

# FIMR/HIV as a Methodology for Improving Care of Pregnant Women and Infants Affected by HIV

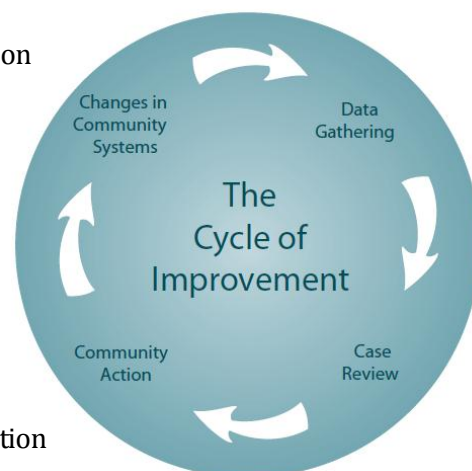
- The Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)
    - Designed to review care and services for pregnant women and infants when a fetal or infant death has occurred
    - Includes case review and community action
    - Reviews sentinel events to identify changes needed to a system of services
  - FIMR/HIV adapted the FIMR methodology to select and review cases indicating missed opportunities for perinatal HIV prevention
    - Examples of sentinel events for case selection:
      - Infant diagnosed with HIV
      - Pregnant with late HIV diagnosis or no ARVs.
      - Woman with HIV receiving no or late prenatal care
  - FIMR/HIV uses an individual event to learn more about local health and community systems
    - Offers opportunities to assess, plan, improve, and monitor systems of care.
    - Provides a structure for identifying gaps in care to improve pregnancy outcomes and health systems serving women, infants, and families.
    - Stimulates action to address systems issues.
- The unique aspect of the FIMR/HIV process is incorporating the mother's story via an interview.
- Completes the information needed to accurately assess a sentinel event.
    - Engages and utilizes mothers' perspective and insights when identifying areas for improvement

## What FIMR/HIV is and What FIMR/HIV is Not

- FIMR/HIV is focused on systems issues going forward, rather than seeking redress.
- FIMR/HIV is used to understand the how and why of poor outcomes.
- FIMR/HIV is not peer review or medical case review.
- FIMR/HIV is not about assigning blame to either the patients or the providers.

## Steps in the FIMR/HIV Process

- Identify cases for review
  - Prioritize cases indicating a missed opportunity for perinatal HIV prevention
- Data Gathering
  - Collect information from maternal and infant medical records and conduct maternal interviews (when possible) using standardized instruments
- Case Review
  - Review selected de-identified cases with multi-disciplinary team – the Case Review Team (CRT)
  - Develop recommendations to address systems issues
- Community Action
  - Convene a group of clinicians and community leaders – the Community Action Team (CAT) to review CRT findings
  - Develop a plan for community action based on CRT recommendations
  - Mobilize the community for action and assure implementation



## Key Guidelines for FIMR/HIV

- Privacy is very important for the FIMR/HIV process and helps to keep case discussion focused on the systems and not individual case issues.
- Prior to the case review team meeting all case material is de-identified and discussion is held in confidence. No one should disclose the identity of the provider, patient/family or discuss how they know the patient.
- An essential principle when using the FIMR/HIV methodology is the importance of understanding the circumstances of the individual case and using those findings to develop recommendations to improve systems of care for the community.