2019 Hamilton County, Ohio Infant Mortality Summary Report

Infant mortality in Hamilton County has been worse than the state and national averages for far too long. Babies who are born alive, but die (for any reason) before their first birthday contribute to a community’s infant mortality rate.

96 babies died in Hamilton County in 2019. The infant mortality rate in Hamilton County in 2019 was 9.1 deaths per 1,000 live births.

In 2019, fewer Black babies died in Hamilton County than ever before. Any racial disparity is unacceptable, but we are encouraged by two consecutive years of improvement. Hamilton County saw 14 fewer Black infant deaths in 2019—a 24% decrease in Black infant mortality compared to the previous 5 years. This new milestone comes as a community of partners are focused squarely on improving the longstanding racial disparity in birth outcomes caused by the historical injustices the Black community has faced. Our community needs to continue to focus its efforts on improving Black outcomes.

Improvements were greatest in neighborhoods where partners were focused.

More than half of recent improvements in preterm birth came from just three communities: Price Hill, Avondale and Villages at Roll Hill.

Learn more about infant mortality in Hamilton County by visiting www.cradlecincinnati.org/data

Fewer babies are dying from issues related to preterm birth.

The leading cause of infant death in Hamilton County is still extreme preterm birth, when a baby is born before the end of the mother’s second trimester. However, the number of kids dying from this cause in 2018 and 2019 fell by 17%. In 2019, the most severe form of preterm birth—previable preterm birth or births at less than 23 weeks—fell by nearly half in Hamilton County’s Black population, driving the overall decrease in Black infant deaths.

Birth defect-related infant deaths are near the national average.


Sleep-related Infant Deaths Hamilton County 2019

Sleep-related infant deaths rose in the first half of 2019 and then dropped sharply with focused, collaborative and community-wide efforts.

Bed-sharing continues to be one of the leading causes of sleep-related infant deaths. Babies sleep safest alone, on their backs, and in cribs. Anything else puts them at risk.

If you or someone you know needs a crib, call 211.

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1Hamilton County Fetal and Infant Mortality Review
2Ohio Department of Health
3Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4Ohio Vital Statistics
This report was produced by Lisa Hong. 
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