

# INFANT MORTALITY: December 2018

**Infant mortality** – or the death of a baby before his/her first birthday – is a critical indicator of community health. Every year in Franklin County, approximately 150 babies die before their first birthdays. While national infant mortality rates are decreasing, in 2016, Ohio ranked 7th worst in the nation for overall infant mortality rate. Additionally, Black babies in Ohio are dying at over twice the rate of White babies. In Columbus and Franklin County, much of this disparity is driven by babies being born too soon and too small, as well as babies being placed to sleep on an unsafe sleep surface. This monthly report provides a snapshot of the most up-to-date data on infant death and selected birth indicators. The numbers are not finalized and some rates may vary widely from month-to-month. The report is meant to be used as a discussion tool, not a historical record. For a detailed look at trends for recent years, please refer to our Quarterly Summary of Infant Death and Birth Indicators.

## BIRTHS

**1,504** babies were born, of which...

**9.9%** were **Preterm births\***  
MoD<sup>1</sup> 2020 goal <=8.1%

**8.4%** were **Low birth weight births\***  
HP<sup>2</sup> 2020 goal <=7.8%

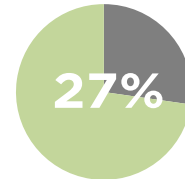
\*Percentages are based on births with available data: 1,504 for preterm and 1,504 for low birth weight births

## DEATHS

**11** babies died

### SLEEP-RELATED

**3** were sleep-related infant deaths  
(1 out of every 3.7)



### AGE

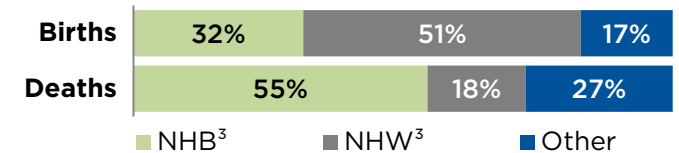
➔ **73%** died **before reaching 28 days of age** (Neonatal)  
 ➔ **27%** died **between the ages of 28 days and 1 year** (Post-Neonatal)

### ABOUT THE DATA

- ▶ All analysis is completed by the Office of Epidemiology at Columbus Public Health. ODH specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions.
- ▶ All current and historical figures are preliminary and subject to change as new/updated information is received.
- ▶ Preliminary (2018 YTD) death data are from the Ohio Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics. Sleep-related death data are provided by the Franklin County Child Fatality Review.
- ▶ Preliminary (2018 YTD) birth data are from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Office of Vital Statistics.

### DISPARITY

This month, **55%** of infant deaths were to **Non-Hispanic Blacks (NHBs)**, even though only **32%** of births were to NHBs.



### GENDER

The infant death **Male to Female** ratio was... **0.8** **males** to **1** **female**

#### Notations:

- <sup>1</sup>In 2015, the March of Dimes (MoD) set a goal of lowering the national preterm birth rates to 8.1 percent of all births by 2020.
- <sup>2</sup>Based on the Healthy People (HP) 2020 goals. Healthy People provides science-based, 10-year national objectives for improving the health of all Americans. More information on HP and HP 2020 health measures can be found at <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/default.aspx>.
- <sup>3</sup>NHB = Non-Hispanic Black; NHW = Non-Hispanic White

#### Definitions:

- Low Birth Weight Birth**- A baby weighing less than 2,500 grams at the time of birth.
- Preterm Birth**- A baby born less than 37 completed weeks of gestation.
- Sleep-Related Infant Deaths** - Infants who died unexpectedly in their sleep.

#### Questions and Comments:

Please forward questions and comments to Kathy Cowen, M.S., Director, Office of Epidemiology, Population Health Division, Columbus Public Health via phone: (614) 645-6252, or e-mail: [kathyc@columbus.gov](mailto:kathyc@columbus.gov).

# INFANT MORTALITY: 2018 (January-December)

## DEATHS

**136** babies died

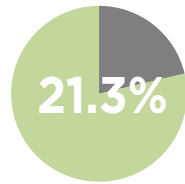


## MORTALITY RATE

The infant mortality rate (IMR<sup>1</sup>) was **7.5** infant deaths per 1,000 live births, which is **higher than the HP<sup>2</sup> 2020 goal of <=6.0**

## SLEEP-RELATED

**29** were sleep-related infant deaths  
(**1** out of every **4.7**)



## GENDER

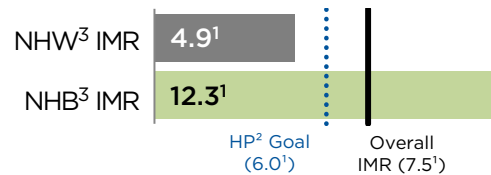
The infant death **Male to Female** ratio was... **1.3** **males** to **1** **female**

## AGE

**70%** died **before reaching 28 days of age** (Neonatal)  
 **30%** died **between the ages of 28 days and 1 year** (Post-Neonatal)

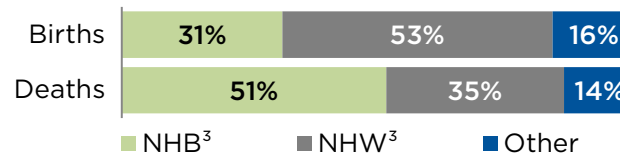
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## DISPARITY



Non-Hispanic Black (NHB) infants are **2.5 x more likely to die** than Non-Hispanic White (NHW) infants.

This year, about **51%** of infant deaths were to **Non-Hispanic Blacks (NHBs)**, even though **31%** of births were to NHBs.



## ABOUT THE DATA

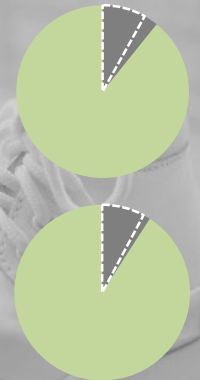
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## BIRTHS

**18,240** babies were born, of which...

**10.8%** were **Preterm Births\***  
MoD<sup>4</sup> 2020 goal <=8.1%

**9.1%** were **Low Birth Weight Births\***  
HP<sup>2</sup> 2020 goal <=7.8%



\*Percentages are based on births with available data: 18,234 for preterm and 18,229 for low birth weight births

### Notations:

- <sup>1</sup>IMR = Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births
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