Prematurity costs the state of Wisconsin over $400 million dollars each year. Families experience prematurity in every county in Wisconsin.

In 2013:

- **414** Wisconsin babies died before blowing out their first birthday candle.
- **854** Wisconsin babies were born small enough to be held in one hand.
- **6,653** Wisconsin babies were born prematurely.

Prematurity costs the state of Wisconsin over $400 million dollars each year. Families experience prematurity in every county in Wisconsin.

**The Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF)** is a coordinated effort in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha and Beloit to improve the community conditions that contribute to healthy birth outcomes. **United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County** is coordinating The Milwaukee LIHF Collaborative.

**In Milwaukee:**
During 2009-2011, Milwaukee had averaged 106 infant deaths per year. Our greatest opportunity to improve birth outcomes in Wisconsin is to prevent prematurity.

**Wisconsin Preterm Births, 2013**

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health Informatics.
Our Ask:

We are requesting a Legislative Council Study Committee on prevention of premature births to:

• Consider recommendations to address risk factors that contribute to prematurity.
• Inform legislation that expands practice, improves state agency efficiency and advances economic security for families in Wisconsin.

Recommendations

01 Expansion of Practice

Expand Health Care over the Lifecourse

• Increase preconception and interconception care
• Improve and increase access to quality mental and behavioral health
• Improve and increase access to quality dental services

02 Regulatory

Strengthen Fatherhood Involvement

• Expand medical transportation policy to include appropriate family
• Substantially expand transitional jobs programs to include permanent employment opportunities
• Increase restitution to crime victims (Victims of Crime Act)

03 Legislative

Reduce Poverty

• Expand Earned Income Tax Credits
• Implement Medicaid / Medicare parity
• Access Medicaid expansion to include billing for Community Health
• Expand Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD)
• Support Second Chance Act
• Repeal Wisconsin’s Birth Recovery Cost Program

Contact Us:
LaShawndra Vernon
Program Director
Milwaukee Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families
lvernon@unitedwaygmwc.org
414.263.8179
www.unitedwaygmwc.org/MilwaukeeLifecourse

*Funding for this project was provided by the UW School of Medicine and Public Health from the Wisconsin Partnership Program.