

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Fetal & Infant Mortality Review

for Guilford County, North Carolina

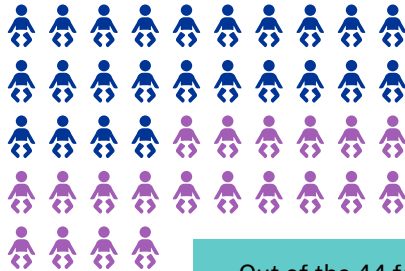
The infant mortality rate (IMR) is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births of babies under one year of age. This rate is used as an indicator to measure the health & well-being of a community

ABOUT FIMR

The Implementation of a Guilford county Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) came from a deep community need. The infant mortality rate in Guilford County is one of the highest in North Carolina. A clear disparity exists with Black babies making up the largest proportion of infant deaths in the county. In 2020 Black babies made up 43% of births in Guilford County and 60% of infant deaths.

A movement is being built in Guilford County, by Every Baby Guilford, with the mission to reduce racial disparities in infant deaths by 50% by 2026 and to eliminate them by 2031. The work of FIMR is part of that mission.

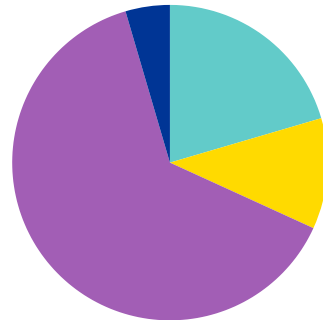
GENDER OF INFANT



Out of the 44 fetal and infant deaths 24 were male and 20 were female.

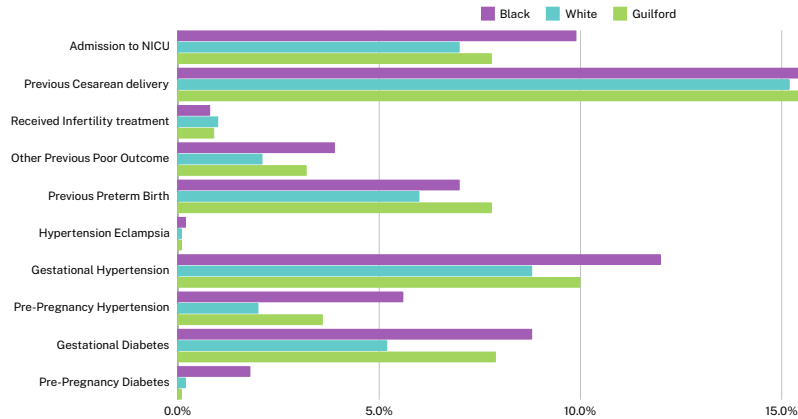
RACE OF INFANT

White Hispanic Black Other



Black infants made up 63.6% of infant deaths

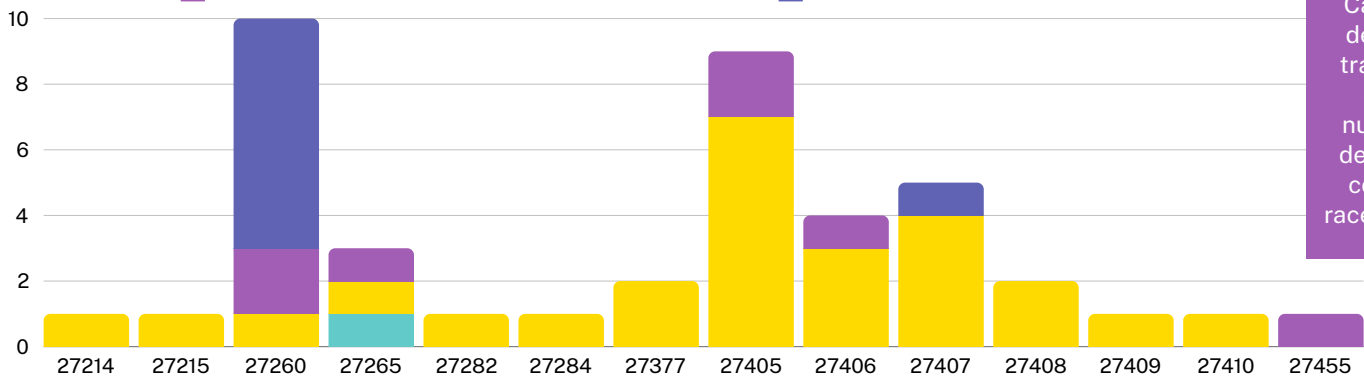
BIRTH CHARACTERISTICS OF MOTHERS



The mothers of each of the lost infants exhibited a variety of birth characteristics. Many of these characteristics increase the risk for fetal/infant health complications

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATH BY ZIP CODE

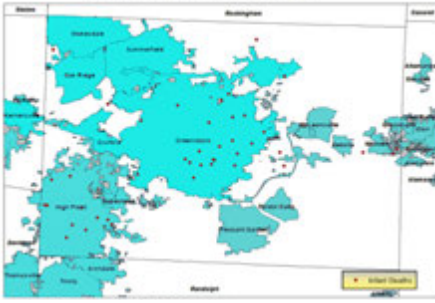
Noninfective disorder of lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes, unspecified
 Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period
 Congenital Malformations & Chromosomal Abnormalities
 Ill-defined and Unknown Cause of Mortality



Causes of death are tracked by cause, number of deaths, zip code and race of infant

INFANT DEATHS IN GUILFORD COUNTY*

*IN 2021



CITY VIEW



ZIP CODE VIEW

The FIMR model is community-based, two-tiered process that uses separate groups to carry out an analytic function and a subsequent action function. The Case Review Team (CRT) acts as the “information processors.” The CRT takes their findings and drafts preliminary recommendations, then passes those recommendations to the Community Action Group (CAG).

TOP NEXT STEPS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Below are a few recommendations we’re currently implementing to reduce our FIMR disparities, as recommended from our CRT and CAG teams.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

Train all healthcare staff on Title VI laws that require the use of interpreters for all patients

Consistently use interpreters (on site or virtual) to improve and promote equitable access to health services.

Identify early on patient’s cultural preferences, including religion of choice and ensure appropriate language services are available for all persons in the room.

Offer free infant CPR education & training to parents.

SAFE SLEEP

Pass legislation mandating safe sleep education at hospital before discharge

Create a Verification Statement that is signed by parents/caregivers during prenatal care, upon discharge, and at first pediatric appointment stating that safe-sleep education was shared and where parents/caregivers state understanding of Safe Sleep, SUID, Dangers of Shaking Infants, and Infant CPR date.

Mandate a teach-back session on safe sleep before discharge. Adopt a universal message on safe sleep that every maternal health stakeholder/agency uses with safe sleep marketing messages and patient education.

ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS, CHARTING

Create a system that reflects universal access to medical records by both private practice and hospital.

Improve the medical charting system so that it can reflect and verify referrals.

Seeking FIMR legislation that would enable and support information access and protection for FIMR teams that is needed to perform effective reviews and encourage the establishment of more FIMRs in NC.

FIMR PARTNERS

We’d like to thank the following community partners for their support and involvement in the FIMR process

- Piedmont Health Services • GC DHHS-Division of Public Health • WIC • Family Connects • Get Ready Guilford • Adopt a Mom • Wake Forest-Atrium Health • Riott for Change Consulting • Hey Awesome Girl • Guilford County Government • Cone Health • Root Cause • Children’s Home Society of NC • Children and Families First NC • OB/GYN Community Leaders • UNCG • St James Presbyterian Church • DSS • Every Baby Guilford

ABOUT EVERY BABY GUILFORD

Every Baby Guilford is a collective action movement of collaborative solutions within the community to disrupt longstanding health outcomes & racial disparities in Guilford County.

Join our movement!
Visit everybabyguilford.org to learn more.

