



Mother & Child Health Coalition is a bi-state catalyst for improving maternal, child, and family health.

2012 Legislative Priorities

Primary Legislative Priorities

Infant Mortality Reduction and Prevention

- We monitor, educate, and support the following:
 - Adequate appropriation for the Healthy Start Initiative and other early intervention programs
 - Policy related to infant mortality prevention initiatives
 - Birth defects prevention policy

Access to Care

- We will monitor and educate regarding the implementation of appropriate federal and state plans in Kansas and Missouri to improve the coverage of health insurance and access to care for uninsured and underinsured children and families.
 - We support funding for Medicaid, Missouri HealthNet, and Healthwave reimbursements to dental, mental health, and pediatric providers at a sufficient level to ensure health professionals' participation in the said programs.
 - As the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights (TABOR) in other states has led to a drastic decrease in services to the uninsured and underinsured, we oppose TABOR and any similar proposals in Kansas and Missouri.
- We support high quality, affordable, early childhood care and education.
- We support policies and will monitor and educate regarding the public funding of maternal and child health programs that maintain and improve quality of care and eligibility levels for underserved populations.

Secondary Legislative Priorities

Childhood Obesity Reduction and Prevention

- We support policies or proposed legislation on the federal, state and local levels that positively impact the healthy food and fitness environments of children and families in greater Kansas City.

Immunizations

- We support federal, state, and local legislative and policy initiatives that promote immunizations which have been scientifically proven to improve maternal, child, and family health.

Child Safety

- We support policies promoting:
 - Motor vehicle passenger safety
 - Violence reduction and prevention, including those regarding weapons and bullying
 - Prevention initiatives related to alcohol, tobacco, and substance use among youth.

Breastfeeding

- We support breastfeeding as the primary source of nutrition for infants, due to the many health benefits it provides. We support, monitor, and educate regarding actual or proposed federal, state, and local policies that positively impact a mother's ability to breastfeed her child.

In choosing the 2012 legislative priorities for the Coalition, the following factors were taken into consideration:

- A. Suggestions from the MCHC Board of Directors and Committee Chairs
- B. Recommendations from Legislative Committee members
- C. Priorities of other advocacy organizations
- D. Traditional areas of MCHC concern
- E. Legislative trends and realities in the U.S. Congress and the State Legislatures in Kansas and Missouri.