



Nutrition in the 1,000-day window:

A Special Series of the American Journal of Public Health

The 1,000 days between pregnancy and a child's 2nd birthday set the foundation for all the days that follow. While the medical, public health, and social support communities in the United States know which interventions are most critical to support the health and well-being of vulnerable families, a clear, unifying plan for policy, systems, and environmental change to improve nutrition security has been elusive. We know that how well or how poorly mothers and children are nourished and cared for during this time has a profound impact on a child's ability to grow, learn and thrive. This is because the first 1,000 days are when a child's brain begins to grow and develop and when the foundations for their lifelong health are built. Now more than ever – in the face of persistent racial health disparities, an ongoing pandemic and its economic fallout, we must unify around early childhood nutrition to make a significant impact on maternal and child health.

The American Journal of Public Health (AJPH), in collaboration with 1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI Solutions (501C3), will launch a special series focused on the importance of nutrition in the 1000-day window, through pregnancy, infancy and toddlerhood. With contributions from 15 authors, the series will highlight the state of science and research needs, as well as how policies, systems, and environments affect the nutrition of mothers and children.

WHEN: October 26, 2022

WHAT: Original research, systematic reviews, essays, and editorials

WHERE: American Journal of Public Health (www.ajph.aphapublications.org)

WHY: Breaking the cycle of poverty and inequity starts at the very beginning. The United States must prioritize nutrition for families in their 1,000-day window.

The series will release October 26, 2022. Three of the papers will be available in a 'soft launch' the week of September 19 in anticipation of the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health to build momentum and continue informing leadership about the powerful 1,000-day window.

Authors include, but are not limited to:

- **Dr. Ruth Petersen**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity (and guest editor)
- **Shawn Baker**, Chief Nutritionist, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- **Sara N. Bleich**, Director of Nutrition Security and Health Equity, Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture
- **Rafael Perez-Escamilla**, Professor, Yale School of Public Health
- **Dr. Kofi Essel**, Community Pediatrician, Children's National Hospital
- **Usha Ramakrishnan**, Professor and Chair, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

This AJPH series provides the opportunity for the early childhood, health care, philanthropy and public sectors to embrace a clear unifying plan to ensure every family can access optimal nutrition.