

# Indianapolis Healthy Babies Fetal Infant Mortality Review Program (IHB-FIMR)

## The FIMR Process

Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) is an action-oriented process whose goal is to improve maternal child services and resources in the community. FIMR offers a strategic method to impact fetal and infant mortality by the following process.

### *The first step in the process is Data Gathering.*

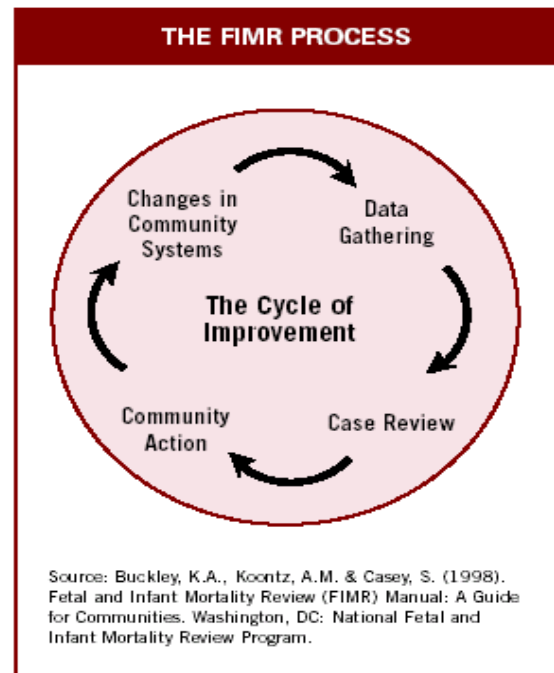
Charts of fetal and infant mortality cases are abstracted for pertinent information. A maternal interview is requested of the mother and if permission is given, a home interview is done. If the mother does not want a home interview then a telephone survey is requested. Our FIMR program also employs a Maternal Interview Survey. We are dedicated to obtaining the mother's story in order to "paint the picture behind the numbers." All information such as the client's name, baby's name, names of providers and institutions is de-identified. A case summary is written.

### *The second step of the FIMR process is Case Review.*

The case summary is presented to the Case Review Team (CRT). Members of the team represent a broad range of professional organizations and private and public agencies that provide services and resources for women, infants and families. As each case is examined, the CRT asks questions such as: What are the issues that may have contributed to this death? Did the family receive the services or community resources it needed? If not, why not? Are there gaps in the service delivery system? The CRT may identify barriers to care or trends in service delivery and suggest ideas to improve maternal and child health care policies. Recommendations from the CRT are then presented to the Community Action Team (CAT).

*The CAT is the third step in the FIMR process.* Members of this group translate the recommendations into actions and participate in implementing interventions designed to address the identified problems.

*The fourth step in the FIMR process is the most critical and involves changes in community systems* that occur when the recommendations are implemented. The continuous nature of the process provides a built-in quality improvement mechanism.



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