



## **Becoming a Mom/Comenzando bien® Programming in Kansas** September 2015

The March of Dimes prenatal education curriculum was developed in 1998 (copyright 1998, 2011) by the March of Dimes Foundation in partnership with the National Alliance for Hispanic Health and the National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services. It began as two separate curricula: the Pregnancy Workshop, an English language curriculum for pregnant women and Comenzando bien, a bi-lingual curriculum for Hispanic women. In 2010 the March of Dimes combined the two curricula into *Becoming a Mom (BAM)*, a general bi-lingual curriculum for all pregnant women. By 2013, eighteen states and Puerto Rico had established more than 100 *Becoming a Mom* programs serving more than 13,000 pregnant women.

In 2010, the March of Dimes Kansas Chapter began development of community collaboratives bringing prenatal education and clinical prenatal care together to create the comprehensive *Becoming a Mom* program. The program is targeted to communities with demonstrated birth outcome and infant mortality disparities racial/ethnic and socioeconomic. BAM partnerships have formed with local partners including the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, county health departments, federally qualified health centers, private obstetric practices, and hospitals serving women. Program evaluation tools were developed in partnership with the University of Kansas and Wichita State University with refining the data infrastructure through the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research in 2015. Preliminary birth outcome data shows statistically significant improvements including fewer preterm births and fewer low-birth weight babies. Sites are reporting increases in breastfeeding initiation rates and lowered infant mortality rates.

There are currently 10 Kansas communities implementing the BAM program, with many more that have completed training and indicated interest in implementing. As of 2015, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is overseeing the programs, with focus on integration projects (safe sleep, smoking cessation, breastfeeding) and expansion of the collaborative model and program to other areas of the state.

### **Communities currently implementing the BAM program:**

- Saline County – Year 5
- Geary County – Year 3
- Riley & Pottawatomie Counties – Year 1
- Crawford County – Year 1
- Wyandotte County – Year 1
- Reno County – Year 1
- Lyon County – Year 1
- Clay County – Year 1
- Sedgwick County – Year 1



### **Communities that have attended training or indicated interest in BAM program development:**

- |             |             |              |           |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| • Anderson  | • Douglas   | • Johnson    | • Osage   |
| • Allen     | • Ellsworth | • Labette    | • Pawnee  |
| • Barton    | • Gray      | • Lincoln    | • Rice    |
| • Bourbon   | • Greeley   | • Meade      | • Seward  |
| • Cowley    | • Hodgeman  | • Montgomery | • Shawnee |
| • Dickinson | • Jefferson | • Morris     |           |