In 2018, more Franklin County babies lived to celebrate their first birthdays and the infant mortality rate continued to drop across all populations. Infant mortality, or the death of a baby before his or her first birthday, is a key indicator of a community’s overall well-being.

### Infant Mortality Rates

**Franklin County**

- **7.5**
  - 23% decrease in the infant mortality rate since 2011 - from 9.6 to 7.5 per 1,000 live births

**White***

- **4.9**
  - 35% decrease in the infant mortality rate among Whites* since 2011 - from 7.5 to 4.9 deaths per 1,000 live births

**Black***

- **12.3**
  - 28% decrease in the infant mortality rate among Blacks* since 2011 - from 17.1 to 12.3 deaths per 1,000 live births

Black rates are 2.5 times that of white rates

### Leading Causes of Infant Deaths in Franklin County*

- **Preterm/low birthweight: 35.3%**
- **Birth defects: 22.1%**
- **Sleep related: 21.3%**
- **Other causes: 12.5%**
- **Maternal conditions: 8.8%**

*2018 death data are preliminary and subject to change

### Infant Mortality by Race

- **Black**: 51.5%
- **White**: 34.6%
- **Hispanic**: 4.4%
- **Other**: 9.6%

*Non-Hispanic; Franklin County
2018 Milestones

- 776 safe sleep ambassadors trained
- 1,635 pack n’ plays distributed so babies can sleep safely
- 3,469 women scheduled for prenatal care by StepOne (61% of women live in CelebrateOne zip codes)
- 95 residents completed the Community Health Worker certification program

2019 Strategies

- Expand access to and enrollment in evidence-based home visiting.
- Support families from pregnancy through postpartum with home visitors from evidence-based models.
- Increase the number of home visiting providers.
- Increase neighborhood-based safe sleep ambassador training.
- Work with CelebrateOne neighborhood coalitions to conduct safe sleep ambassador training sessions.
- Diversify training to include sessions for grandparents and teens/siblings.
- Encourage early access to quality prenatal care.
- Partner with Smart Columbus to promote calls to StepOne for a Healthy Pregnancy.

For more information, visit CelebrateOne.info.