

# Bridging the Gaps



## Cribs for Kids at Maternity Care Coalition

### Student Intern

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### Academic Preceptor

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## COMMUNITY PARTNER

The Cribs for Kids program at Maternity Care Coalition provides cribs and safe sleep education to families in the Philadelphia area with an aim of reducing Sudden Infant Death (SIDS).

<https://maternitycarecoalition.org/cribs-for-kids/>

## BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

Maternity Care Coalition was founded in 1980 and has served over 145,000 families in the Pennsylvania area. The Cribs for Kids program was established at MCC in 2004 and serves families in need in the Philadelphia area and has partner programs nationwide.

## TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

BTG assisted Maternity Care Coalition's Cribs for Kids Program by screening and assessing clients over the phone, presenting during the safe sleep workshops, delivering cribs to the home, and creating handouts for both clients and staff members. Clients were assessed over the phone to collect demographic information, determine eligibility to receive a crib, evaluate access to care, and evaluate prior knowledge of safe sleep practices. Handouts were created for clients with information on smoking cessation as well as how to keep your baby safe if other individuals in the household do smoke. Additionally, a list of external resources that Cribs for Kids team members often refer clients to were compiled into a master list to ensure that clients are referred to appropriate resources when needed.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CHALLENGES/ JOYS

- Utilizing interpreter services
- Delivering cribs to client homes
- Presenting during weekly safe sleep workshops
- Referring clients to other resources
- Becoming more familiar with social services/programs in Philadelphia



<https://cribsforkids.org/our-story/>



## REFLECTION

**Sydney Jones:** The Bridging the Gaps Community Health Internship Program has had a significant impact on both my personal and professional development. Through my experience with the Cribs for Kids program, I had the opportunity to individually connect with clients through the assessment and scheduling process. Speaking with clients individually allowed me to listen to their stories and learn a lot about the communities in the Philadelphia area. Through these client narratives, I noticed reoccurring trends such as lack of access to care, difficulty navigating social services, and a lack of knowledge of safe sleep practices. This experience taught me the importance of acknowledging potential barriers that clients may face and finding ways to dismantle these barriers. The Cribs for Kids teams eliminates potential barriers for clients by offering virtual workshops, utilizing interpreter services, and delivering cribs directly to client homes. Additionally, this experience exposed me further to the impacts of social determinants of health in the Philadelphia area and the drastic differences between zip codes. Professionally, this experience has made me more aware of barriers that individuals face and will make me more cognizant of environmental context when working with future patients. I also learned the importance of authenticity when working with clients to ensure a comfortable and trusting relationship. Personally, this experience has sparked my interest in working with non-English speaking clients and advocating for these clients as they navigate our complex the healthcare and social service systems. Delivering the cribs to the client's homes was extremely heartwarming and it was comforting to know that each day, we were making an infant's sleep environment safer.

