



Breaking Ground *for* Success

- INFANT MORTALITY

The groundwork for a child’s healthy development is laid during the brain’s rapid growth throughout pregnancy. To ensure babies are healthy, we have to support mothers with timely and frequent, high-quality prenatal care. In Ohio, many babies are born prematurely and too many do not make it to their first birthday. Poverty disproportionately impacts young children and families of color, making it even more difficult to overcome adversity and maintain healthy development. Empowering parents and caregivers to support their baby’s development through health and educational interventions allows Ohio to ensure that babies are positioned to thrive during their first year and beyond. Ohio must do a better job of reaching our most at-risk babies and families early.



Infant Mortality



Infant mortality is defined as the death of a live-born baby before their first birthday.

An infant mortality rate is the number of babies who died during the first year of life per 1,000 live births. In 2016, 1,024 Ohio infants died before their first birthday out of the 138,200 births. Ohio ranks 41st out of 50 states for infant mortality with rate of 7.4 for every 1,000 live births.

Why are Ohio's black babies dying at nearly 3X the rate of white babies?

Overview of Ohio infant mortality rates:

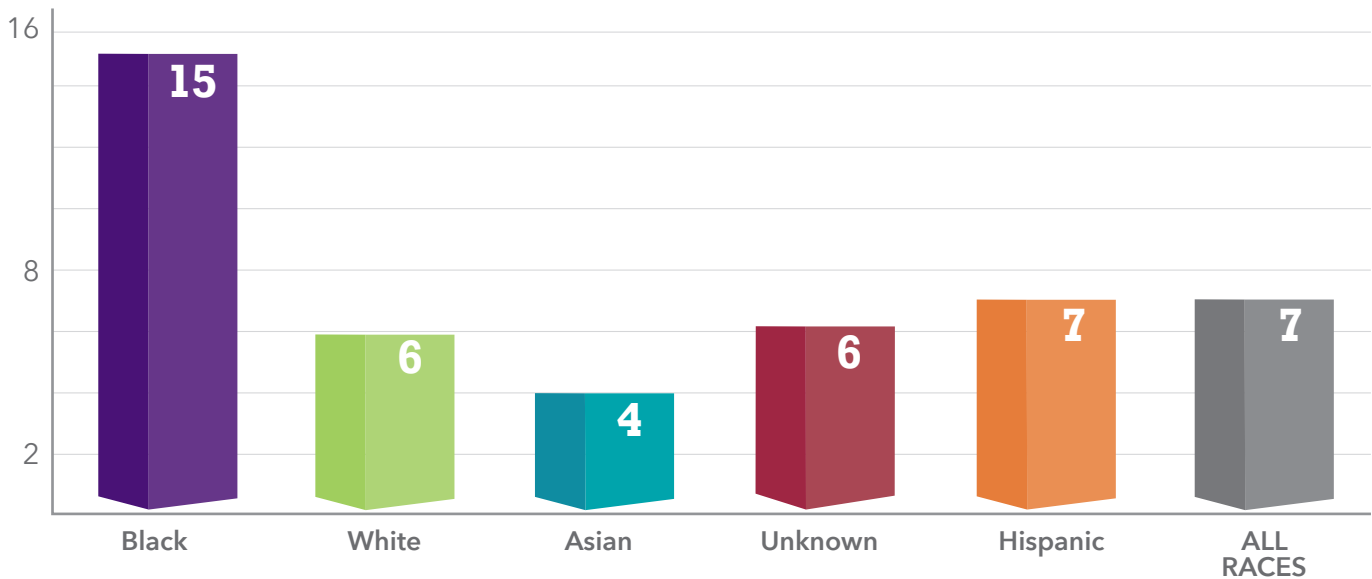
Table 1			
2016 STATEWIDE Infant Mortality Rate by Race			
Race	Estimated Births	Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)
Black	24,275	369	15.2
White	105,200	610	5.8
Asian	4,750	18	3.8
Unknown	3,975	25	6.3
American Indian	<10	2	unknown
ALL RACES	138,200	1,024	7.4

Table 2			
2016 STATEWIDE Infant Mortality Rate by Ethnicity			
Ethnicity	Estimated Births	Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)
Hispanic	7,400	54	7.3
Non-Hispanic	131,000	970	7.4
TOTAL	138,400	1,024	7.4

Note: The birth estimates vary when disaggregating them by race and ethnicity due to gaps in the data that identify these demographics.

Chart 1

Combined Data: 2016 STATEWIDE Infant Mortality Rate by Race & Ethnicity (per 1,000 births)



Infant Mortality

Table 3 and Chart 2 provide similar infant mortality rate data for the six geographic regions selected for this study.

The results shown for the 5 counties and the Appalachian region mirror that of the state as a whole. The infant mortality rate for white babies is significantly lower than that for black babies in every region. Due to very small numbers in many counties, infant mortality data for other race and ethnicity groups were not available for county-level analysis.

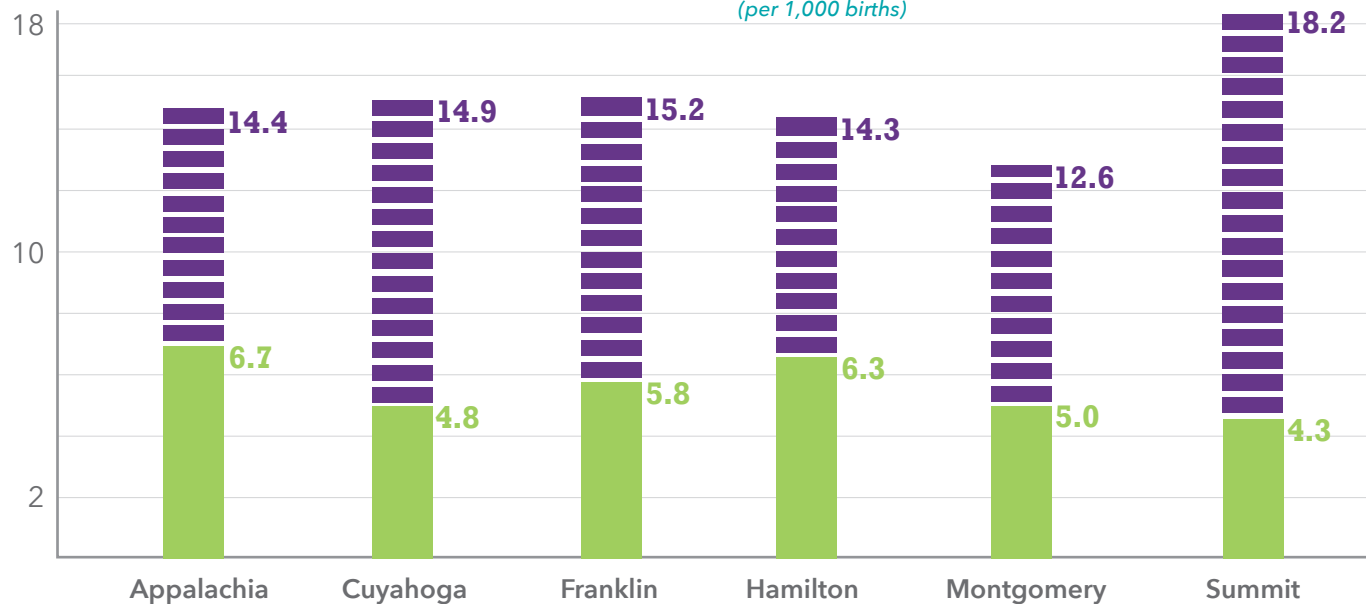
Table 3
■ White ■ Black

2016 Infant Mortality Rates by Region and Race

Region	Total Live Births	White Infant Deaths	White Mortality Rate (per 1k)	Total Live Births	Black Infant Deaths	Black Mortality Rate (per 1k)
Cuyahoga	7,917	38	4.8	5,705	85	14.9
Franklin*	10,690	62	5.8	5,855	89	15.2
Hamilton	6,349	40	6.3	3,497	50	14.3
Montgomery	4,400	22	5.0	1,746	22	12.6
Summit	4,186	18	4.3	1,319	24	18.2
Appalachia***	18,575	125	6.7	1,041	15	14.4*

* The black infant mortality rate for Appalachia should be viewed with caution as it is based on a small number of infant deaths.

Chart 2
2016 Infant Mortality Rates by Region and Race
(per 1,000 births)

■ White ■ Black


IS MEDICAL CARE SUFFICIENT TO CLOSE THE INFANT MORTALITY GAP?

WHAT FACTORS BEYOND MEDICAL CARE AFFECT THE HEALTH OF INFANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES? HOW DO HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER SOCIAL DETERMINANTS IMPACT INFANT HEALTH?

Infant Mortality:

SOURCES

Ohio Department of Health, New Strategies to Address Infant Mortality in Ohio (2017-2018)
www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/cfhs/OEI/New-Strategies-Addressing-Infant-Mortality-in-Ohio-2017-18-FINAL.pdf?la=en

Health Policy Institute of Ohio, Social Determinants of Infant Mortality
www.healthpolicyohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/SDOIM_FinalCombined_posted-1.pdf

Save the Children, End of Child Report 2018

Franklin County www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/cfhs/OEI/comprofiles/franklin.pdf?la=en

Hamilton County www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/cfhs/OEI/comprofiles/hamilton.pdf?la=en

Montgomery County www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/cfhs/OEI/comprofiles/montgomery.pdf?la=en

Summit County www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/cfhs/OEI/comprofiles/summit.pdf?la=en

Mahoning County www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/cfhs/OEI/comprofiles/mahoning.pdf?la=en

DATA SOURCES

Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Maternal, Child and Family Health, "2016 Ohio Infant Mortality Data: General Findings"
www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/cfhs/OEI/2016-Ohio-Infant-Mortality-Report-FINAL.pdf

Ohio Equity Institute Profiles:

Cuyahoga County www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/cfhs/OEI/comprofiles/cuyahoga.pdf?la=en



Join Us.

Groundwork
OHIO



Ohio Early Childhood Race & Rural Equity Report

GroundworkOhio.org

 
@GroundworkOhio

SHANNON JONES
Executive Director
SJones@GroundworkOhio.org

LYNANNE GUTIERREZ
Policy Director & Legal Counsel
LWolf@GroundworkOhio.org

JULIA HOHNER
Communications & Policy Associate
JHohner@GroundworkOhio.org

172 E. State Street, Suite 400 • Columbus, Ohio 43215
Groundwork Ohio is a fiscally-sponsored project of Community Initiatives