



PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

HealthySTART

Improving the health and well-being of women, children, families and communities.

Philadelphia Department of Public Health Healthy Start (PDPH)

PDPH Healthy Start is part of a national program to reduce infant mortality (a death of an infant before age one). Too many babies die each year in Philadelphia. Many of these deaths can be prevented. When women get early prenatal care and keep their regularly scheduled (13) prenatal care appointments, their babies are more likely to be born healthy. Philadelphia Healthy Start wants all pregnant women to get the care they need to have healthy babies.

We offer Pregnant Women and their Families

- In home visits, from pregnancy until the child is 18 months of age
- Health information and resources
- Support to help families protect and nurture their children's health

Our trained home visitors work closely with parents and other caregivers to help them make healthy choices for their families.

Our Goals

- Enroll women into early prenatal care
- Reduce the number of low birthweight babies
- Reduce the number of premature babies
- Improve the health of families
- Connect families to health insurance and services
- Help community programs and health clinics work together
- Bring together health care providers, community organizations, neighborhood groups and residents
- Promote awareness about infant mortality and how to prevent it
- Promote father inclusion

For More Information

Philadelphia Department of Public Health Healthy Start

Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health
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Philadelphia, PA 19107

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Healthy Start Services

Free, Caring and Close By



- Home visits
- One-on-one support and education in your home
- Prenatal care and other health services at community health centers
- Health education and resources (childbirth education, pregnancy education, child development)
- Preventive health care for moms and babies
- Help getting special services for your baby
- Education about pregnancy spacing
- The latest information about women's and children's health
- Chances to meet other moms and learn from each other
- Connected to health insurance
- Help meeting your goals – a case manager will help you make a plan to return to school, get back to work, and apply for your own housing

Our Link to the Community

PDPH Healthy Start serves as the backbone organization that supports the Philadelphia Healthy Start Community Action Network. The focus of this group is to reduce disparities in perinatal health outcomes and infant mortality through information sharing, collaboration, and linkages to effect community action. Group members include families, health and social service providers, community leaders and advocates.

We're in Your Neighborhood

In West and Southwest Philadelphia, the zip codes are:

19104	19142	19146
19131	19143	19147
19139	19145	19151
		19153

Having a Healthy Baby

Women who get early and regular prenatal care have healthier babies. You can get free health care at a health center in your neighborhood. You should start prenatal care as soon as you find out you are pregnant. If you think you might be pregnant, you can find out for sure by going to a health center for a pregnancy test.

Your health care provider and case manager can talk to you about:

- Eating healthy foods and exercising
- The risks of smoking cigarettes and how to stop
- The risks of taking drugs and alcohol and how to stop
- The risks of domestic violence and help if you need it
- Breastfeeding education and support
- Keeping your baby safe – help getting a car seat and crib
- Linking moms to women's health services

Even if you have had prenatal care before, each pregnancy is different. You will receive important health screenings at each prenatal appointment. These screenings can help prevent or treat health problems before they become serious.

Women should take care of their health all the time, not just when they are pregnant. Health care before and between pregnancies will address medical conditions that can affect your baby if you become pregnant.

