



Strategic Plan for Infant Mortality Reduction

HAMILTON COUNTY, 2023-2027



Executive Summary



As recently as 2011, Hamilton County had the second worst infant mortality rate among counties our size in the entire country. However, thanks to hundreds of partners working together over the last 10 years, we've seen significant progress.

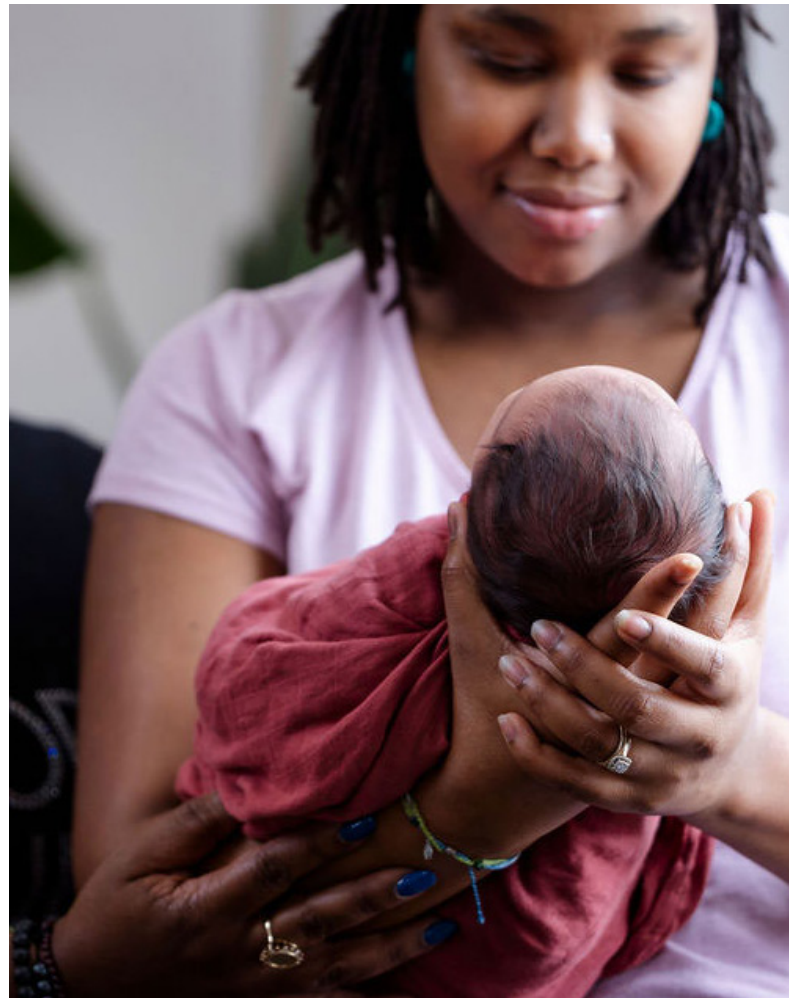
Despite this progress, the problem of infant death continues to plague our community. The loss of even one baby is too many. We want to see every child born in Hamilton County live to celebrate their first birthday, so there is still work to be done. Specifically, we continue to see racial disparities in infant health outcomes, with Black families more likely to experience infant loss than other racial and ethnic groups.

Over a period of seven months, we gathered input from more than 200 birthing people, partners, families, social service providers, health professionals and other key stakeholders across Hamilton County. We asked them what it would take to eliminate disparities and create an ecosystem where every pregnant person felt respected, cared for and supported, and all babies lived to celebrate their first birthdays.



We are introducing universal goals that we want all racial and ethnic groups to meet.

Everyone in our community deserves the same opportunity to live and thrive. For this to happen, we must approach our goals with an equity lens. Setting universal goals and reviewing the outcomes for each individual race and ethnicity allows us to focus our efforts on the groups that are most disproportionately impacted.





Our universal goals for the next five years are:

1) Infant Mortality Rate

6.4/1,000 live births

2) Extreme Preterm Birth Rate

6.4/1,000 live births

3) Sleep-related Death Rate

1.4/1,000 live births

By setting universal goals, we can better identify which families in Hamilton County need to be the focus of our collective efforts. Our data reveals that Black families need our attention so that they have the same outcomes as their peers. As such, our strategies for the next five years will focus squarely on improving outcomes for the Black community.

We aim to achieve these universal goals through the following:

Goal 1

Create a community-based ecosystem of support for Black birthing people.

Goal 2

Support Black birthing people across all stages of pregnancy and parenthood by meeting their basic needs.

Goal 3

Expand the medical system's capacity to center the needs of Black birthing people.

Goal 1

Create a community-based ecosystem of support for Black birthing people.

Objective 1A

Expand Black birthing peoples' formal and informal support systems, resulting in a higher quality, holistic ecosystem of support.

Strategy 1A.1

Create spaces for Black birthing people to support each other by building a knowledgeable community who journeys through pregnancy and parenthood together.

Strategy 1A.2

Increase access to advocates and patient support for Black birthing people when interacting with the medical system.

Strategy 1A.3

Connect Black birthing people to a sustainable village-based mental health support system.

Strategy 1A.4

Provide focused attention on postpartum support, including resources to process grief.



Goal 2

Support Black birthing people across all stages of pregnancy and parenthood by meeting their basic needs.

Objective 2A

Ensure Black birthing people are aware of and can easily access existing programs, services and resources.

Objective 2B

Increase Black birthing people's sense of independence and family self-sufficiency to improve long-term life outcomes.

Strategy 2A.1

Improve access to existing services by reducing barriers for who qualifies.

Strategy 2A.2

Develop a central hub where Black birthing people, healthcare professionals and social service providers can learn about available programs, services and resources related to central needs such as transportation, housing, financial assistance, etc.

Strategy 2B.1

Develop initiatives to aid Black birthing people in gaining life skills so they feel informed and confident entering pregnancy and parenthood.

Strategy 2B.2

Building Black birthing peoples' capacity for financial stability.

Goal 3

Expand the medical system's capacity to center the needs of Black birthing people.

Objective 3A

Increase the medical system's capacity to build connections with Black birthing people.

Objective 3B

Create mechanisms to measure and monitor health systems' efforts to improve equitable outcomes for all.

Strategy 3A.1

Create more spaces where healthcare professionals can directly hear and learn from Black birthing people with the specific goal of improving the prenatal care experience.

Strategy 3A.2

Include Black birthing people in the development of strategies and interventions that health systems are implementing to improve equitable outcomes.

Strategy 3B.1

Establish and expand certifications that can be used to assess hospital systems and other birthing people's health related programs' efforts toward providing more equitable care and service.

Strategy 3B.2

Build a system where Black birthing people can provide honest feedback about their care experience and ensure health systems can be responsive to their concerns to increase accountability and transparency.