



# Isabella Higgins

*UNC-Chapel Hill, Junior*

Women's Studies & Sociology majors,  
Hispanic Studies minor

- **Research:** *Addressing Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5: Reduce Child Mortality and Improve Maternal Health*

**NC Model:** *Durham Connects*

# Outline

---

- History
- What are goals 4 & 5?
- Why do I care about goals 4 & 5?
- Globally
- Nationally: United States
- Locally: North Carolina
- Solutions
- Local model: Durham Connects
- Let's move forward!



# History of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- September 8, 2000: UN Millennium Declaration
- 8 MDGs
  - Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger
  - Achieve Universal Primary Education
  - Promote Gender Equality & Empower Women
  - **Reduce Child Mortality**
  - **Improve Maternal Health**
  - Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, & Other Diseases
  - Ensure Environmental Sustainability
  - Global Partnership for Development
- 2015: Target year to accomplish MDGs



# What are Goals 4 & 5?

---

- Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality
  - A. Reduce 1990 child mortality rate by  $\frac{2}{3}$ 
    - 1990: 12.4 million child mortalities
    - 2014:  $\sim\frac{1}{2}$ 
      - 5 million occur 1<sup>st</sup> year of life
- Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health
  - A. Reduce 1990 maternal mortality rate by  $\frac{3}{4}$ 
    - 1990: 543,000 maternal deaths
    - 2014:  $\sim\frac{1}{2}$
  - B. Universal access to reproductive health

# Why Do I Care About These MDGs?

---



- Students United for Reproductive Justice (SURJ)
- Reproductive Justice: Every woman's *human right* to...
  - not have a child
  - have a child
  - raise her child in a safe and healthy environment
- Reproductive justice is a *human right*



omenNC.org

NC Committee for CEDAW/CSW

# Globally

---

## Maternal Health

- 2012: 800 maternal deaths **EVERY** day
- Majority in Sub-Saharan Africa & South Asia
- 80% result from avoidable complications
  - bleeding, infections, eclampsia, unsafe abortion

## Infant Mortality

- 2012: more than 13,500 deaths **EVERY** day
- The main causes of death are often preventable
  - Pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, under nutrition



# Nationally: United States

## ■ Maternal Health

- US ranks **50<sup>th</sup>**
- Rates have increased!
  - 1990→2010:
    - 12→21 maternal deaths/100,000 live births
- Causes: lack of access to medical care, Cesarean sections, discrimination
- African Americans: **3-4** times *more likely*
- Impoverished: **2** times *more likely*



# Nationally: United States

---

## ■ Infant Mortality

- In 2011, US ranked 40<sup>th</sup>
- Rates have slowly decreased
  - 1990-2010
    - 9.2 → 6 infant deaths/ 1,000 live births
- Causes: congenital malformations, premature birth, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), maternal complications
- African American infants are 2.5 times *more likely* to experience infant mortality





# Locally: North Carolina

## ■ Maternal Mortality

- 2010: ranked 37<sup>th</sup> out of 50 States
- 2010: 11.4 maternal mortalities/ 100,000 live births

## ■ Infant Mortality

- 2010: ranked 37<sup>th</sup> out of 50 States
- 2010: 7 infant deaths/ 1,000 live births
  - Higher than national rate

- Race and class disparities



omenNC.org

NC Committee for CEDAW/CSW

# Solutions

---

- **Educate mothers**
- **Bring resources to women's communities**



# Educate Mothers

- “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” –Nelson Mandela
- Educate mothers on beneficial health behaviors
  - Breastfeed first 6 months
  - Wash hands
  - Sleep on back
    - Back to Sleep Campaign 1994



# Bring Resources to Women's Communities

---

- Women that belong to vulnerable groups
  - Poor, rural women; women in poor urban areas
  - Variety of factors
    - transportation, funds, knowledge of resources
- Successes
  - Health Extension Program Ethiopia (2004)
    - Achieved goal to reduce child mortality by 2/3
  - Mobile Women's Health Van – California (1999)
    - Prenatal care 3 weeks earlier

# Local Best Practice Model



omenNC.org

NC Committee for CEDAW/CSW

# Durham Connects

---

- Mission: “to increase child well being by bridging the gap between parent needs and community resources”
- Care for mother
  - Family planning
  - Screen for: drug abuse, domestic violence, depression
- Care for infant
- Bring together proposed solutions



# Results

- Greater connections to community resources
- Lower levels of anxiety
- 82% fewer overnights at hospital with infants
- 34% less infant emergency medical care
- Investment of \$2.2 million/ year leads to savings of \$6.7 million/ year

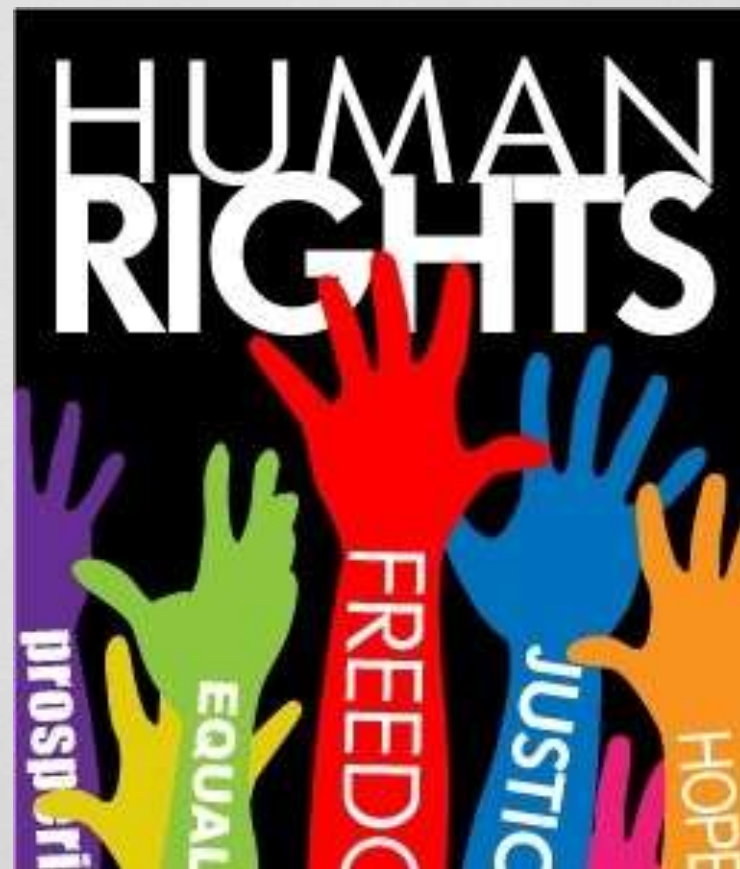


Marques & M.J.



# Let's Move Forward!

- Reproductive Justice **IS** A Human Right
- Create a better world for women and children
  - Donate
  - Educate
  - Advocate





# Thank You

---

## Photo Credits:

- Slide 3:
  - [http://www.farmingfirst.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/mdg\\_logo.jpg](http://www.farmingfirst.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/mdg_logo.jpg)
- Slide 7:
  - [http://28.media.tumblr.com/tumblr\\_lm7wdcm5kg1qc5goeo1\\_500.jpg](http://28.media.tumblr.com/tumblr_lm7wdcm5kg1qc5goeo1_500.jpg)
- Slide 9:
  - <http://healthandwholeness.org/new-report-nc-s-infant-mortality-rate-lowest-in-state-history>
- Slide 11:
  - <http://share.kaiserpermanente.org/article/april-2012-4/>
- Slide 13:
  - <http://durhamconnects.org/>
- Slide 15:
  - <http://durhamconnects.org/families.html>
- Slide 16:
  - <http://leadership-council.org/wp-content/uploads/human-rights1.jpg>



---

# Addressing UN Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5

Reduce Child Mortality &  
Improve Maternal Health

WomenNC Fellow 2014

rev March 2014

