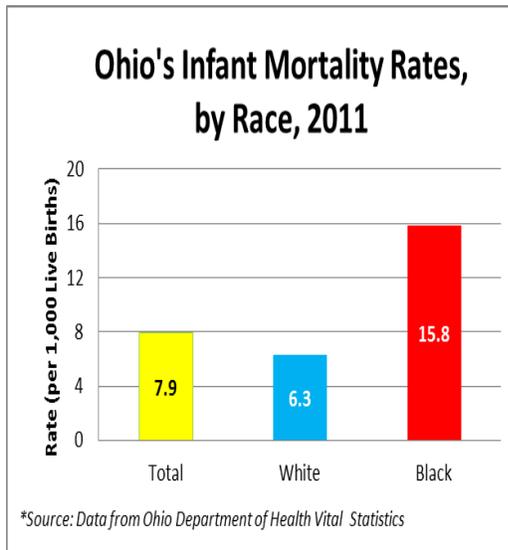# Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative (OIMRI)

Who We Are

The Bureau of Child and Family Health Services (BCFHS) redirected state and federal funds to launch the Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative (OIMRI) Program. This was done as a result of the high infant mortality rates in Ohio. OIMRI perinatal service coordination program provides technical assistance in the planning and development of outreach, case management, and home visiting services. The OIMRI program supports the community care coordination model which provides family-centered services through a licensed Community Health Worker (CHW). A CHW is a trained advocate from the targeted community who empowers individuals to access community resources.

Ohio's Infant Mortality Rates, by Race, 2011

Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)

Total	7.9
White	6.3
Black	15.8

*Source: Data from Ohio Department of Health Vital Statistics

The infant mortality rates for African-American babies are over twice the rates for white babies, 15.8 vs. 6.3 per 1,000 live births in 2011.

What We Do

The OIMRI community care coordination model includes five core components: 1) planning; 2) training; 3) supervision; 4) standardized care processes; and 5) data collection and evaluation. OIMRI CHW services to clients and families:

♦ Conduct case findings and enroll eligible clients

♦ Conduct regular home visits through the baby's second year of life

♦ Identify and reinforces risk reduction behaviors

♦ Provide preconception health education

♦ Provide appropriate perinatal health education

♦ Reinforce clients' strengths

♦ Support in adopting life changing behaviors

♦ Act as a liaison to help clients receive services

♦ Provide follow-up and collaborate with other agencies in making appropriate referrals

♦ Offer other services as necessary

History

♦ The OIMRI Program was based on the Cleveland Mom's First project which achieved a 32% reduction in infant mortality in their targeted neighborhoods in the first ten years of operation.

OIMRI Goals

♦ Reduce racial disparities among African-Americans in perinatal and infant mortality, and low and very low birth weights

♦ Increase early entry into prenatal care

♦ Increase utilization of routine infant health care

Turning up the Volume on Infant Mortality
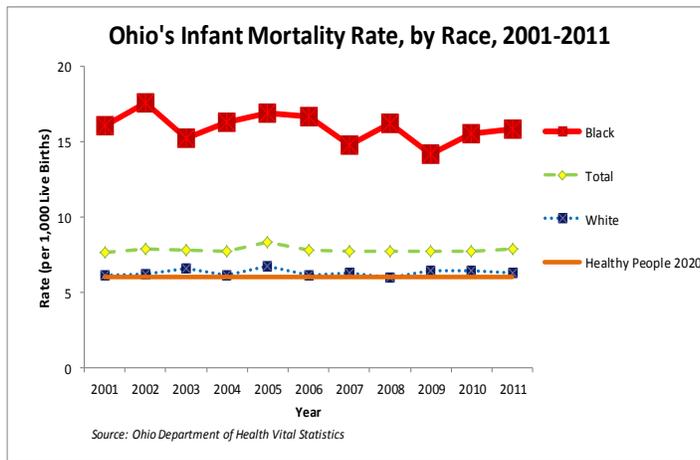*Every Baby Matters!*

Who We Work With

- An OIMRI client is a high-risk, low-income pregnant woman of African descent from a specific geographic target area(s), for example: census tracts and neighborhoods

- The community care coordination model supports OIMRI hiring a culturally linked Community Health Worker (CHW) to provide services.

- OIMRI CHWs partner with local community agencies, businesses, and programs (e.g., county health centers, domestic violence, housing, Child and Family Health Services (CFHS) perinatal programs, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and Help Me Grow)

Why We Do It

Ohio's Infant Mortality Rate, by Race, 2001-2011

(Line chart: Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) vs. Year 2001–2011. Series: Black, Total, White, Healthy People 2020)

Source: Ohio Department of Health Vital Statistics

- Our mission is to eliminate racial/ethnic disparities among African Americans in perinatal and infant mortality.

- The unacceptable trend of African-American babies dying more than twice as often as white babies has not changed significantly over the past 10 years.

Where We Do It

OIMRI serves 14 Ohio counties located in predominantly urban areas, serving African-American pregnant women and infants at risk for poor birth/health outcomes.

OIMRI Counties (Cities):

Allen (Lima)	Lucas (Toledo)
Butler (Middletown)	Mahoning
Clark (Springfield)	(Youngstown)
Cuyahoga	Montgomery
(Cleveland)	(Dayton)
Franklin (Columbus)	Richland (Mansfield)
Hamilton	Stark (Canton)
(Cincinnati)	Summit (Akron)
Lorain (Elyria)	Trumbull (Warren)

(Map of Ohio counties with OIMRI Programs highlighted in red)

OIMRI Programs