

Infant Health Screener (0 to 1 Year Old)

Kent County has consistently had some of the highest infant mortality statistics in the state and Michigan's infant mortality rates are higher than the national average. The Infant Health Screener offers local health care providers a way to identify traditional and non-traditional risk factors that affect infant health.

Healthy Kent 2010's Infant Health Implementation Team (I-Team) used state and national data, a literature review of best practices, local Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) data and recommendations and input from community forums and focus groups to develop Core Concepts of Infant Care. In addition to physical health, these Core Concepts recognize many family socio-economic factors as legitimate health risks. Factors such as domestic violence, depression and other mental health issues, substance abuse and lack of basic needs all can have a critical impact on an infant's health and survival.

The Infant Health Screener has been designed from these Core Concepts to help providers identify physical and psychosocial factors that put the infant at risk. The screening tool is user-friendly, can be self-administered and incorporates research-based questions that are sensitive, reliable and valid. Infants and their families who have positive screens may be given more in-depth assessments when necessary and, through the use of the Infant Decision Trees and the Child and Family Resource Council's Family Resource Guide, may be offered appropriate services to reduce these critical health risks.

Currently there is no universal method of screening infants for these risks. We offer this tool to all health care providers with the conviction that if we begin asking the same questions, measuring the same things and using and designing our community resources to address these issues, we can positively affect the health of our babies and the infant mortality rate in our county.

We hope you will join us in this effort.

The Healthy Kent Infant Health Implementation Team

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