



411 South Wells Street  
Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60607

Tel (312) 334-0972  
Fax (312) 334-0973

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**MEDIA CONTACT**

Cecilia Boyd (312) 334-0972

**PACPI LAUNCHES 24/7 HOTLINE WEBSITE**

To expand the availability of information provided through the 24/7 Illinois Perinatal HIV Hotline, the Perinatal AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative (PACPI) unveiled the 24/7 Illinois Perinatal HIV Hotline website, [hivpregnancyhotline.org](http://hivpregnancyhotline.org) in March 2009. Health care providers, service providers, pregnant women, HIV-positive women or those just wanting to learn more about perinatal HIV transmission, can link to the new website day or night to get information about current treatment guidelines, links to specialty care, case management services and rapid HIV testing for women, just to name a few.

*“This new website really gives a good picture of how all the programs in the Illinois Safety Net of Prevention work together to help prevent perinatal transmission in Illinois”* said Anne Statton, Executive Director of the Perinatal AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative. The Illinois Safety Net of Prevention has been recognized by the Centers for Disease Control as a national model in its efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate perinatal HIV transmission.

The model, comprised of enhanced case management and social services, the 24/7 Illinois Perinatal HIV Hotline, and rapid testing for pregnant women, works collaboratively to ensure that no HIV-positive pregnant woman and HIV-exposed infant falls through the cracks of the care and treatment system. *“Everyone from hospital administrators, physicians, nurses and consumers will find something on this website. HIV-negative babies are really possible! This website can help link the pieces of the puzzle together to help make that happen.”*

Rates of perinatal transmission of HIV can be reduced to less than 2% with the timely administration of optimal care and treatment to HIV-positive pregnant women. In efforts to maintain these low rates, PACPI teamed up with the Illinois Department of Public Health to create the 24/7 Illinois Perinatal HIV Hotline.

Launched in March 2003, the hotline has provided real-time medical consultation on HIV-related pediatric and obstetric issues to Illinois for six years. Staffed by medical care providers from Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Children’s Memorial Hospital, and the PACPI Perinatal HIV Enhanced Case Management Program, the 24/7 Hotline links HIV-positive pregnant women to specialty HIV/OB services throughout the state of Illinois. The hotline partners hope that this new website will provide an extra resource in the Illinois Safety Net of Prevention and further reduce rates of perinatal transmission in Illinois.

For clinical and time-sensitive questions, please call the 24/7 Illinois Perinatal HIV Hotline at 1-800-439-4079. For more information about the 24/7 Hotline or HIV/OB related topics, please visit the 24/7 Illinois Perinatal HIV Hotline website at [hivpregnancyhotline.org](http://hivpregnancyhotline.org) or email [info@hivpregnancyhotline.org](mailto:info@hivpregnancyhotline.org)

*PACPI is dedicated to eliminating deaths from pediatric AIDS and to reducing the transmission of the virus from mother to their children in the state of Illinois.*

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