

# Infant Mortality Montgomery County & Ohio, 2019

**Infant mortality** – or the death of a live-born baby before his/her first birthday – is a critical indicator of a community’s overall health and well-being. The **infant mortality rate (IMR)** is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

In 2019, fifty-eight (58) Montgomery County babies died before their first birthday; an increase from 44 in 2018. As a result, the county’s IMR increased from 6.8 deaths per 1,000 live births to 9.0. Additionally, Montgomery County’s Black IMR (13.1) and White IMR (7.1) increased from 10.5 and 5.5 respectively.

## Infant Mortality by Race, Montgomery County, 2018 & 2019

	2018			2019			% Change IMR
	Births	Deaths*	IMR	Births	Deaths*	IMR	
Black	1,897	20	10.5	1,915	25	13.1	24%↑
White	4,176	23	5.5	4,103	29	7.1	28%↑
Montgomery	6,470	44	6.8	6,409	58	9.0	33%↑

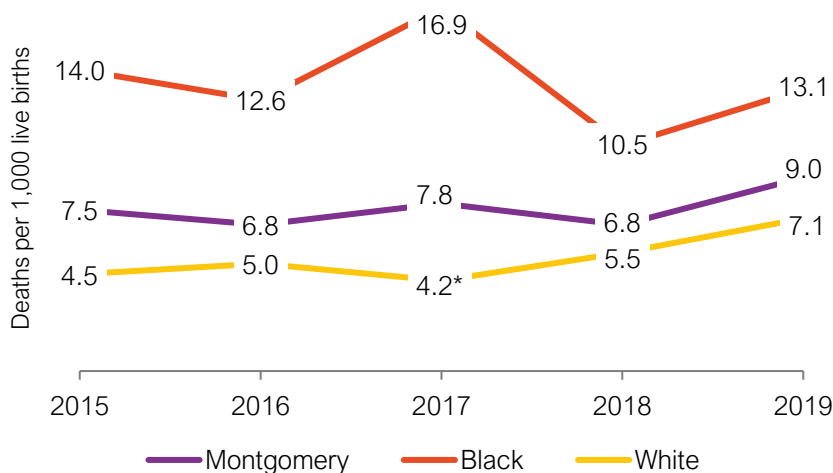
IMR – Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births

\*Infant deaths categorized as “other” or “unknown” races are included in Montgomery County calculations only

Note: **Bold** IMRs meet the Healthy People 2030 goal of 5.0 deaths per 1,000 live births or fewer

Source: Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Resident Birth & Death Files (2018-2019)

## Infant Mortality Rate by Race, Montgomery County, 2015-2019



Since 2015, the Black IMR **decreased** (by 6%), while the overall and White IMRs **increased** (by 20% and 58% respectively).

In 2019, Black babies died at a rate nearly **two times higher** than White babies. Although the disparity persists, it **decreased** by 5% from 2018 to 2019 (1.9 to 1.8).

In 2019, all IMRs were **higher** than the Healthy People 2030 goal of 5.0 deaths per 1,000 live births or fewer.

\*Rates based on fewer than 20 infant deaths should be interpreted with caution  
Source: Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Resident Birth & Death Files (2015-2019)

All data collected and analyzed were derived from the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics Resident Birth and Death files. All Analyses, interpretations, and conclusions were developed by the Department of Epidemiology at Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County. For more information: Epi@phdmc.org



## Infant Deaths by Age and Race, Montgomery County, 2019

	Black	White	Montgomery*
Neonatal Death (0-27 days)	18	20	40
Post-neonatal Death (28-364 days)	7	9	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>58</b>

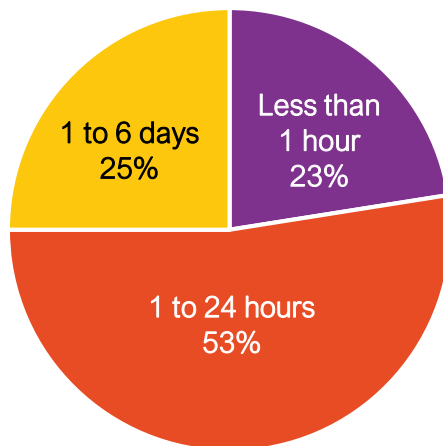
\*Infant deaths categorized as "other" or "unknown" races are included in Montgomery County calculations only  
 Source: Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Resident Death File (2019)

Of the 58 infant deaths, **40** (or **69%**) were **neonatal deaths** (between 0-27 days of age).

Neonatal deaths were **more likely** to occur among Black babies (72%) compared to White babies (69%).

Post-neonatal deaths were **more likely** to occur among White babies (31%) compared to Black babies (28%).

## Neonatal Deaths by Age Type, Montgomery County, 2019

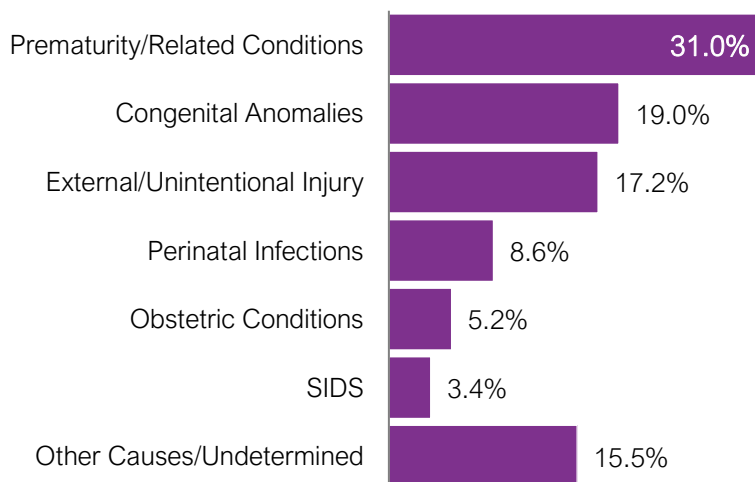


Note: Percentages may sum to more than 100% due to rounding  
 Source: Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Resident Death File (2019)

Among all neonatal deaths, most babies (**53%**) died within 1 to 24 hours of birth. Overall, 3 out of 4 babies did not survive past their first day of life.

Among Black and White neonatal deaths, most babies (**56%** and **50%**) died within 1 to 24 hours of birth (data not shown).

## Infant Cause of Death, Montgomery County, 2019



SIDS: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome  
 Source: Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Infant Mortality File (2019)

In 2019, nearly a third (**31%**) of all Montgomery County infant deaths were due to babies being born too early (gestation <37wks.) or too small (<2,500g or 5.5lbs).

Congenital anomalies (or birth defects) accounted for **19%** of all infant deaths and external or unintentional injuries accounted for **17%** of all infant deaths.

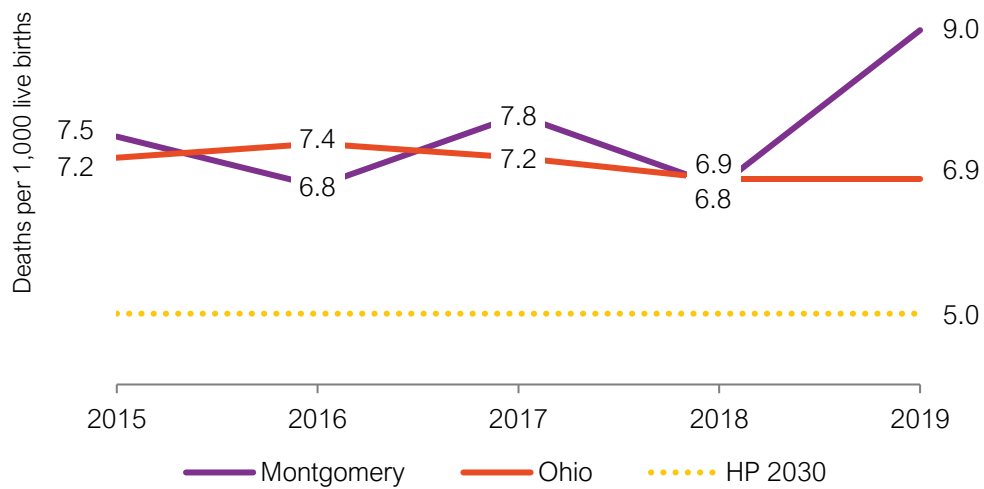
**Note:** Underlying causes of death by race can be found in the Montgomery County Infant Cause of Death Report.

## Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births by Race, Montgomery County and Ohio, 2019

	Montgomery	Ohio
Black	13.1	14.3
White	7.1	5.1
All Races	9.0	6.9

Source: Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse, Ohio Resident Birth and Mortality Data (2019)

## Infant Mortality by Race, Montgomery County and Ohio, 2015-2019



HP 2020 – Healthy People 2020  
 Source: Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse, Ohio Resident Birth and Mortality Data (2015-2019)

In 2019, Montgomery County’s overall (9.0) and White (7.1) IMRs were nearly **1.5 times higher** than the state rates (6.9 and 5.1 respectively). Montgomery County’s Black IMR (13.1) was **lower** than the state rate (14.3). The state’s overall IMR has declined over the past 5 years while Montgomery County’s has increased.

All Montgomery County IMRs are **higher** than the Healthy People 2030 goal of 5.0 deaths per 1,000 live births or fewer.

## Ohio Equity Institute

Historically, Ohio ranks near the bottom in Black infant deaths and overall infant mortality nationwide. Additionally, Ohio Black babies die at a disproportionately higher rate than White babies. The state recognized this as unacceptable and established the Ohio Equity Institute (OEI) in 2012. OEI is a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and nine Ohio counties to address racial disparities in birth outcomes. The nine counties account for nearly all Ohio Black infant deaths. In 2019, Ohio Black infants died at a rate nearly **three times** higher than White infants. Among all Black infant deaths, **87%** occurred within the nine OEI counties.

### Infant Mortality Rate Ranking OEI Counties and Ohio, 2019

Rank	County	IMR*
1	Stark	5.4
2	Summit	6.0
<b>3</b>	<b>Ohio</b>	<b>6.9</b>
4	Franklin	6.9
5	Butler	7.2
6	Cuyahoga	8.6
<b>7</b>	<b>Montgomery</b>	<b>9.0</b>
8	Hamilton	9.3
9	Lucas	9.4
10	Mahoning	9.5

\*IMR: Number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births

\*\*Rates based on fewer than 20 infant deaths should be interpreted with caution.

Source: Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse, Ohio Resident Birth and Mortality Data (2019)

### Black Infant Mortality Rate Ranking OEI Counties and Ohio, 2019

Rank	County	IMR*
1	Butler	9.2**
2	Stark	11.0**
3	Franklin	11.2
<b>4</b>	<b>Montgomery</b>	<b>13.1</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Ohio</b>	<b>14.3</b>
6	Hamilton	15.1
7	Summit	15.4
8	Lucas	15.9
9	Cuyahoga	16.2
10	Mahoning	19.5**

\*IMR: Number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births

\*\*Rates based on fewer than 20 infant deaths should be interpreted with caution.

Source: Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse, Ohio Resident Birth and Mortality Data (2019)

### White Infant Mortality Rate Ranking OEI Counties and Ohio, 2019

Rank	County	IMR*
1	Summit	2.2**
2	Stark	3.8**
3	Cuyahoga	3.9
4	Franklin	4.8
<b>5</b>	<b>Ohio</b>	<b>5.1</b>
6	Hamilton	5.2
7	Mahoning	5.7**
8	Butler	5.8**
9	Lucas	6.6
<b>10</b>	<b>Montgomery</b>	<b>7.1</b>

\*IMR: Number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births

\*\*Rates based on fewer than 20 infant deaths should be interpreted with caution.

Source: Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse, Ohio Resident Birth and Mortality Data (2019)

### Infant Mortality Racial Disparity Ranking OEI Counties and Ohio, 2019

Rank	County	IM Ratio*
1	Butler	1.6**
<b>2</b>	<b>Montgomery</b>	<b>1.8</b>
3	Franklin	2.3
4	Lucas	2.4
<b>5</b>	<b>Ohio</b>	<b>2.8</b>
6	Hamilton	2.9
7	Stark	2.9**
8	Mahoning	3.4**
9	Cuyahoga	4.2
10	Summit	6.9**

\*IM Ratio: Black infant mortality rate to White infant mortality rate

\*\*Rates based on fewer than 20 infant deaths should be interpreted with caution.

Source: Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse, Ohio Resident Birth and Mortality Data (2019)

In 2019, Montgomery County's overall IMR (9.0 deaths per 1,000 live births) ranked **fourth highest** among all OEI counties and Ohio. Additionally, Montgomery County had the:

- Fourth **lowest** Black IMR at 13.1 deaths per 1,000 live births;
- The **highest** White IMR at 7.1 deaths per 1,000 live births; and
- Second **lowest** infant mortality racial disparity (1.8).