

MONTHLY E-NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM TIFFANI SCALES, INFANT MORTALITY COMMUNITY PLANNER!

Greetings and welcome to 2014! I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday filled with family, love, laughs, and most importantly: RELAXATION! I hope everyone is renewed and ready to take on the challenge of infant mortality.

Let us not forget that last year in 2013, preliminary data suggest that over 133 babies did not live to celebrate their first birthday. Even one death is one too many. Not another family should have to mourn the loss of a baby during the holidays or any other day.

DATA NEWS

At our last meeting in November, the team discussed the rates of infant mortality on the South Side and compared the data to Franklin County, Ohio, and the United States. The perinatal periods of risk map below shows that the biggest contributor to infant mortality among South Side residents is issues and conditions related to the health of moms and prematurity.

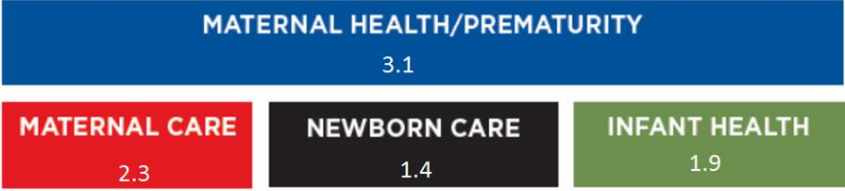


Figure Reference: Fetal-Infant Mortality Rate (FIMR) - Fetal and infant deaths per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths

As we move forward, begin to think of some strategies that can reduce infant mortality on the South Side. Since most of our deaths among infants are due to issues with maternal health and prematurity, some possible strategies include birth spacing, education, teen pregnancy, etc.

LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Local - M4M Transforming our Community 4-Life Documentary- a 30 minute documentary film that highlights the community struggle to heal from gun violence and the ongoing efforts to transform our community on the Southside of Columbus. <http://youtu.be/mUSuuMqfXpc>

State - ODH and CityMatCH are partnering with nine (9) Ohio communities to improve overall birth outcomes and reduce the racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality. Ohio ranks near the bottom of U.S. state rates in overall infant mortality and black infant mortality. Read the rest [here](#).

National - In 2009, Baltimore developed a comprehensive plan to address their persistently high overall infant mortality rate (11.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births) and an even higher rate for black babies (15.5 per 1,000 live births).

In the first three years of implementation, infant mortality decreased by 28 percent and disparities by 40 percent. Initiatives are implemented through

- [B'More for Healthy Babies](#)
- [Know What You Want](#)

"A new baby is like the beginning of all things—wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities."

— Eda J. Le Shan

LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND IM HEADLINES

- [Columbus Turns Its Attention to Infant Mortality](#) (WOSU)
- [Reducing Infant Mortality](#) (The Columbus Post)
- [Infant Mortality Task Force aims to reduce baby deaths](#) (The Columbus Dispatch)
- [Health Officials Concerned About Alarming Number Of Infant Deaths In Columbus](#) (WBNS 10TV)

NEXT MEETING

Date: January 21, 2014

Place: Barack Recreation Center - 580 E Woodrow Ave, Columbus, OH 43207

Phone: (614) 645-3610

Please RSVP to tnscales@columbus.gov

YOUR MONTHLY INFANT MORTALITY PREVENTION ADVOCATE

Do you know someone who should be nominated to be the Monthly Infant Mortality Prevention Advocate? If so, send an email to tnscales@columbus.gov with a picture, contact information, and a brief explanation why!