

News from the Safe Childbirth Special Interest Group (SIG)
IFIC Conference Update April 12, 2001
Please send your news to marycatlin@hotmail.com

The Safe Childbirth Interest Group (SIG) invites Infection Control Preventionists to join global efforts to address the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5: Reduce Child Mortality and to Improve Maternal Health.

The SIG will have a business meeting at the October 2011 IFIC meeting in Venice, Italy (see theific.org for more details of the conference):
Thursday 13 October 2011 from 17:00 to 18:00.

The scientific session will be held Thursday, 13 October 2011 at 4:00 PM

Confirmed speakers include Dr. Steve Wiersma, WHO's focal point on Hepatitis, and and SIG Member Linda Tietjen who is currently working on surveillance of neonatal sepsis in Mozambique.

With little more than 7 months before our next meeting, let's look at the goals set for this period and what work we need to do.

√ GOAL 1 MET. With IFIC and Covidien support, sponsor a small grant project for 2010. We're delighted to report that award winners from the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board Life Abundant Primary Health Care Program have submitted their report with lessons learned from their 12 month project working with village birth attendants to improve the knowledge and use of infection prevention including hand hygiene and instrument reprocessing in 5 rural maternities. A longer article will appear soon in the IFIC newsletter.

√ GOAL 2 MET. Sponsor a new small grant project for 2011. The St. Luke's Catholic Hospital and College of Nursing in Wolisso, SW Shoa, Ethiopia has been awarded the 2011 Covidien Safe Childbirth grant. They hit the ground running and have already submitted a first progress report. This 26 bed maternity ward with 2600 annual births currently has one sink available for all staff and patients and one towel, which they suspect may be contributing to the intermittent outbreaks of conjunctivitis and skin infections seen in neonates. Their goal is to improve the availability of antiseptic hand rub, provide education and institute practice audits to see if the fewer outbreaks occur.

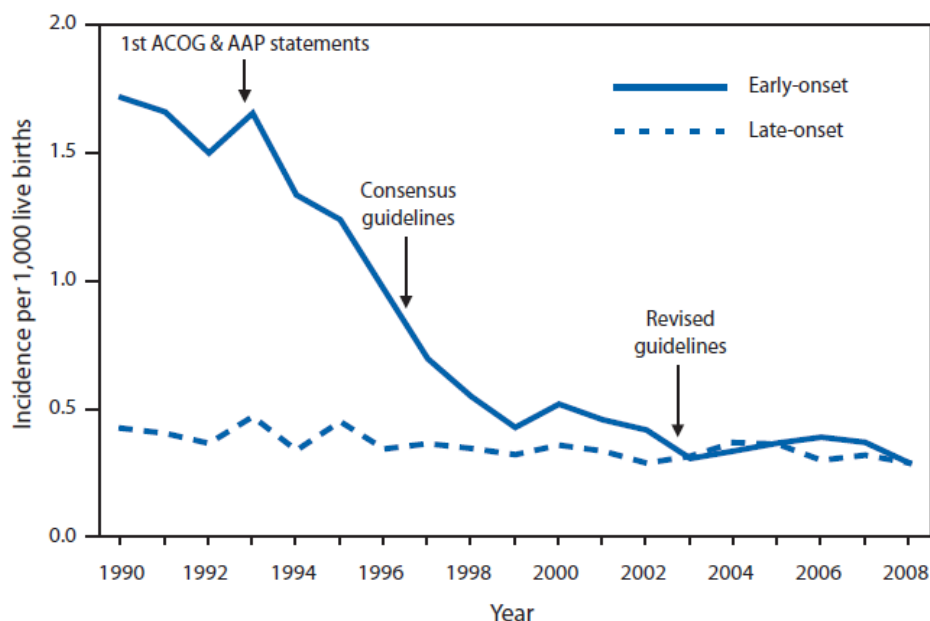
GOAL 3 MET? Encourage members to undertake infection control projects in improve maternal and neonatal health. Linda Tietjan is working on neonatal surveillance systems in Mozambique and requests exemplars of forms from others. Sr. Edita, Gwen Cerkowiniak and Maureen Mears are working on hand hygiene in Ethiopia. On behalf of our working group, I spoke at The WHO Safe Injection Meeting in Dubai encouraging SIGN members to apply rational use of medications and injection safety to maternity services, and have been reviewing designs of maternity facilities in Lesotho. We highlight work from Dr. Mbah Okwen and team below to illustrate why we all need to step up.

Dr. Mbah Okwen of the Department of Health of Cameroon is working with Dutch SNV and Peace Corps volunteers to make child birth safer. Their target population in health district of Bali of 73,614, 12% of the population are HIV+. They have an estimated neonatal infection rate of 7%. In three of their 14 health units, instruments used in deliveries was not undergoing sterilization prior to re-use in this setting with 12% HIV+. Some 63% of providers did not change gloves between patients. They have set a goals to improve care.

Let's hear from you about your work. PLEASE SHARE YOUR TEAMS EFFORTS WITH US. How can the SIG be of more service to you? Please report back by e-mail and/or in person at the October IFIC conference.

GOAL 3 MET? Encourage members to undertake research on topics related to Safe Childbirth. What work have we undertaken here? Have any of us put research of others into practice. In the US, for example new consensus guidelines to screen and prevent Group B Strep have been published. See <http://www.cdc.gov/groupbstrep/index.html>. Group B strep is often a common cause of serious and fatal infections in neonates

FIGURE 1. Incidence of early- and late-onset invasive group B streptococcal (GBS) disease — Active Bacterial Core surveillance areas, 1990–2008, and activities for prevention of GBS disease



Abbreviations: ACOG = American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and AAP = American Academy of Pediatrics.
 Source: Adapted from Jordan HT, Farley MM, Craig A, et al. Revisiting the need for vaccine prevention of late-onset neonatal group B streptococcal disease. *Pediatr Infect Dis J* 2008;27:1057–64.
 * Incidence rates for 2008 are preliminary because the live birth denominator has not been finalized.

GOAL 5 Make a bibliography available on infection control in Safe Childbirth.

Goal Withdrawn. While Pat Lynch and others took heroic efforts toward this goal. The goal was withdrawn since they felt electronic services such as PubMed now made the work duplicative.

GOAL 6 (Carried over from prior years). **Write a chapter or materials on infection control for perinatal settings in developing countries?** Is this still a priority? Any volunteers? Ideas?

GOAL 7 Sponsor a session at the annual conferences to invite speakers and have SIG members present their work on this topic.

Send your thoughts, ideas and comment. Or we'll await you at Venice at the business meeting and the Safe Childbirth session in October 2011!

Best regards,

Mary Catlin BSN, MPH
Safe Childbirth Chair
marycatlin@hotmail.com
mccatlin@uw.edu
001-206-604-2403