

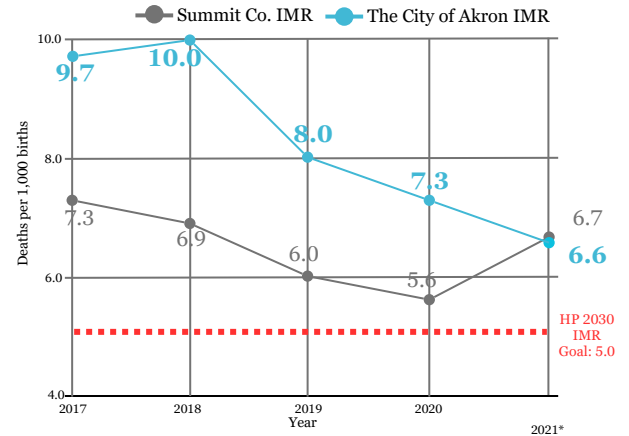
Summit County Infant Mortality Profile, 2017-2021*

Infant mortality is the death of an infant before their first birthday. The infant mortality rate (IMR), the number of infant deaths in a single year for every 1,000 live births, can provide information about the overall health of a community. Infant mortality can be caused by a variety of factors including:

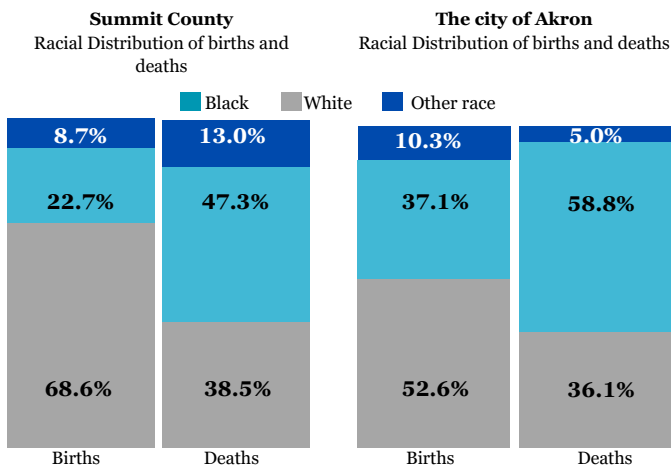
- o Being born too early/premature births
- o Being born with birth defects
- o Unsafe sleep conditions

Summit County, over the past five years, has been experiencing a decrease in infant mortality, however; some areas in Summit County, like the city of Akron, continue to experience higher rates of infant death because of factors like increased poverty in concentrated areas, violence, and unequal access to resources increasing the risk for death and poor pregnancy outcomes.

Infant Mortality Rates in Summit County and the city of Akron, 2017-2021*

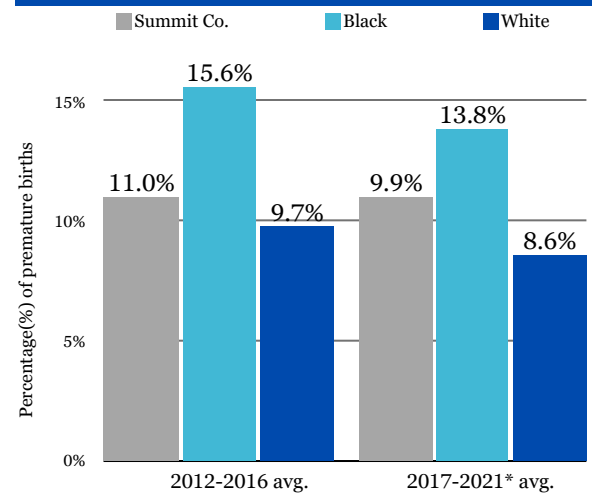


Racial Distribution of Infant Births and Deaths in Summit County and the city of Akron, 2017-2021*



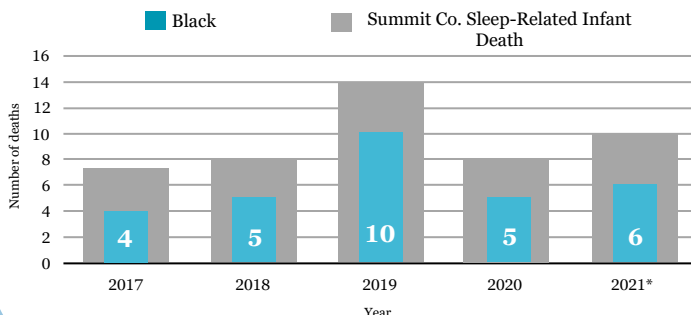
While there has been steady progress to decrease overall infant mortality across the county, work still needs to be done to address racial/ethnic disparities in mortality rates. Black infants in particular have the highest mortality rates of any racial/ethnic group and are nearly twice as likely to die in their first year of life compared to White infants. The racial breakdown of infant births and deaths from 2017-2021* further shed light on the racial/ethnic disparities in infant births and deaths during that five year period. Black infants births only accounted for nearly 2 out of 5 of the total infant births in Summit County and the city of Akron. However, despite that, **they contributed to nearly half of the total infant deaths in that time.**

Prematurity Rate in Summit County, 2017-2021*



Preterm birth is defined as a baby born before 37 weeks of pregnancy are completed. Complications from preterm birth are one of the leading causes of infant death in Summit County. Data showed that in the five year period from 2017-2021, **35% of infant deaths were caused by complications from premature birth.** Black pregnant people in particular have an increased risk of having a premature birth. In the county, Black preterm births rates were 1.5 times higher compared to White preterm birth rates.

Sleep-Related Infant Deaths in Summit County, 2017-2021*



The most preventable causes of infant death are those related to unsafe sleeping practices. Sleep-related deaths are infant deaths that are linked to how or where a baby sleeps or slept. **There were 48 sleep-related infant deaths from 2017-2021. Over half (54.2%) of the sleep-related deaths were caused by asphyxiation due to unsafe sleeping.** Top factors that contributed to these infant deaths included not sleeping in a crib or bassinet (85.4%), co-sleeping with others (68.8%), and infants sleeping with soft bedding/toys(47.9%). Data shows that the burden of sleep-related deaths falls upon Black infants. Over 60.0% of sleep-related infant deaths in that five years were Black.