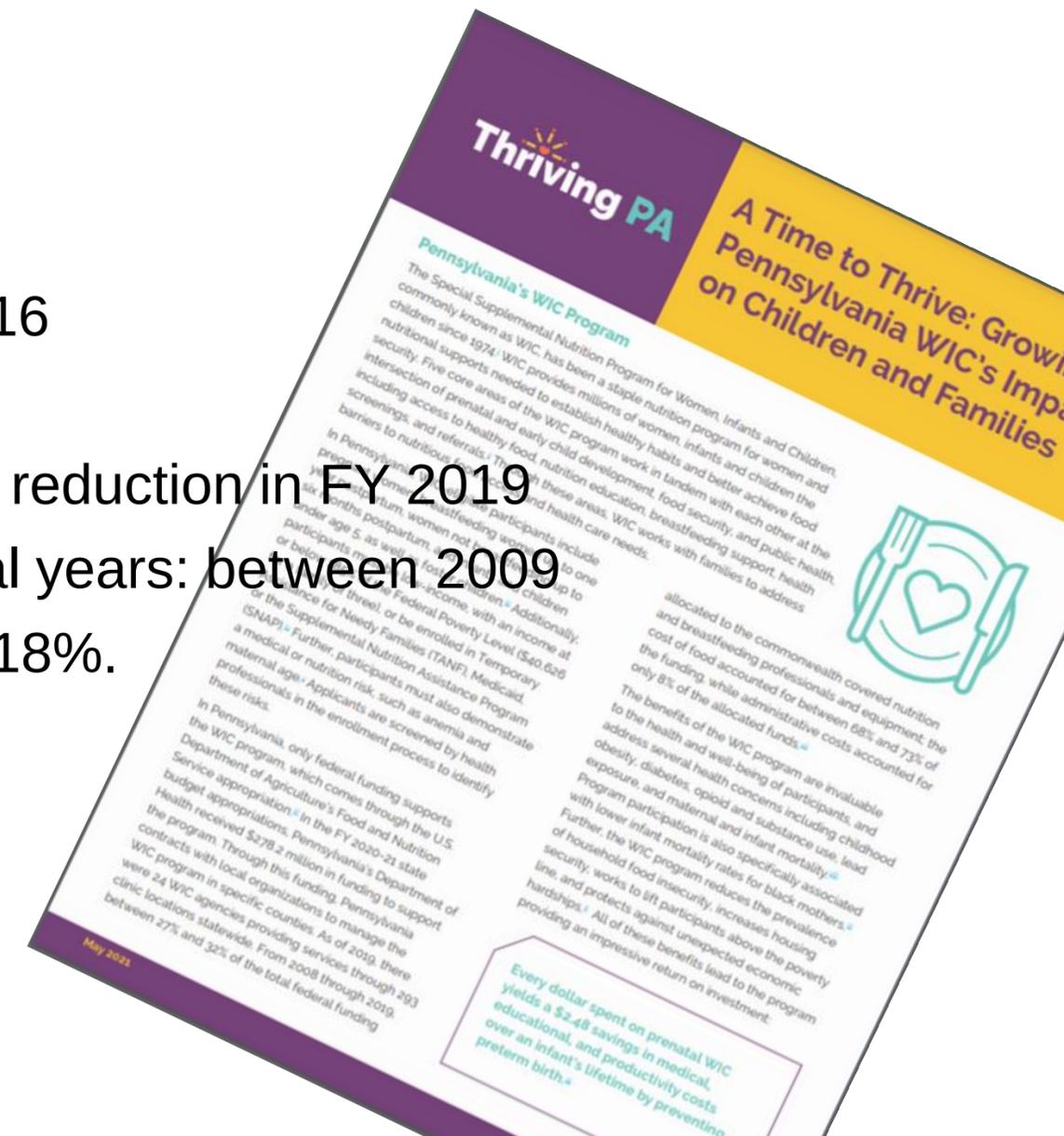
First steps

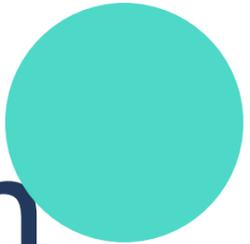
- Relationship with PA Department of Health
- Data publication



COVID opportunities and challenges, participant interviews

- Participation down 9% since the start of the pandemic





Prenatal and Children's Nutrition

(Women, Infants, and Children Program - WIC)

NEXT STEPS: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Broad menu: legislative and administrative, at both the state and federal levels. We focus on the following key areas:

-  Technology improvements
 - Telehealth
 - Mobile App Development and Smart Card Improvement
 - Establish a Technology and Innovation Workgroup
 - Online purchasing
-  Coordination and partnerships
 - Medical providers: co-location with pediatricians, OB-GYNs, birthing centers
 - Adjunctive eligibility
-  Certification, Eligibility, and Targeted Outreach



Children's Lead Screening and Abatement

GOAL: PASS A UNIVERSAL LEAD SCREENING BILL FOR CHILDREN TO BE TESTED AT AGES 1 AND 2

Inventory best practices in other states to inform the advancement of a robust bill.

GOAL: CREATE AN AUTOMATIC REFERRAL PROCESS FOR CHILDREN WITH ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS TO EARLY INTERVENTION TO ASSESS ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PROGRAM.

Advocate for a data agreement between the PA DOH and OCDEL to share information about children with elevated blood lead levels.

**CHILDREN'S
LEAD SCREEN
&
ABATEMENT**

Children's Lead Screening and Abatement



GOAL: CREATE A DEDICATED FUND FROM A RECURRING REVENUE SOURCE FOR FINANCIALLY HARDSHIP HOMEOWNERS TO REMEDIATE LEAD-PAINT HAZARDS

- ♥ Educate legislators and the public about childhood lead poisoning via the 40-member Lead-Free Promise Project Coalition via fact sheets on the new Lead-Free Promise Project website through one-on-one meetings, parent information sessions, reports, and press events.
- ♥ Identify legislative champions and supporters and draft a bill.

More About Pennsylvania's PN-3 Policy

Agenda

Thriving PA is part of Pennsylvania's Prenatal-to-Age-Three (PN-3) Collaborative, which consists of an ambitious policy agenda.

GOAL: INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PENNSYLVANIA LOW-INCOME INFANTS AND TODDLERS AND THEIR FAMILIES RECEIVING HIGH-QUALITY SERVICES BY 25% BY 2023 AND 50% BY 2025.

In addition to increasing access to high-quality services, the PN-3 collaborative focuses on ensuring equitable inclusion for all services and across the policy focus areas.

Recognizing people of color are disproportionately more likely to have poor health outcomes, access to employment, and access to high-quality early care and education experiences, our work will continue to uplift policies that break down those systemic inequalities.



More About Pennsylvania's PN-3 Policy Agenda



Broad-based, umbrella coalition comprised of four specific campaigns focused on access to voluntary, high-quality early care and education and healthy development opportunities for all Pennsylvania children and families



Advocates to help policymakers and the public understand the value of evidence-based home visiting and support public investments in the programs



START STRONG PA

Advocates for increased access to and affordability of high-quality child care



Advocates for increased access to high-quality, publicly funded pre-k for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds



Advocates to improve the quality of and increase equitable access to a coordinated system of health supports, including access to comprehensive perinatal health services, children's health insurance, nutrition supports, and lead screening and abatement

Thriving PA is a part of Early Learning PA.

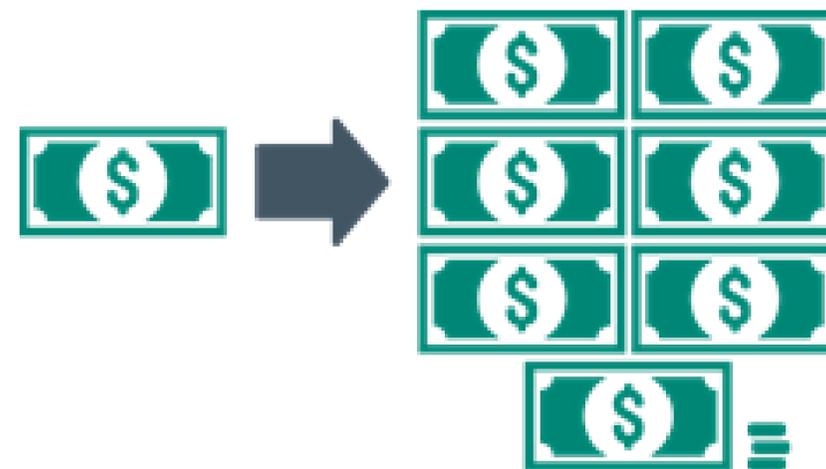
Early Learning PA's public policy agenda focuses on five critical early learning opportunities: pre-kindergarten, child care, home visitation, perinatal and child health, and early intervention (in development). It supports targeted campaigns, including Thriving PA, to advance its early learning care and education and healthy development agenda.

Why Help Pennsylvania's PN-3 Population Thrive?

EARLY INVESTMENT WORKS

When we invest in the first three years of a child's life, the returns for communities are the highest, and we can reduce the need for more expensive interventions later.

Research from Professor James Heckman at the University of Chicago found that investments in high-quality programs that support young children starting at birth deliver a 13 percent annual return—significantly higher than the 7 to 10 percent return delivered by preschool alone.



Investments in high-quality early childhood education starting at birth provides taxpayers with a **return of \$7.30** for every dollar invested.

Supporting America's babies today will ensure a prosperous tomorrow



This return has compounding benefits, driving a **13% year return on investment** through better education, health, social and economic outcomes later in life.

Sounds Like Important Work. Where Do I Fit?

In addition to program developers and practitioners, policymakers can help parents build the foundation for lifelong health and learning by ensuring that families and communities have the resources they need to provide responsive, supportive relationships for their young children.

That includes programs that support infants and toddlers by promoting responsive relationships, reducing sources of stress, and strengthening core life skills to build strong foundations for future success and support parents, families, and caregivers.



Who is at the Table? Can I Have a Seat?

It's a big table. Pull up a chair!

Nearly 200 individuals represent the health and well-being of infants, toddlers, and families at Pennsylvania's PN-3 table...

Children's hospitals. Community-based advocacy networks. Health care organizations. Nonprofit early child education, health, legal, and nutrition advocacy organizations. Parents and caregivers. Pediatricians. Private foundations. State and county health and human services departments. State agencies and offices. And more!



I Think I Heart Thriving PA. How Can I Help?

Show some love for Thriving PA:

 Like our Facebook page! Follow us on Twitter!

 Share our I heart Thriving PA graphic on social media!

 Host a hearing!

 Sponsor or co-sponsor legislation!



Thank You

Thriving PA and our presenters wish to thank you for your time and your interest in our work to help mothers, infants, and toddlers thrive in PA.

Together we can help ensure equitable access to quality health and nutrition supports.

Questions?

Maggie Livelsberger

Policy Director

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

717-440-7209

mlivelsberger@papartnerships.org

