



## A New Year. An Inspiring Vision. A Strong Strategy.

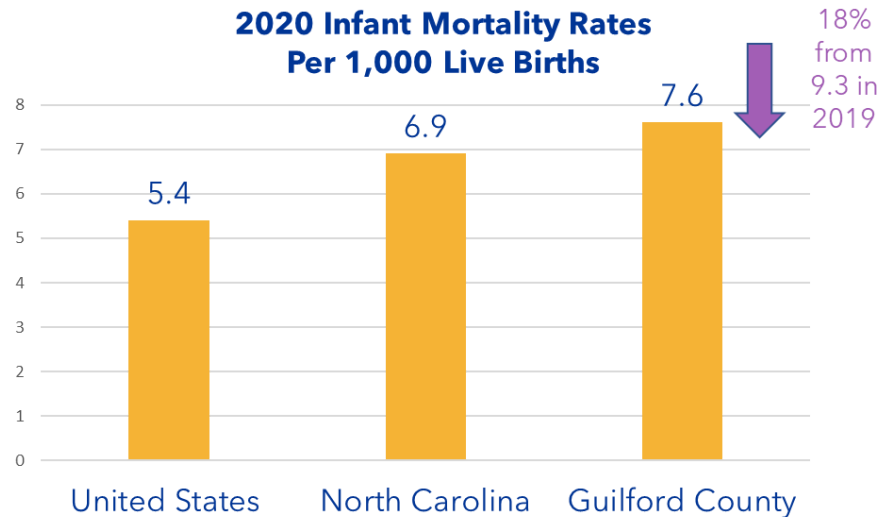
### Crucial Conversations: The State of Infant Mortality in Guilford County

On February 24, 2022 community leaders and members gathered for an update on the newly released 2020 infant mortality data. Infant mortality is the death of an infant before his or her first birthday. The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births. Maternal and infant health outcomes are key indicators for gauging the overall health and wellbeing of a community.

For many years Guilford County’s rate of infant deaths has been consistently higher than both the State of NC and the country as a whole. While the decline in Guilford County’s infant mortality rate from 2019 to 2020 is welcome, we will need to see several years of declining rates before we can celebrate durable improvement in the prospects of Guilford County babies to survive and thrive.

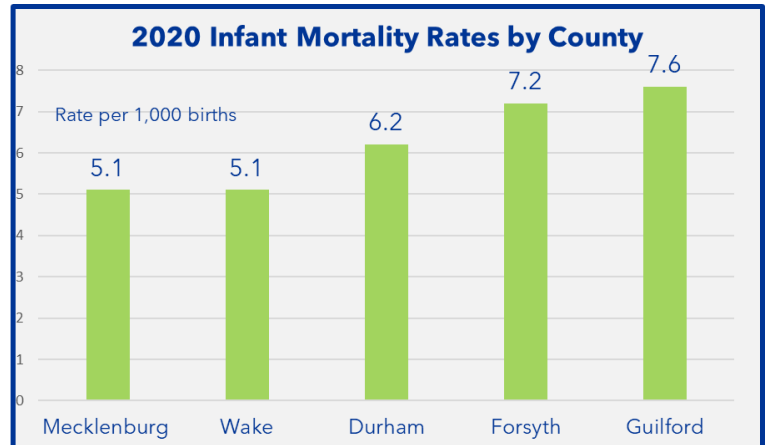
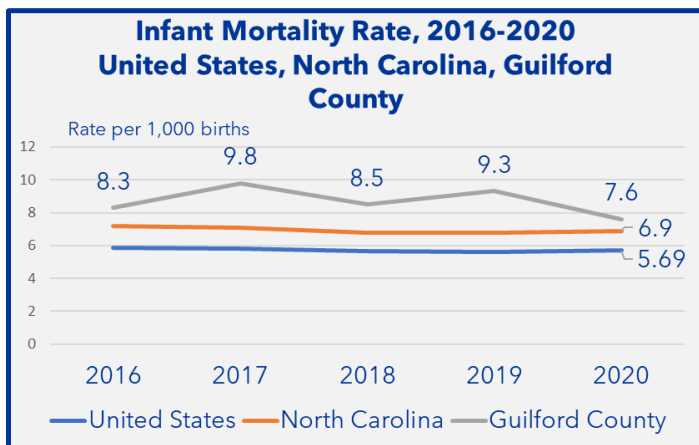
While Guilford County experienced an 18% decrease in the overall infant mortality rate in 2020, it still remains one of the highest in North Carolina.

2020 Infant Mortality Rates Per 1,000 Live Births

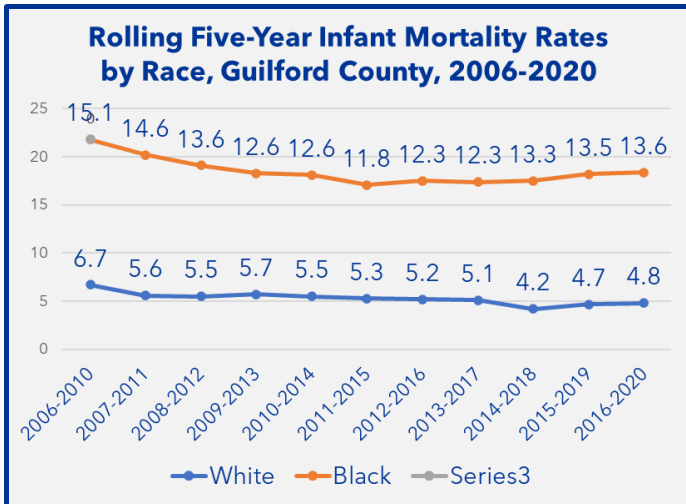


Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

### Infant Mortality Rates, US, NC, Guilford County and Comparison Counties

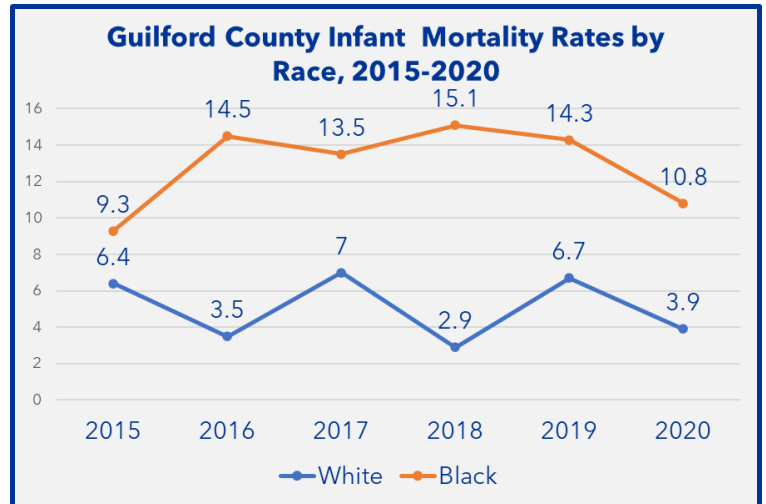


# Five Year Comparisons By Race



This chart is rolling 5-year comparisons of White and Black rates. As you can see, the disparity gap is not closing.

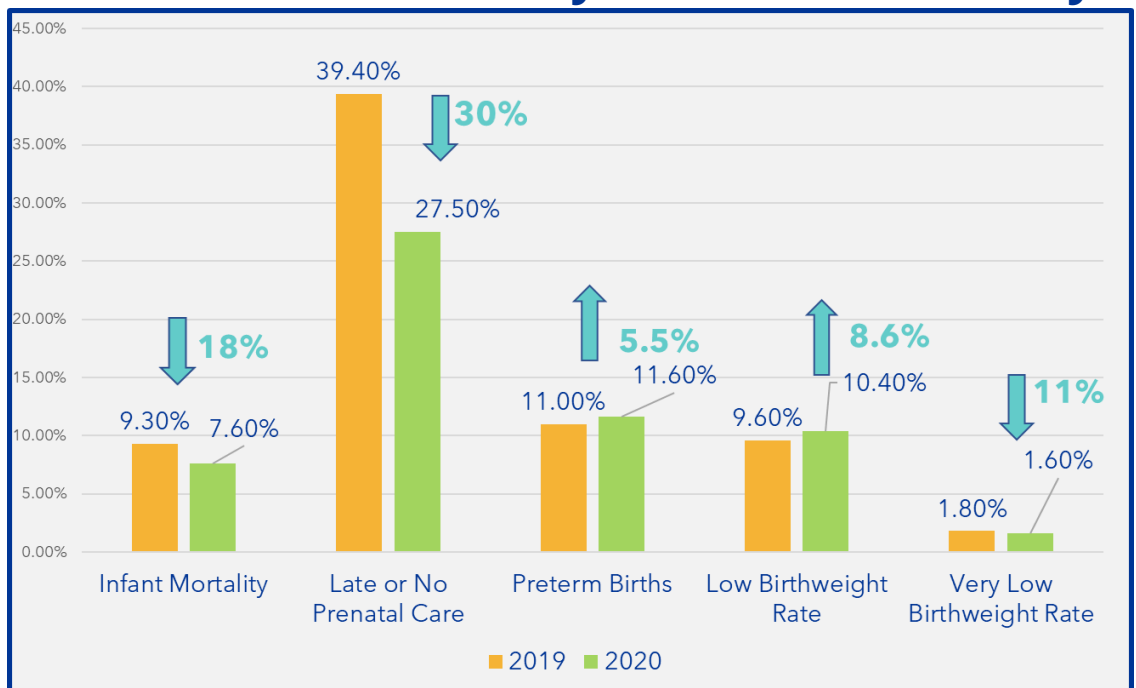
Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.



This chart is five years of one-year rates by race which shows a lot of fluctuation from year to year. While the disparity gap is not closing between Black and White infants, Black infants did experience a decline of 24% in infant deaths, one of the highest declines over the past 5 years.

# Factors that Lead to Infant Mortality in Guilford County

Every Baby Guilford is using three measurements for defining our success towards reaching our bold goal - late or no prenatal care, preterm birth, and low and very low birthweight rates.

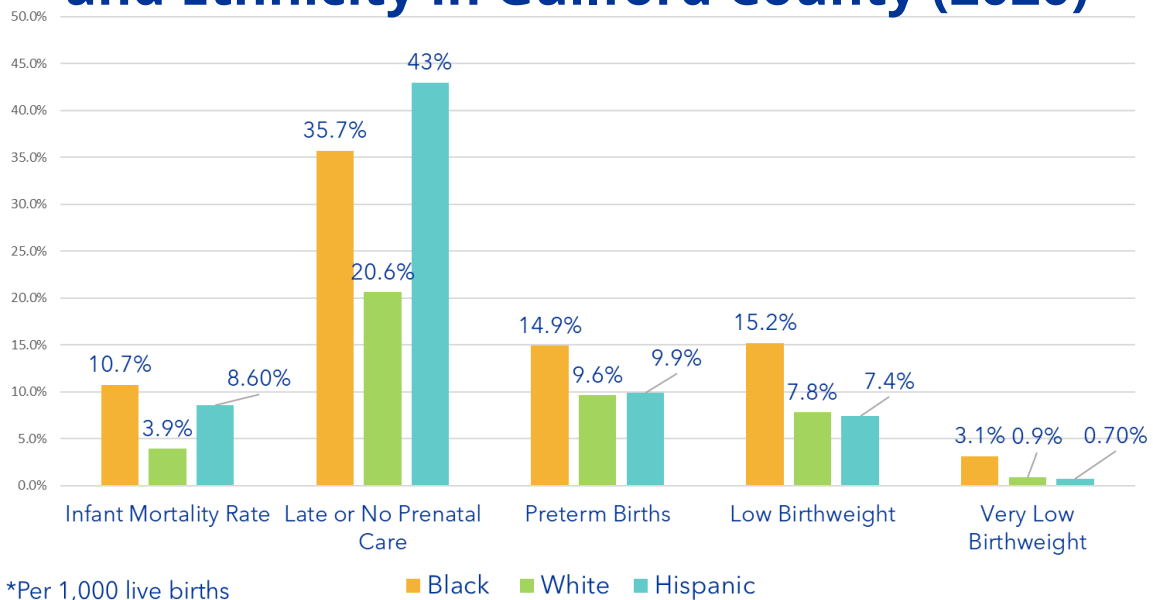


\*Per 1,000 live births  
Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

"Low" = <2500 gms/5.5 lbs  
"Very Low" = <1500 gms/3.3 lbs

In 2020 there were improvements with a 30% decline in the rate of birthing people reporting access to late or no prenatal care and an 11% decline in babies born with a very low birthweight of less than 3.3 pounds. However, preterm births and low birth weight rates increased from 2019.

# Health Outcomes Impacting Infant Mortality by Race and Ethnicity in Guilford County (2020)

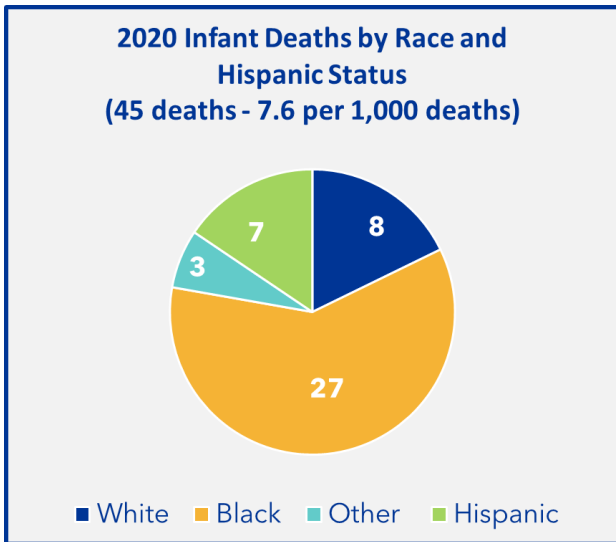


Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

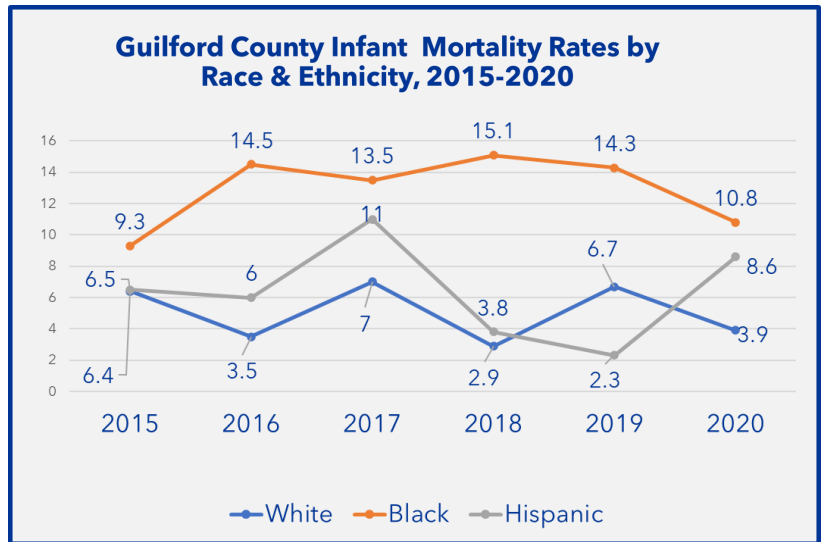
"Low" = <2500 gms/5.5 lbs  
 "Very Low" = <1500 gms/3.3 lbs

When looking at health outcomes across all races/ethnicities it becomes clear that Black women and their babies are doing disproportionately worse than White women and their babies in all 4 infant health indicators. In addition, Hispanic women report the highest amount of late or no prenatal care.

## Racial Disparities in Infant Mortality



Black babies also make up the largest proportion of infant deaths in the county. **In 2020, Black babies made up 43% of births in the county but 60% of infant deaths.**



The Hispanic infant mortality rate increased from rate of 2.3 in 2019 to 8.6 per 1,000 births, an increase of 274%, while the White infant mortality rate decreased by 41% going from a rate of 6.7 to 3.9 per 1,000 births