



C.O.A.S.T.* Connections

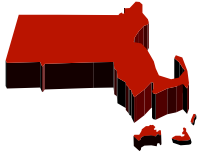
The Newsletter of Greater New Bedford C.O.A.S.T. (AKA The Greater New Bedford Health & Human Service Coalition)

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Serving Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester and Wareham

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Massachusetts Teen Birth Rate Lowest Ever Cesarean Births All Time High

(DPH releases 2005 Birth Report)

The teen birth rate in Massachusetts reached an all-time low while the number of cesarean births reached an all-time high, according to the 2005 Department of Public Health birth report. The teen birth rate was 46% below the national rate and declined 16% since 2000.

In 2005, the cesarean (C-section) delivery rate was the highest ever reported in Massachusetts: 1/3 births were C-sections or 32% of all births, making MA rate 7% higher than the U.S. rate.

"Massachusetts continues to be a leader for access to good prenatal care. Nearly 85% of pregnant women received adequate prenatal care. We want that number to be 100% and by doing so significantly reduce disparities in birth outcomes," said DPH Commissioner Paul J. Cote Jr.

Key findings:

- In 2005, the infant mortality rate (IMR) was 5.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, a decrease of 27% since 1990.
- Springfield and Worcester had IMRs higher than the state IMR.

- In 2005, there was a 2% decrease in the number of births (76,824) in MA.
- The percentage of mothers who reported smoking during pregnancy continued to decline in 2005 to 7.2%, down 63% since 1990.
- The percentage of low birth weight (LBW) infants (less than 5.5 pounds) remained high. Two factors contribute to LBW infants: the age of the mother and the increase in multiple births.
- The percentage of multiple births remained high in 2005. In 1990, 1/38 births was a multiple. In 2005, 1/22 births was a multiple. Multiple births are much more likely to be LBW.
- The percentage of births to non-U.S. born mothers continues to increase. There has been a 78% increase since 1990.

Disparities in birth outcomes continue:

- The black non-Hispanic IMR was twice as high as white non-Hispanic.
- The teen birth rate for Hispanic women was almost 6x higher than for white non-Hispanics.

- Cambodian, Central American and African mothers were less likely to receive prenatal care in their 1st trimester compared with mothers in other ethnicity groups.
- Among the 30 largest communities in Massachusetts, Brockton (11.5%), Revere (10.9%), New Bedford (10.6%), Springfield (9.8%), and Boston (9.6%) recorded low birth weight percentages that were higher than the statewide average of 7.9%.
- Less educated women were more likely to smoke during pregnancy, low birth weight deliveries, less likely to get adequate prenatal care.

The entire report is available on the DPH website: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/pubstats.htm>. The report is also available through MassCHIP: <http://masschip.state.ma.us>. ♥

Beginning in March 2007, **C.O.A.S.T.* Connections** will feature a series of cover articles that highlight each CHNA community.

New Bedford Mayor's Crusade Against Cancer: Recent Breast Cancer Seminar at City Infrastructure



A female contingent of 40 city employees attended the second in a series of early detection seminars at the Department of Public Infrastructure in January. It was

hosted by the *NB Mayor's Crusade Against Cancer*.

The agenda featured presentations by guest speakers Dr. Patricia Andrade and cancer survivor Barbara Pacheco. Brad Sell of Mattapoisett's video on the importance of the PSA test for prostate cancer

was introduced by Jim Merchant, Men's Health Partnership.

Special thanks to Aztra Zenaca pharmaceuticals for sponsoring the breakfast. Similar seminars for 2007 will be announced as well as expanding to other area communities. For more information, contact Ms. Linda Aguiar, American Cancer Society at **508-897-4325** or **888-648-4880**. ♠

(Pictured in upper left: Front: Dr. Patricia Andrade. Left to right Ana Silva (YWCA), Kathy Moraes (Southcoast Hospitals), Barbara Pacheco (Survivor), Linda Aguiar (ACS Exec). Back row: Ron Pelletier (AztraZenaca Rep & Sponsor), Jim Merchant (Men's Health Partnership)



Southcoast Mattapoisett Man of the Year Award

The NB Mayor's Crusade Against Cancer congratulates their

distinguished colleague, Brad Sell of Mattapoisett, MA, as this year's recipient of the 2006 Southcoast Times Mattapoisett Man of the Year Award. It was presented to Mr. Sell at White's of Westport as a part of the Southcoast Times and WJAR 10 tribute to area men and women in recognition of their outstanding service to the GNB area.

Mr. Sell is relentless in his pursuit of helping others on early detection of prostate cancer with state- and nationwide speaking engagements, including radio and cable television appearances. His compassion for others, while himself battling

this disease, has earned him the respect of thousands around the country. He is a driving force, inspiration and valued leader of the city's crusade committee. He was recognized at the 2006 at Greater New Bedford C.O.A.S.T. and Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community Annual Legislative Breakfast with a service award, and by the American Cancer Society's Southeast Region as unanimous choice for Volunteer of the Year. Mr. Sell's acceptance at the podium always touches those present with his candid and riveting style in thanking others for their efforts, contributions and support.

For more information, contact Ms. Linda Aguiar, American Cancer Society at **508-897-4325** or **888-648-4880**. ♣

(Pictured in upper left: Luice Moncevitich and Brad Sell)

Did You Know That...?

Light the Night Against Homophobia and Violence



candlelight vigil and press conference, including comments on various local initiatives in New Bedford's fight against homophobia, on **2/1/07**, 6:30pm, on the New Bedford Public Library steps. For

information, please call John at **508-415-9125**.

MA Fruit & Vegetable Council Meeting to plan for an upcoming launch in Boston on 3/19/07 will be held **2/5/07**, 9:00-10:30. For information or to RSVP, please call Cynthia at **617-624-5439**.

SCHC Substance Abuse Prevention & Youth Development Network meetings are scheduled for **2/6/07**, **4/3/07**, 9:00-Noon, at the David H. Mulligan Center for Health Promotion, 942 West Chestnut St., Brockton. For information, please contact Katy at **508-583-2350, x221** or kddossantos@hcsn.org

Why They Love Physical Education! The American Heart Association is partnered with MAHPERD and the Boston Celtics on its first-annual youth advocacy and art contest, P.E. & Me. Grade 6-8 students are encouraged to submit an entry (essay, sculpture, drawing, rap song, video) on why quality physical education is important to them, their school, and their community. Prizes will be awarded in multiple categories and include tickets to a Boston Celtics game in March, or the grand prize: a trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in AHA's Congressional Lobby Day activities. Deadline **2/6/07**. Please contact Shannon at **413-735-2104**.

Project Safe Neighborhoods presents Key to Successful Re-entry Initiatives, a review of the Boston Re-entry Initiative as a model, on **2/8/07**, 11:00-1:00, at the Bristol County Sheriff's Office, 400 Faunce Corner Rd., North Dartmouth, MA 02747. Pre-Registration required by 1/31/07. Contact Jodi at jodihockertlotz@bcso-ma.org or call **508-995-6400, x5397**.

Informational Luncheon for agencies who deal directly with the elderly or youth in GNB will be held **2/9/07**, 11:00-1:00, at the Hawthorne Country Club. For information call **508-994-0548**. Limit 3 representatives per agency.

Kick-Off Breakfast for Walk for Kids '07 is looking to recruit team captains for the 5K Walk to be held on June 2, 2007. Meeting will be held **2/9/07**, 8:00-9:00am, Buttonwood Park Zoo. Walk to benefit Community Care Services' Foster Care and Adoption Programs. Call Melissa or Stephanie at **508-821-7774**.

Southeast Center for Health Communities Announces a Job Posting for HIV/AIDS Service Coordination Collaborative, a full time position with benefits. Multi-cultural and multi-lingual diversity, affirmative action equal opportunity employer. Send resume to resumes@hcsm.org, or call Marisa at **508-583-2250, x229**.

NB Historical Society 8th Annual Frederick Douglass Read-A-Thon is a community celebration of his life and writings. Free,

2/11/07, 2:00-6:00, at the Friends Meeting House, Corner of Spring and Seventh St., NB. To read, contact Karen, nbhistory@aol.com or **508-979-8828**, or phone Laurie at **508-992-1207**.

RAPPP Youth Council MiniGrants will be awarded to youth serving agencies, schools and youth groups in the GNB area. The Youth Council Initiative is designed to award minigrants to various activities or projects involving youth. Grants will be awarded to groups whose focus relates to Environmental, Violence Prevention and Youth Risk Behaviors. Due **2/12/07**. Contact Michelle at **508-994-0548**.

Free Harvard Education - Harvard University announces that undergraduate students from low-income families will pay no tuition. If you know a low income family with an honor student graduating from high school soon, Harvard wants to pay the tuition. Also, Harvard announced reduced fees for students from families with incomes slightly higher. For information, call **617-495-1581**.

COALITION/COMMITTEE MINUTES & REPORTS



GNB COAST General Meeting. 1/4/07, 9:00, Coastline Elderly Services

Announcements:

New Cable Access Show - Dan will spotlight a different youth program in the city each month, and is looking for people who may want to promote their youth programs. Drug Free NB will have a Martin Luther King Jr. event for families and community members at the YMCA Teen Center on 1/14/07, 5:30-8:30pm with local activists and possibility the Mayor and Governor speaking. There will

be performances by 3rd eye, MIC and other entertainers.

Tom Gecewich was welcomed as a new CHNA member. He would like to meet with each attendee to get a feeling for what they're doing. The NB Health Department would like to partner with the members for a better city and region.

Karen Vernen-Thompson - High Point Treatment, a private non-profit has a continuum of

care on journey to recovery. Finding half-way houses is difficult, and they are limited as to whom they can take.

Marcia Picard, Suzanne Raposo - The Girl Scout cookie sale is in full swing at this time. For more information, see www.gscsm.org. People are encouraged to support troop booth sales that are happening throughout greater NB. If you're not a cookie eater, or are already



well stocked, you are encouraged to participate in “Cookies for a Cause” by purchasing cookies which the troop donates to one or several deserving agencies in the GNB area, like food pantries, women’s and homeless shelters.

Pauline Macedo – The Department of Human Services helps with food stamps, housing for elderly and assists Portuguese speakers fill out forms. They are planning a 13 week senior social at Grace Church for 35 individuals. 13 weeks at Grace church with socialization, entertainment, speakers, and a nutritious meal. The new series starts 4/7/07.

Tim Velho – RAPPP’s Faces of Teen Pregnancy Project will be released this summer. The awareness raising program interviewed teen parents from different age groups. The exhibit and stories will be open to the public. The Youth Council received a demonstration grant specific to area teens that must be completed by June or July. Agencies dealing with elderly or youth services are asked to contact him about crossing the generation barrier and raise awareness for youth and elders.

New Website Update – The beta site will be ready by the third week in January, and contain a user friendly directory.

Finances – Subcommittees would like more latitude to do more. The Community Foundation will manage our funding and will provide a spending card to subcommittees for expenses from their allotted yearly funding. They will also



have the opportunity to receive extra money for a special project, seek out funding, and give feedback on minigrants. Expected Coalition budget includes \$9,000 SEMRI, \$12,700 coming and \$35,000 due from Shields MRI, over next 2-3 months. Also pending is Southcoast DON for \$18,000 yearly for the next 3 years. A linear accelerator application has also come in, which would bring in substantial DON funding, if approved. The Coalition also has \$18,000 in the bank. Many thanks were extended to Carl Alves for his work as treasurer and fiscal management, and being an unsung hero over the years.

Minigrant Process - Events funded by GNB COAST will increase coalition visibility. Other suggestions include:

- RFRs should be open to the whole GNB area, and be evaluated, prioritized and decided by the Steering Committee. Projects must have a time frame and provide an evaluation at the end for the CHNA.
- Minigrant recipients need to participate at CHNA subcommittee meetings. Subcommittees will seek out these people, or may request committee programs. Groups currently not at the table work with groups who are.
- Recipients will send a representative to the general meeting for 12 months (2 hours monthly) Membership in GNB COAST is a benefit to their organization.
- Grantees must show sustainability, do-ability, and feasibility of any initiative. Involvement of

chairpersons brings it up a notch as recipients research programs that use some of the resources we have.

- A grant may range from \$500-\$5,000, and does not have to be an event.
- GNB COAST subcommittees can be active on more than one issue at a time, and receive funding assistance.

Membership Building:

- Attendees were asked to bring representatives from 3 uninvolved agencies to the table next month, so the Coalition can know their activities, sustainability, programs and needs.
- GNB COAST is pursuing a centrally located Kiosk to get the word out on GNB agencies.
- GNB COAST has P.O. Box 7567 in the downtown post office, and Lorraine has a large email list and temporary website for keeping in touch with the community. Members also have their own listserves with whom they share Coalition information.
- Coalition members want the betterment of the community, participating through subcommittee work. They may work with us as part of their job.
- A Spring Luncheon will be held in April in downtown New Bedford for about 250 people. Coast can be covered with about \$5,000. This can bring in CEOs and let them know who we are and where we are going. This can showcase subcommittees, strategic plans, our collective vision, what we do, programs, an

overview of the grant process, funding requirements, minigrants awarded (if applicable) and how the community is assisted. It will give an opportunity to see what we do with our funding, and can plant seeds that will grow. Invitees can include Representative Frank and other area politicians,

Wareham health & human services providers, the Wareham/Carver smoke free coalition and all towns in the CHNA area.

Next Steps:

- ☐ Invite and bring 3 new people to the next meeting
- ☐ Plan for the spring luncheon with everything completed by the first week of March.

- ☐ Email suggestions for luncheon venues to Lorraine
- ☐ Invite the Community Foundation to attend meetings

Next Meeting: 2/1/07, 9:00, Coastline Elderly Services

Contact Persons: Dan Riding, 508-994-0885, x3157, Tim Velho, 508-994-0548

GNB COAST Health Access Committee Meeting. 1/2/07, 9:15, GNB Community Health Ctr

Welcome Sarah Manuals: Ron announced that Sarah will be the new intern for GNB COAST. She will be receiving her MPH after her internship. She will work 25 hours weekly, half of those hours spent coordinating the Maternal and Infant Mental Health Project. (Perinatal Connections Project)

Perinatal Connections Project will have two main goals:

1. Outreach and Education – We can order free materials obtained quickly to start distribution to GNB providers.

2. Training - We will sponsor a half day Maternal and Infant Mental Health Conference. We envision bringing dynamic speakers such as Libby Zimmerman, Dr. Driscoll, or Emily Fineberg. Target date is mid May. We could model our conference on the Cape Cod conference that took place last year a CCCC. The Center for Women's Health in Dartmouth could be a possible site for a 3 hour conference from 9-12. The agenda could begin with one or more women who have experienced postpartum depression telling their personal stories. Then a Keynote speaker followed by a panel discussion with a DPH representative such

as Karen Downs, social workers such as Sue Bliss from the community health center and a community based organization. Kerry will check the schedule of the Medical Ed program at Southcoast Hospitals Group which meets monthly at each hospital site. Kerry will check on the schedules so we can conduct a presentation at all three sites. We may be able to get onto the agenda for 20 minutes. Kerry will check on the schedules for the Perinatology Committee at Southcoast Hospitals Group which includes all pediatricians; ob/gyns; Physicians Assistants; Nurse Practitioners, and Nurse Midwives. Ron could present the latest DPH Infant Mortality Data in the presentation in addition to the Perinatal Connections Project.

Networking Opportunities:

- **Partners for a Healthier Community** meets in the Jackson Room at Charlton Hospital on 1/12/07. Sarah, Judith and Ron may attend.
- **The Cape & Islands Maternal Child Health Committee** will meet 1/16/07, VNA Conference Room. An outreach forum is planned for March. Mary

Wilson is Chair of the Cape Cod Neighborhood Support Coalition through Community Connections.

- **The Wareham Social Service Collaborative meeting** is held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Sarah will attend with Gail Brennan on 1/24/07 at the Wareham Multi-Service Center. Susan Pizzolato is the Chair.
- **Perinatal Providers Group in New Bedford** will meet on 1/25/07 at the DTA.

Other Details:

Kerry Mello will check with Ellen Banach, Vice President of Strategic Services to see if Southcoast would like to co-sponsor the Perinatal Conference (in name only) since we do have the funds to conduct the conference. Since we will be conducting trainings at all 3 sites, it may make sense for Southcoast to attach their name to the project.

Next Meeting: 2/14/07, 8:30am Greater New Bedford Community Health Center lower level (WIC entrance)

Contact Person: Judith Coykendall, 508-995-3026, x231.

GNB C.O.A.S.T. Calendar of Events: February 2007

Feb 1, 9:00	GNB C.O.A.S.T. General Meeting.	Coastline Elderly Services, 1646 Purchase St.
Feb. 2, 12:30-2:30	GNB C.O.A.S.T. Domestic Violence Committee. RSVP to Camille at canderson@ci.new-bedford.ma.us .	South Coastal Counties Legal Services, 21 South Sixth St.
Feb 14, 8:30	GNB C.O.A.S.T. Health Access Committee.	GNB Community Health Center, 874 Purchase St.
Feb. 15, 3:00	GNB C.O.A.S.T. Advocates for Youth. Jocelyn Andrade, 508-990-8280, x219.	Seven Hills Behavioral Health, 589 South First St.
Feb. 16, 1:00	GNB C.O.A.S.T. Steering Committee.	Seven Hills Behavioral Health, 589 South First St.



GNBHHSC (GNB C.O.A.S.T.)
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To submit an article, announcement or other information to C.O.A.S.T. Connections, please email Lorraine Rosa at mcaprosa@yahoo.com or Skype mrosanet by **2/15/07**. You may also access copies of this newsletter at www.geocities.com/gnbhhsc.