

MEDIA RELEASE

Canton City Public Health

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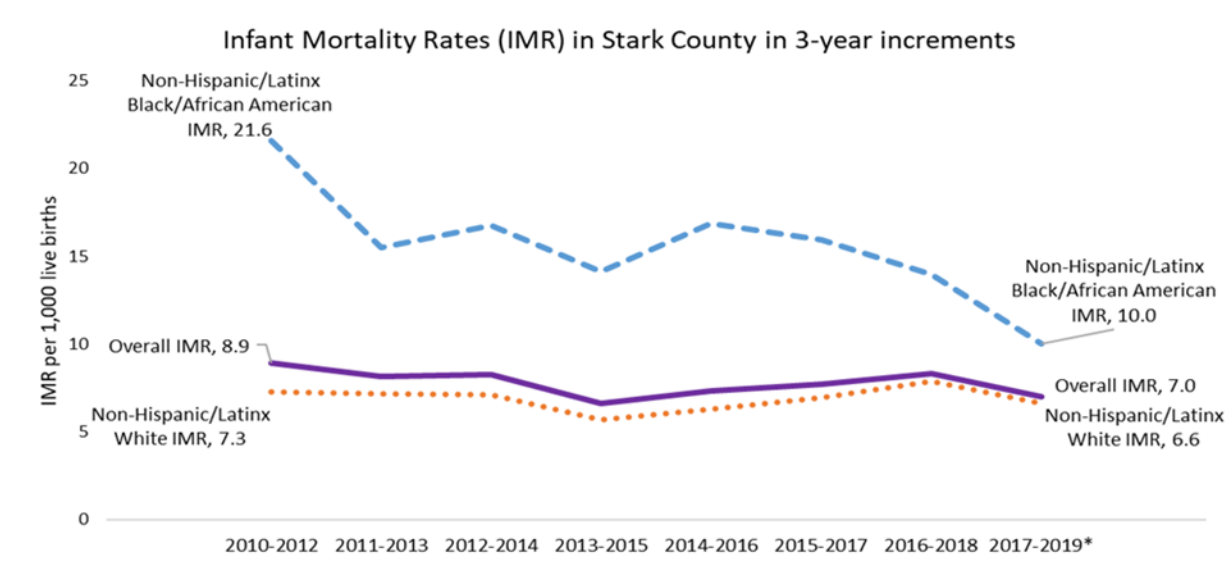
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For Immediate Release **Infant vitality in Stark County continues to improve**

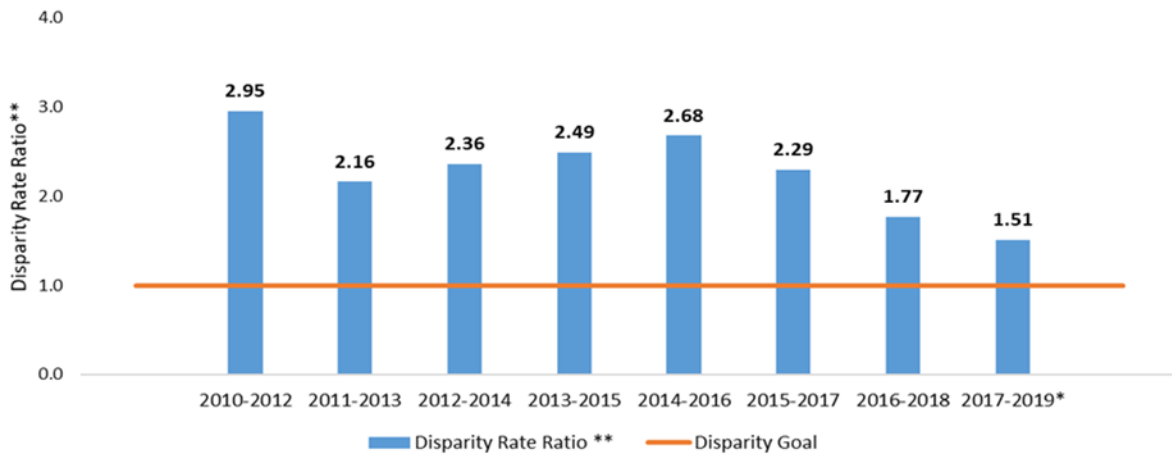
CANTON, OHIO – Canton City Public Health, on behalf of Stark County THRIVE, is proud to report that Stark County continues to see improvements in infant vitality.

Preliminary data for 2019 reflects 21 infant deaths, a decrease from 38 in 2017. This decrease puts the 2019 overall infant mortality rate (number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births) in Stark County at 5.1, below the Healthy People 2020 goal of 6.0 per 1,000 live births, and below the 2017 infant mortality rate of 9.0.



The disparity rate ratio, which measures equity between Non-Hispanic/Latinx Black/African American and Non-Hispanic/Latinx White infant deaths, is also continuing to improve. From 2017-2019, for every one Non-Hispanic/Latinx White infant death, Stark County experienced 1.5 Non-Hispanic/Latinx Black/African American infant deaths, a 50% improvement from the 3.0 rate ratio from 2010-2012.

Non-Hispanic/Latinx Black/African American and Non-Hispanic/Latinx White Disparity Rate Ratio



*2019 data is preliminary and subject to change. Data is reviewed monthly. **Disparity Rate Ratio is calculated by Non-Hispanic/Latinx Black/African American IMR ÷ Non-Hispanic/Latinx White IMR. "These data were provided by the Ohio Department of Health. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions." For questions regarding this data, please contact: Jessica Boley, RD,LD THRIVE Epidemiologist jboley@cantonhealth.org Created 2.24.2020 ©2020Stark County THRIVE



The collaboration and partnership between Stark County residents, organizations, agencies and businesses focused on improving infant vitality and preventing and reducing rates of infant deaths and racial disparities in birth outcomes is the driving force behind the improvements we are experiencing. This success would not be possible without the support of our funders: Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Health Plans (Buckeye, CareSource, Molina, Paramount, United Healthcare), Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, Stark Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Stark County.

Looking forward to 2020 and beyond, we hope to see continued improvements in infant vitality and equity in birth outcomes for all families in Stark County.

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