



Over the past five years, 522 babies died in our community.

This makes Ohio's infant mortality rate the 5th worst in the country. Also, our death rate for African American babies is the highest of any state. Worst yet, we know that many of these babies could be saved.

People of Faith - this is unacceptable **God cares. He has a different vision for us.**

What is it? *I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people. The sound of weeping and crying will be heard in it no more. Never again will there be in it an infant who lives only a few days... Isaiah 65: 19-20a*

Where do we start? Helping our babies begins by helping our mothers. If you know a woman who is pregnant, **call 211** with her to connect her to help. It's important that she see a doctor as early as possible. Very important.

How can we make the biggest difference? Just remember the 3 S's . . .

- SPACING
 - 12 months in between pregnancies decreases chances of premature birth – the leading factor behind the deaths of our babies.
 - Women with less than 6 months between pregnancies have a three times higher risk of having an infant death.
- SMOKING
 - No tobacco during pregnancy. Women who smoke are 44% more likely to suffer a loss of their baby.
 - Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for help; some women qualify for cash rewards.
- SLEEP
 - Babies sleep safest Alone, on their Back, in a Crib. If you need a crib, call 211.
 - Never share a sleep surface with a baby – not in bed at night or even a quick nap on the couch.

We are called. It's not enough to just know that too many babies are dying. As God's family, we are called to do something about it. We need to *speak out for those who can't speak for themselves . . . Proverbs 31:8.*

What can we do?

- Commit to Prayer – Pray that God will show us how to help Moms and babies in our neighborhoods. Their survival will increase when together we appeal to God for ideas and intervention.
- Commit to Promote – Talk to your family, neighbor, and community leaders about what you've learned regarding the infant mortality crisis in our city. Then learn more and talk more. Repeat.
- Commit to Partner
 - Find a pregnant Mom and ask her what she needs. Meals, childcare, transportation, and of course friendship, are good places to start.
 - Volunteer with a community group that reaches out to at-risk women; visit cradlecincinnati.org and click *Help Now*, then *Volunteer* link, for a list of helpful organizations.
 - Start a small-group study on God's solutions for building-up the underserved among us; go to the *Guided Prayers* and *Scriptures* links on our website for ideas. And don't forget to share your ideas with us.

You'll be amazed at the difference our Faith Community can make.