



**For Release:** March 31st, 2016 Contact us at [media@occhd.org](mailto:media@occhd.org) or 425-4406

## **Infant Mortality Alliance Strategic Plan Is Shared With Our Community**

Many people feel uneasy and sad when they think about infants dying. Yet for too many families it is a sad reality. Every year, nearly 400 babies die in Oklahoma before they reach their first birthday. In Central Oklahoma alone, at least two families experience the death of their infant every week.

The infant mortality rate (IMR), the number of infant deaths per 1000 live births, continues to decline in the U.S. over the past several decades. However, despite this decline, improvements have not been equitable. The infant mortality rate for the African American population has not seen declines at the same rate as the Caucasian population. In Central Oklahoma, the infant mortality rate among African American infants is more than double the rate of Caucasian infants. Despite our overall progress, the disparity persists.

Racial disparities specific to the African American community and directly related to the high infant mortality rate were addressed in Oklahoma City during the 2015 Infant Mortality Summit: An African American Perspective. This Summit brought together community leaders, health care professionals, non-profit organizations and state agency leadership. Together the decision was made to move forward and develop a strategic plan to reduce the infant mortality rate in the African American community in Oklahoma County.

More than 100 individuals, organizations, state agencies and stakeholders came together to launch the Infant Mortality Alliance. This new group has developed a strategic plan based upon the research and best practice models from across the country. The plan includes three primary components including access to quality health care across the life span, including before, during and between pregnancies, enhancing family and community systems that can have broad impacts on families and communities and addressing social and economic inequities that impact health

The Infant Mortality Alliance is a group of partners from across our community that are joining together to help reduce infant mortality in Oklahoma County. This Alliance will build upon its success, learn from its challenges, and develop new initiatives to make sure that more of our babies live to see their first birthday!

Oklahoma City-County Health Department – 2600 NE 63rd Street, Oklahoma City, 73111  
[www.occhd.org](http://www.occhd.org)





**WELLNESS NOW**

Oklahoma City-County Health Department – 2600 NE 63rd Street, Oklahoma City, 73111  
[www.occhd.org](http://www.occhd.org)

