**Infant Mortality Awareness Month**

Infant mortality is an infant death during the first year of life. The infant mortality rate is an estimate of the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births.

**IN INFANT MORTALITY IS A MAJOR INDICATOR OF THE OVERALL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF A COMMUNITY**

- Leading causes of infant mortality
  1. Premature and low birth weight
  2. Congenital abnormalities
  3. SIDS
- In 2011, for every 1,000 babies born almost 7 died before they could reach their first birthday
- A black baby born in 2011 is almost 3 times more likely to die than their white counterparts born that same year

**Resources:**
www.everthriveil.org

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**SIDS & Perinatal Loss Awareness Month**

Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) is the unexplained death, usually during sleep, of a seemingly healthy baby less than a year old.

**FOLLOW THE ABCs OF SAFE SLEEP FOR A BABY:**
**ALONE, ON BACK, IN A SAFE CRIB, IN A SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT**

- 1 in 5 people know someone who has experienced the death of an infant.
- Black infants are twice as likely to die of SIDS than white infants.
- Bed-sharing with baby increases the risk of death 5x up to age 3 months even if there are no other risk factors present.

**Resources:**
www.sidsillinois.org

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**Prematurity Awareness Month**

Premature birth is when a baby is born before 37 completed weeks gestation.

**SOLVING THE COMPLEX PROBLEM OF PREMATURE BIRTH**

- 1 in 10 babies is born prematurely
- Premature birth is the #1 cause of death in newborns
- Premature birth is a leading cause of lasting childhood disabilities, such as learning, vision and lung problems

**Resources:**
www.marchofdimes.org/Illinois

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Please visit the Illinois Department of Public Health website at http://1.usa.gov/1iifmx6 for the full and most up-to-date listing of events.