

Report Highlights Infant Mortality Rates Among Black Ohioans

A report from the Health Policy Institute of Ohio highlights challenges for Black Ohioans and infant mortality.

November 18, 2025 By Laura Schmidt

A report released by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio has uncovered racial disparities regarding access to care and [infant mortality](#) among Ohioans, according to [NBC4 News](#).

According to the report, Black communities throughout Ohio continue to face barriers to equitable [health care access](#), resulting in poorer physical and [mental health](#). For example, the report highlights higher rates of infant mortality among Black Ohioans compared with other races.

“When parents are stressed and unhealthy and don’t have access to strong and economically vibrant communities, then we see that it impacts their children,” Carrie Almasi, director of assessment and planning at the Health Policy Institute, told NBC.

The report found that Black communities in Ohio face 2.7 times higher infant mortality rates compared with white communities, translating to about 13 deaths per 1,000 births.

In related news, a [report by the National Center for Health Statistics](#) found that in 2022, infant mortality rates in the United States increased for the first time in more than two decades.

The report also found that rates of infant mortality differed by racial group. For example, American Indian and Alaska Native women experienced a more than 20% increase in infant mortality, from about 7.4 deaths per 1,000 births to over 9 deaths per 1,000 births. And although Black women didn’t experience a significant increase in infant mortality rates, they already had the highest overall infant mortality rate: nearly 11 deaths per 1,000 births, more than double the mortality rate of white infants.

“Communities of color, where we have built highways straight through neighborhoods, where we have denied people access to home loans and mortgages, where we have built up industry, factories and pollution are closer to these communities than others,” Almasi said.



[View this post on Instagram](#)

A post shared by CelebrateOne (@celebrateone_columbus)

To fight infant mortality, the city of Columbus launched the “[Celebrate One](#)” initiative last year, which aims to help babies survive their first year of life. The initiative empowers expecting and new mothers by connecting them with resources, promoting healthy pregnancies and fostering a supportive community.

In addition to city-led initiatives, Almasi encourages policymakers and legislators to develop proactive solutions to protect Black Ohioans.

“The building blocks of good health contribute to infant mortality when they’re not available to parents and communities and parents aren’t supported and don’t have a safe place to put their babies at night or when they don’t have the nutrition that they need to be healthy,” Almasi said. “And their babies also aren’t getting the support that they need.”

To read more, click [#Infant Mortality](#). There, you’ll see headlines such as “[Fate of Black Maternal Health Programs Is Unclear Amid Federal Cuts](#),” “[Experts Warn of Serious Health Impacts From](#)

