

Project Impact

2023



About Project Impact

Project IMPACT is a fetal and infant mortality review (FIMR) project for Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties. Since 1995, the initiative has been carried out by the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition with funding from the Florida Department of Health. The goal is to reduce infant mortality by gathering and reviewing detailed information to gain a better understanding of fetal and infant deaths in Northeast Florida. The project examines cases with the worst outcomes to identify gaps in maternal and infant services and promote future improvements.

Each month, fetal/infant death cases are selected for the project based on specific criteria. Utilizing an approach developed by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, information is abstracted from birth, death, medical, hospital, home visitation, WIC and autopsy records. In some cases, law enforcement, medical examiner, EMS and child protective services records are included. Efforts are also made to interview the family. No information that identifies the family or medical providers is included on the abstraction form. Case summaries are developed and presented monthly to the Case Review Team (CRT), a multidisciplinary group of community medical and social service professionals. The CRT examines each case to determine medical, social, financial and other issues that may have impacted the poor birth outcome. A Community Action Group (CAG) works to implement the FIMR recommendations.

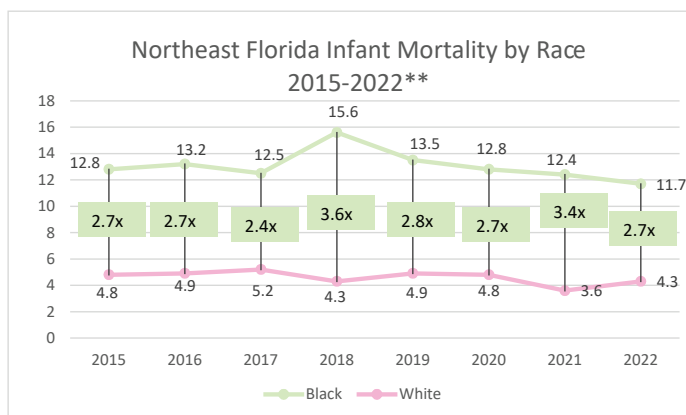
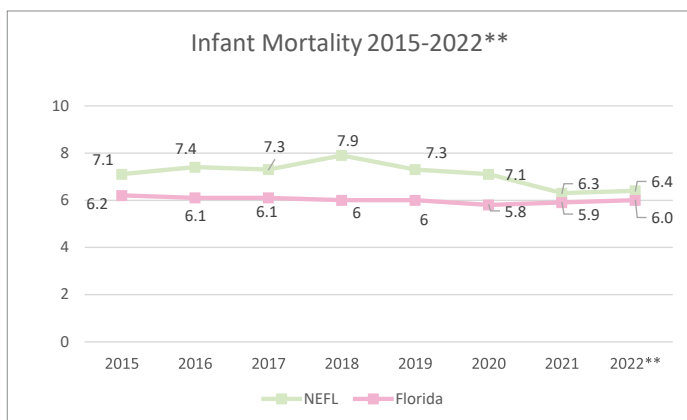


Infant Mortality in Northeast Florida

An estimated 119 babies in Northeast Florida died before their first birthday in 2022, according to provisional data from the Florida Department of Health. In 2021, there were 116 infant deaths.

The regional provisional infant mortality rate of 6.4 deaths per 1,000 live births is higher than the state rate (6.0), but the gap is closing. The provisional leading causes of death were prematurity, sudden unexpected infant deaths (sleep-related) and congenital anomalies. There were an additional 158 fetal deaths or stillbirths.

More babies are celebrating their first birthdays, as the infant mortality rate in Northeast Florida has decreased 20 percent since 2018. Despite the overall progress, this has not translated into a decrease in racial disparities. In 2022, the provisional infant death rate for white babies was 4.3 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to 11.7 deaths for Black babies.



**2022 data is provisional

By the numbers

86
fetal and infant death cases reviewed

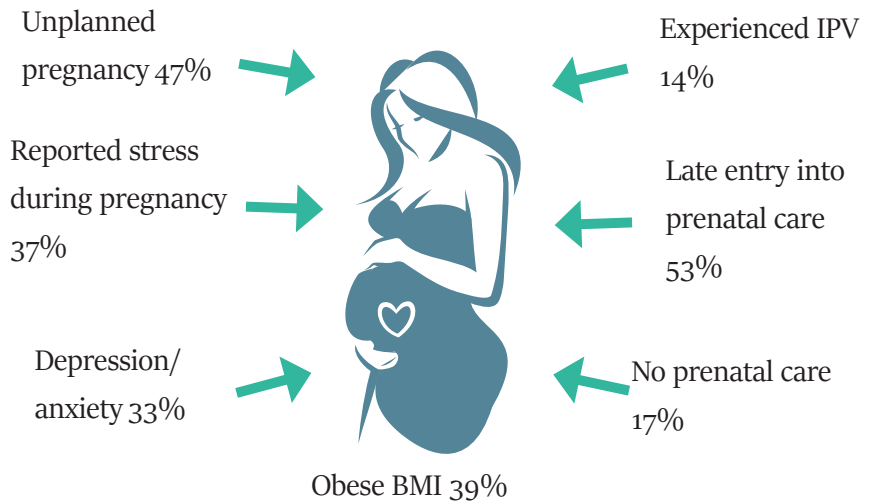
65 | 21
infant deaths | fetal deaths

67%
delivery payment source: Medicaid

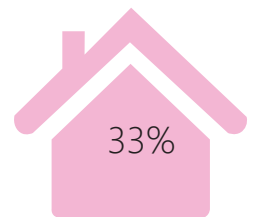
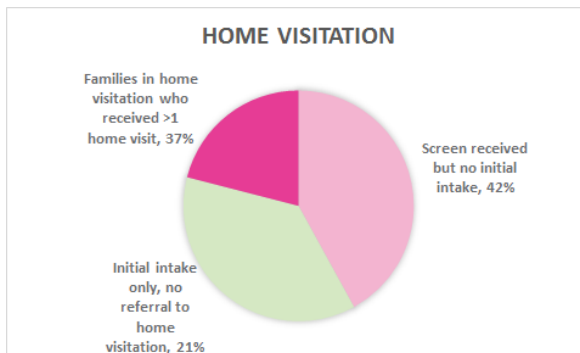
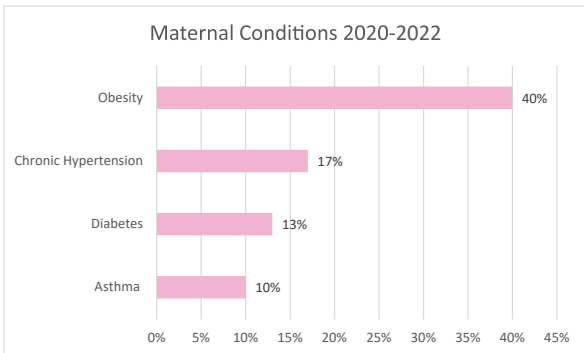
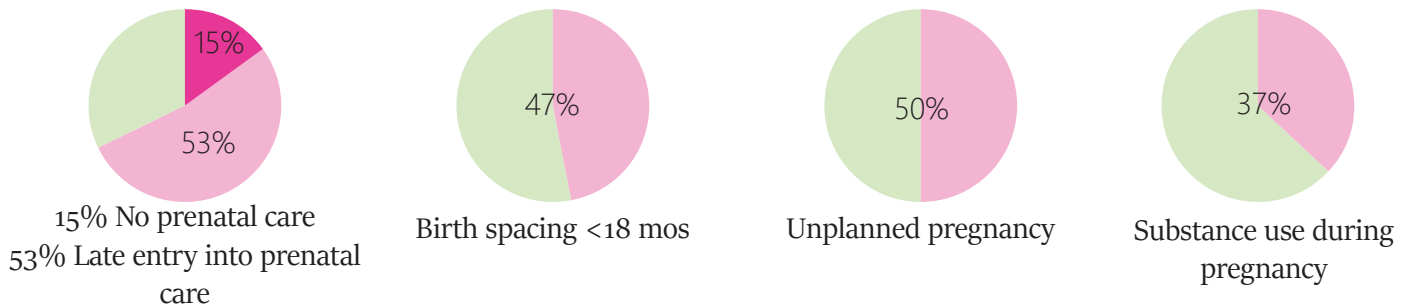
39%
mothers age: 19-24

55%
infant death cause: prematurity

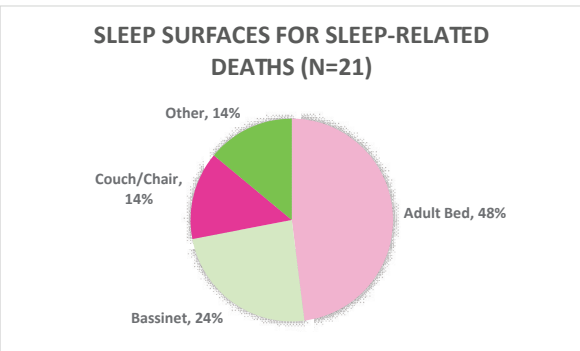
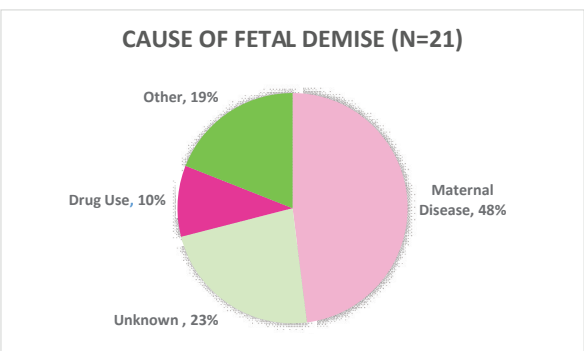
Maternal Factors in Women Reviewed with Premature Birth



Contributing Factors



Sleep-related deaths reviewed that did not have stable housing at the time of the infant's death



Community Action Group

Project Goal: To increase Community Action Group (CAG) support to Healthy Start, community-based programs, hospitals, OB offices, hotels and shelters in their efforts to educate or bring awareness to community members, patients, and/or participants on infant mortality, pre-term births, and sleep-related deaths

Project Approach: One message to all: "ABC's of Safe Sleep"

The group includes four subcommittees:

- Improve participation in preventive and prenatal care
- Improve awareness and utilization of community programs for pregnant women and families
- Increase awareness of the impact of social determinants of health, adverse childhood experiences, and systemic racism on maternal health and birth outcomes
- Safe sleep; sleep-related infant deaths

CAG Impact

Safe sleep educational materials distributed

- 11 safe sleep stimulator dolls (infant model with removable airway, mobile application access, storage tote)
- 10 RealCare Shaken Baby Stimulation Dolls (curriculum, swaddling garment, brain and cerebral arteries model, storage case)
- 4,000 "ABC's of safe sleep" tote bags
- 500 customized sleep sacks
- 14,000 educational cards (trauma-informed care, toxic stress, infant care, postpartum)
- 3,500 Community Action Network cards
- 2,000 safe sleep kits in English & Spanish for hospitals, OB offices and clinics
- 1,000 safe sleep ABC's magnets
- 1,500 "This Side Up" infant onesies
- 10,000 safe sleep posters for offices, hotels, clinics & daycares (18x24 and 8x11)
- 2,000 ABC's safe sleep pens
- 500 safe sleep information tear away pads in English & Spanish

Distributed materials to:

- Teen Parent Program
- Doula Network
- Florida Department of Health (Baker, Duval, Nassau)
- Children's Home Society
- UF Health
- Inspire to Rise
- Fatherhood PRIDE
- Azalea/ROSE Project
- Magnolia Project
- CONNECT/Coordinated Intake & Referral
- Hey, Mama Mobile Pantry
- Make a Difference Leadership Members
- Make a Noise, Make a Difference Ambassadors

Community Engagement, Education & Awareness

Hey, Mama Mobile Pantry

The Hey, Mama Mobile Pantry began making appearances in Jacksonville to provide baby supplies, self-care products, health and nutrition education, and other items to families. Thanks to funding from the Jacksonville City Council, the Mobile Pantry – a bright pink nine-passenger van adorned with illustrations of a family and babies – hit the streets earlier this year. More than 500 community members have met with community health workers who provided baby, household, or self-care supplies along with referrals for resources including housing, rental assistance, well-baby care and stress management.



Root Causes Summits

The Coalition launched two educational Root Causes of Infant Mortality conferences in 2023: a half-day summit in January and full-day conference in September, during National Infant Mortality Awareness Month. The events raised awareness root causes of infant mortality such as the social determinants of health, the effects of toxic stress and siloed medical and social services. National, state and local experts highlighted data regarding factors contributing to infant mortality, the impact these issues have in our community and what we collectively can do to ensure every child has an equal and healthy start in life.

Stress and the Life Course Series

Throughout 2023, the Coalition provided an ongoing series of presentations on toxic stress and how it impacts infant mortality. The sessions were led by Dr. Roberta Christopher, assistant professor of nursing at Jacksonville University's Keigwin School of Nursing.

During the hour-long discussion, Dr. Christopher shared research about how birth outcomes are impacted by toxic stress, the life course perspective and the solutions and upstream approaches needed to reduce the high infant mortality rate in Northeast Florida.



Zero Preventable Infant Deaths Leadership Council

Darnell Smith | *Florida Blue*
Cheryl Taylor | *CareerSource*
Lynn Sherman | *City of Jacksonville*
Ron Salem, PharmD | *Jacksonville City Council*
Kimberly Allen, PhD | *904ward*
Megan Denk | *THE PLAYERS CENTER for Child Health/Wolfson Children's Hospital*
Mark Hudak, MD | *UF Health*
Kristina Jones, PhD | *Duval County Health Department*
William L. Cody | *Retired OB/GYN*

The Case Review Team is a multi-disciplinary group that meets monthly to review FIMR cases and develop annual recommendations

Community Action Group is a group of community partners and members that implements the annual CRT recommendations.

The Zero Preventable Infant Deaths Leadership Council brings together community leaders to address infant mortality by monitoring the Coalition's FIMR Action Plan progress and guiding plan implementation. The group also provides guidance to the Northeast Florida Maternal and Child Health Policy and Research Center.

2022-23 Case Review Team

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Jack Johnson
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James Neeley
Ashlee Ray Richardson
Jennifer Rounds
Gary Sammet
Susan Sellers
Melissa Stanley
Steve Williams
Jessica Winberry
Tracy Claveau, RN, FIMR Coordinator

2023 Recommendations

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO RECEIVE EARLY AND ADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE

- Explore partnerships to establish care navigators who assist with referrals, obtaining supplies, and prescriptions.

IMPROVE AWARENESS AND UTILIZATION OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND FAMILIES

- Increase the awareness of the value of home visitation to parents, families, community, and government, as a prevention strategy to reduce poor birth outcomes, promote infant and child health, and foster child development.
- Enroll additional families into home visitation services.

INCREASE THE AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH, ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES AND SYSTEMIC RACISM ON MATERNAL HEALTH AND BIRTH OUTCOMES

- Create a marking and outreach campaign similar to "Hey, Mama" but geared toward fathers.

Community Action Group

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Marsha Davis
Cathy Dupont
Barry Farmer
Nicole Francis
Janice Hawkins
Faye Johnson
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