



resources in the community. Through February, 2007, AFRICAN has provided these clients with 1,467 referrals to over 120 community organizations. The following list briefly profiles AFRICAN clients and services:

- 34% Pregnant
- 30% Have children under two years of age
- 82% African American
- 64% Experience housing, utility, food, infant formula, and/or diaper needs
- 31% Referred to case management services such as Healthy Start, Head Start, Project SKIP (Successful Kids = Involved Parents), and Early On

In addition, AFRICAN community navigators have made 107 presentations providing education on preconception, perinatal, and interconception health to approximately 1,500 local providers and community members. Through its efforts assisting clients to reach needed services and educating community members on the issues surrounding infant mortality and consumer access, AFRICAN has identified a number of significant system gaps related to transportation, housing, financial support, substance use treatment, nutrition, and health education. AFRICAN is working with providers to not only plug the identified gaps but also to develop sustainable corrective action.

Early evaluation results of the intervention demonstrate high satisfaction ratings of the AFRICAN's clients, a testament to the quality and effectiveness the service has provided the community. An AFRICAN client joined staff in accepting the GFHC's honor at the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health's Awards luncheon on May 3, 2007 in Lansing, Michigan.

The Michigan Council on Maternal and Child Health was one of the first state level maternal and child health advocacy organizations in the country. Throughout its 24 year history, the Council has been a leading voice and partner with policymakers and communities around issues such as prenatal care, access to children's health care services, preventing infant mortality, building the infrastructure around school health education and services, and supporting infrastructure for children with special health care needs.

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