

# BabyFirst Solano Perinatal Substance Abuse Project

MCH PHLI Leadership May 2011

SOLANO  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH



*Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health  
Bureau*



# The Perinatal Substance Abuse Project is designed to help babies be born substance free



Babies exposed to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs before birth are more likely to;

- Be born too early
- Be low birth weight
- Be at risk for learning disabilities
- Be at risk for chronic health problems later in life



# Background

## **Our Mission:**

**BabyFirst Solano is a public and private partnership committed to creating a system of care in Solano that educates and empowers pregnant women to deliver healthy and drug free babies. Three areas of focus:**

- teens
- African-American women
- women at risk of substance abuse



## First 5 Children and Families Commission provided funding for the BabyFirst Solano Perinatal Substance Abuse Project

The BabyFirst Solano Leadership Team looked for a program that included:

- Universal screening
- Immediate brief intervention
- A “warm handoff” to substance abuse services
- And was evidence-based

## Objectives

- Increase the number of women who receive an initial 4Ps screen
- Increase the number of women with a positive initial assessment who receive a second screen
- Ensure that any women without an initial screen are screened at labor and delivery
- Ensure that L&D has access to 4Ps screen data for all patients
- Increase the number of women with positive assessments for substance use who are referred to appropriate services

# Partners

- Five prenatal sites are currently participating, covering a high percentage of all Medi-Cal/Medicaid births in the county
- Two clinic sites see the majority of the Medi-Cal births in the county
- One private practice site with offices in three different cities

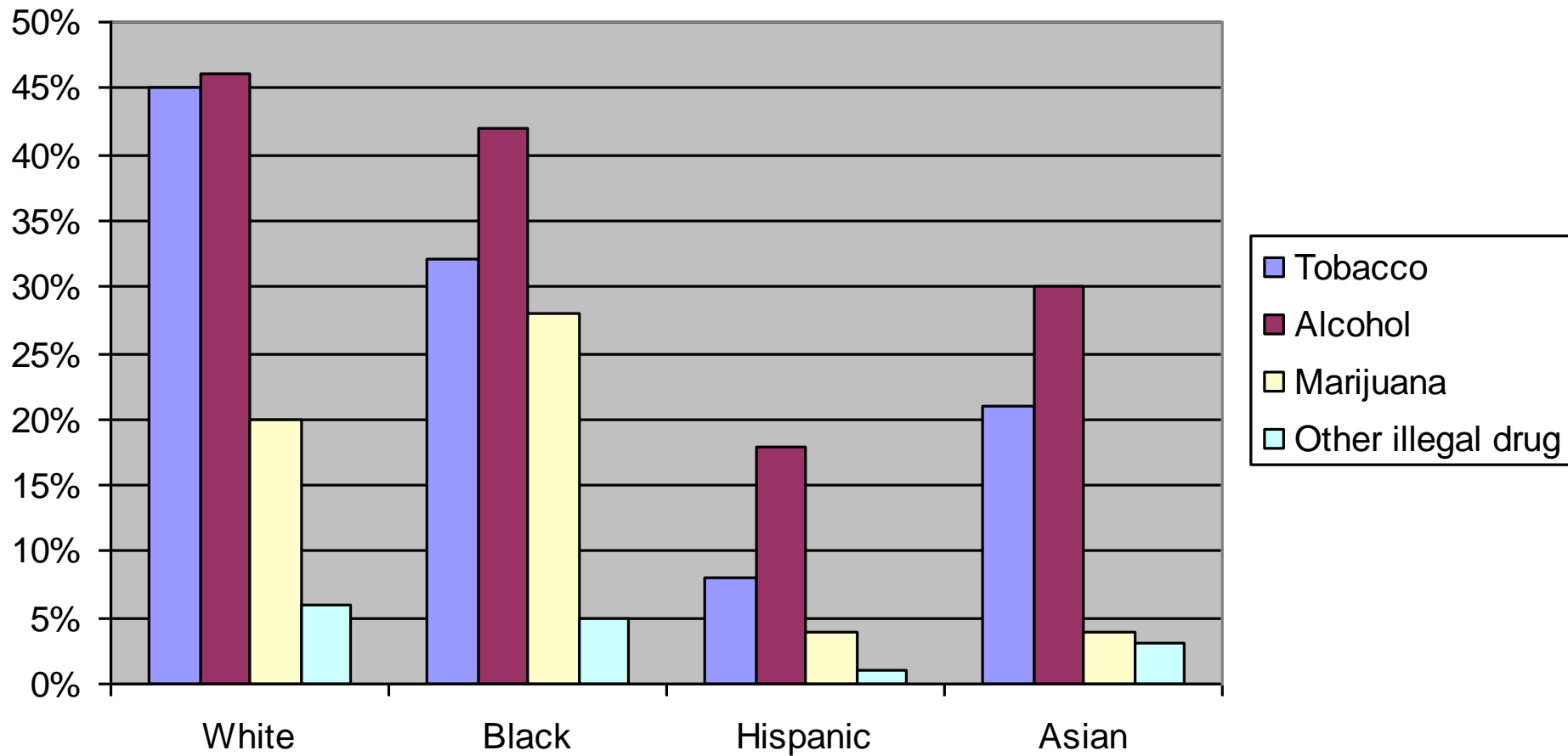


# Getting started

- Leadership Team
- Physician champion
- Lead agency/Project manager
- Board of Supervisors support/champion
- Buy-in from all parties
- Personal relationships between participating agencies

# Women Using Substances Before Knowing of Pregnancy, Solano County June 2006-September 2010

source: 4PsPlus Perinatal Substance Abuse Screening Project, N = 4799

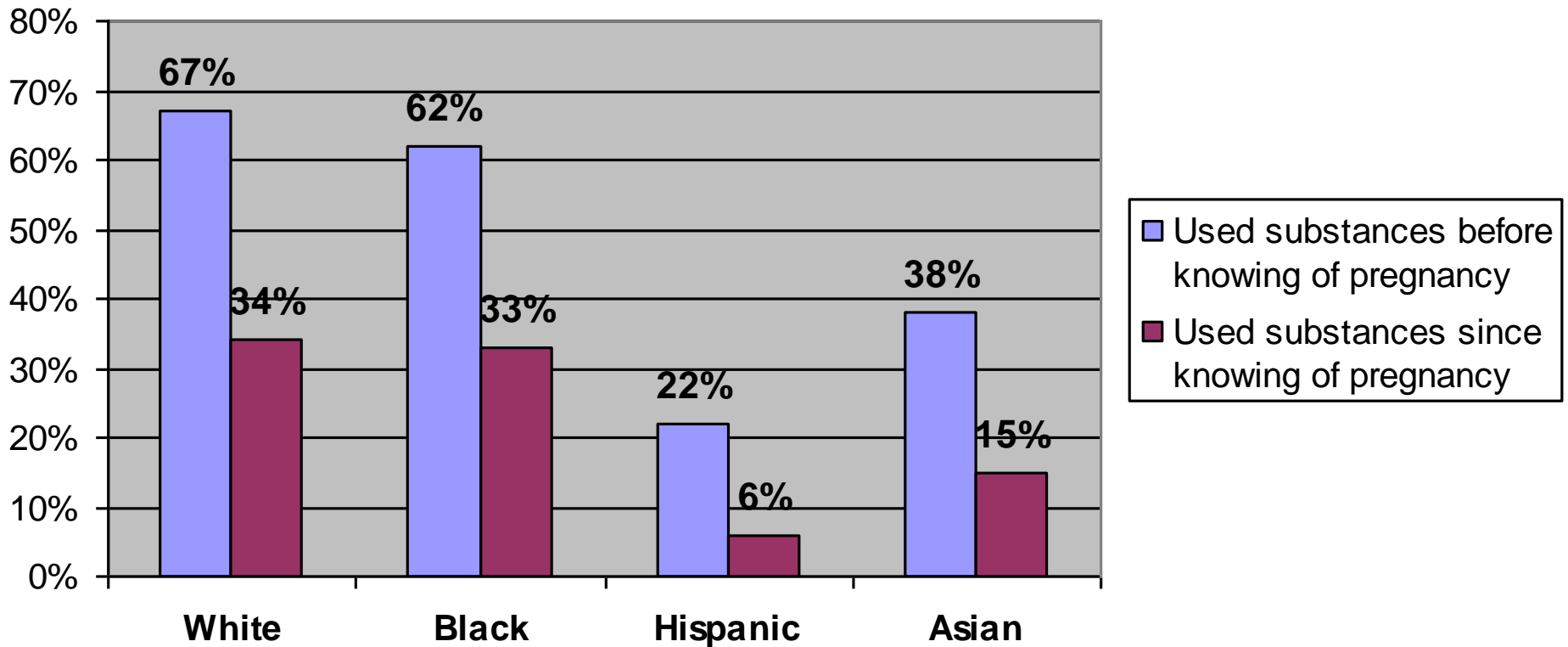




# Women Who Used Substances Before Pregnancy vs. Since Knowing of Pregnancy, Solano County June 2006-September 2010

source: 4PsPlus Substance Abuse Screening Project

used before knowing = 4799 women, used since knowing = 1928 women



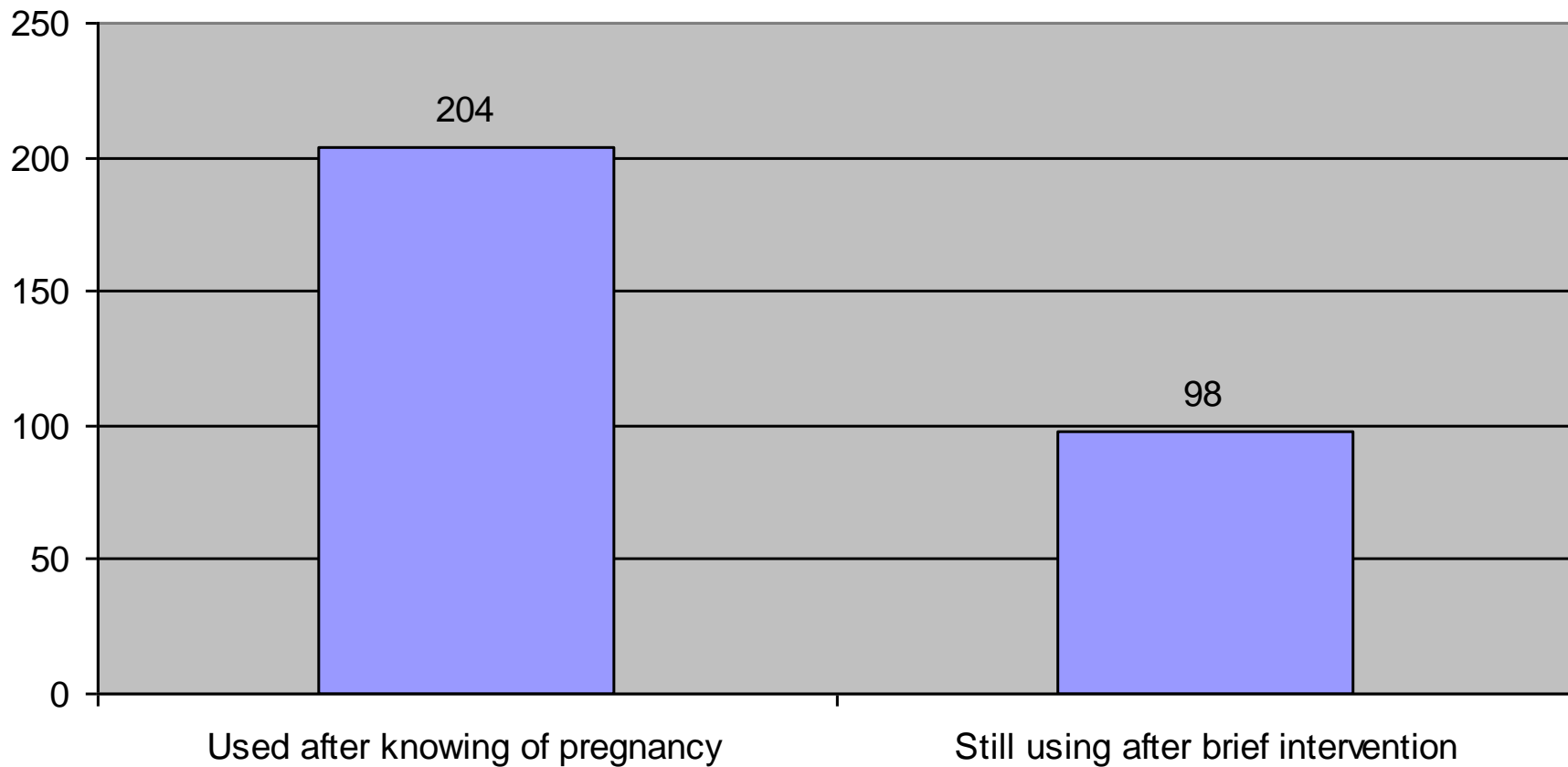
# At Risk for Depression and Domestic Violence

source: Solano County 4PsPlus Perinatal Substance Abuse Screening Project, June 2006-Spet. 2010

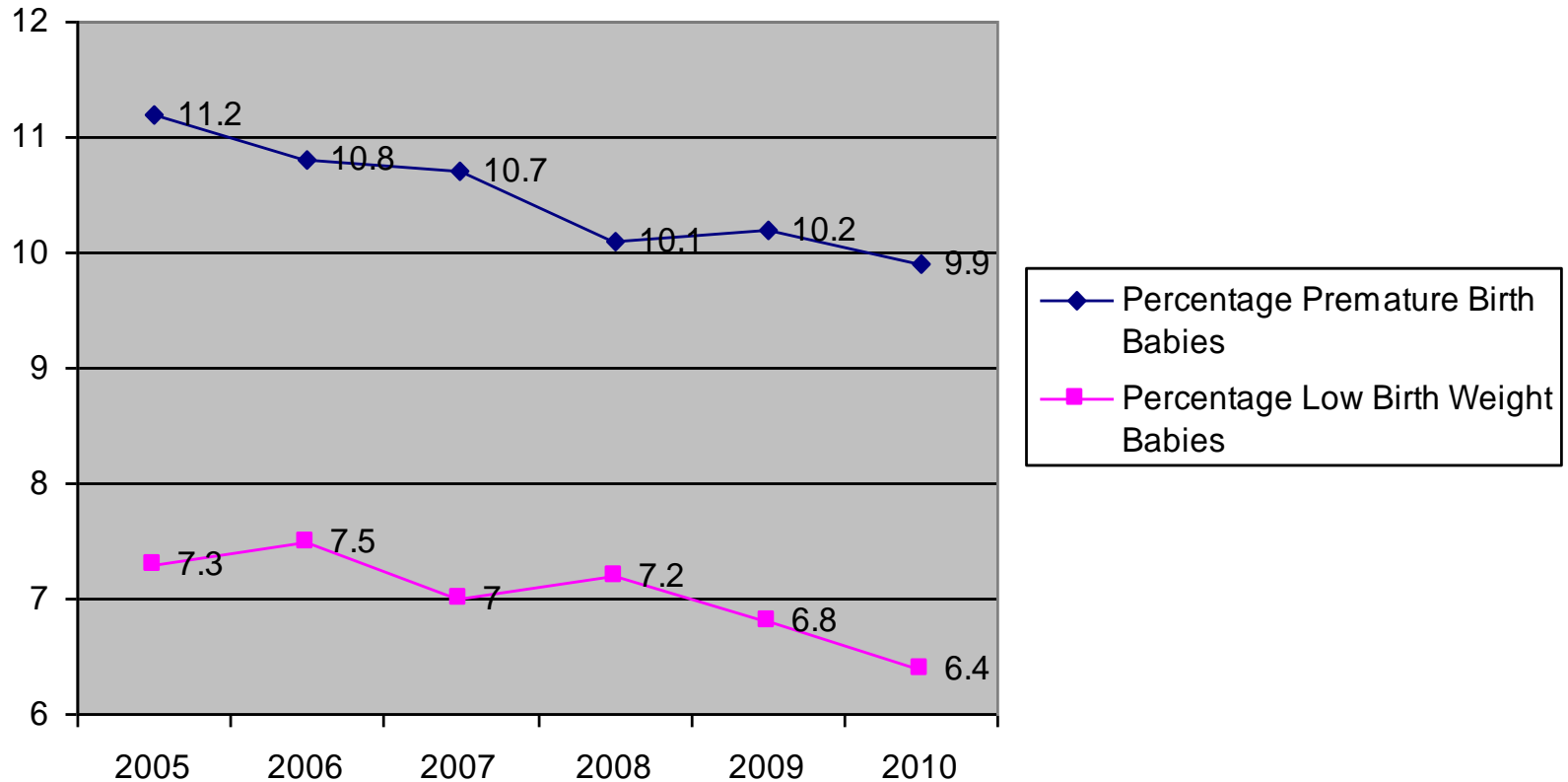
- 5.4% of women answered that her partner's temper was sometimes a problem for her, and
- 17.8% of women identified themselves as having felt “down, depressed, or hopeless” in the last two weeks
- Women “at risk” for domestic violence and depression have higher rates of substance use

## Rates of Substance Use Among Women Who Received a Brief Intervention

source: Solano County 4Ps Perinatal Substance Abuse Project 2006-2009, N = 548



## Low Birth Weight and Premature Birth Solano County 2005-2010



Automated Vital Statistics System, Birth Records

# Cost implications

- For every 100 pregnant women who receive brief intervention, you prevent 1.3 babies requiring ventilation.
- Assumptions:
  - ✓ ventilation costs average \$50,000/day
  - ✓ Average length of time on ventilator = 5 days
  - ✓ Cost of neonatal ventilation = \$250,000 per baby

# Continued Cost implications. . .

- 537 pregnant, substance-using women received a brief intervention
- With 1.3 fewer babies per 100 needing ventilation, from 2006-2009 approximately 7 fewer babies needed ventilation
- $7 \times \$250,000 = \$1,750,000$  saved by 7 fewer babies needing ventilation

# Cost implications

- Cost of Perinatal Substance Abuse Project from 2006-Aug. 2009 = \$1,170,000
- $\$1,750,000 - \$1,170,000 = \$580,000$  savings realized through August 2009.
- Note: these cost savings are only based on reducing ventilator costs. Babies born to substance abusing mothers can have a variety of other health problems.

# Challenges

- Fully integrating screens into clinical practice for all clients
- Tracking referrals and outcomes
- Protocols for women who refuse treatment
- Staff turnover
- Expanding to private pay insurance
- MOU developed
- Sustainability





# Lessons Learned

- Regular, face-to-face meetings between partners is critical for communication
- Ongoing staff training and re-training
- Design data collection into the program from the start and monitor regularly
- Need sufficient staff resources to analyze data
- Better coordination between prenatal care clinics and Substance Abuse providers

# Successes

- Ability to collect data
- 5,000 women have been screened
- Linked pregnant women who reported using during pregnancy to substance abuse services
- MOU completed
- Convened 4Ps Summit-Sharing and learning from each other

# Continued Successes...

- Published an article in the National Abandoned Infants Assistance Center magazine, “The Source”
- Presented at the CityMatch Conference September 2010
- Presenting at the National Conference on Substance Abuse, Child Abuse and the Courts, Fall 2011



# Continued Successes

- Presenting at the CityMatch Conference in San Francisco, September 18, 2011
- Promising Practice for the National Association of County and City Health Officials" (NACCHO) Model Practice
- BabyFirst Solano awarded the California State Association of Counties 2007 Challenge Award

# Contact Information

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