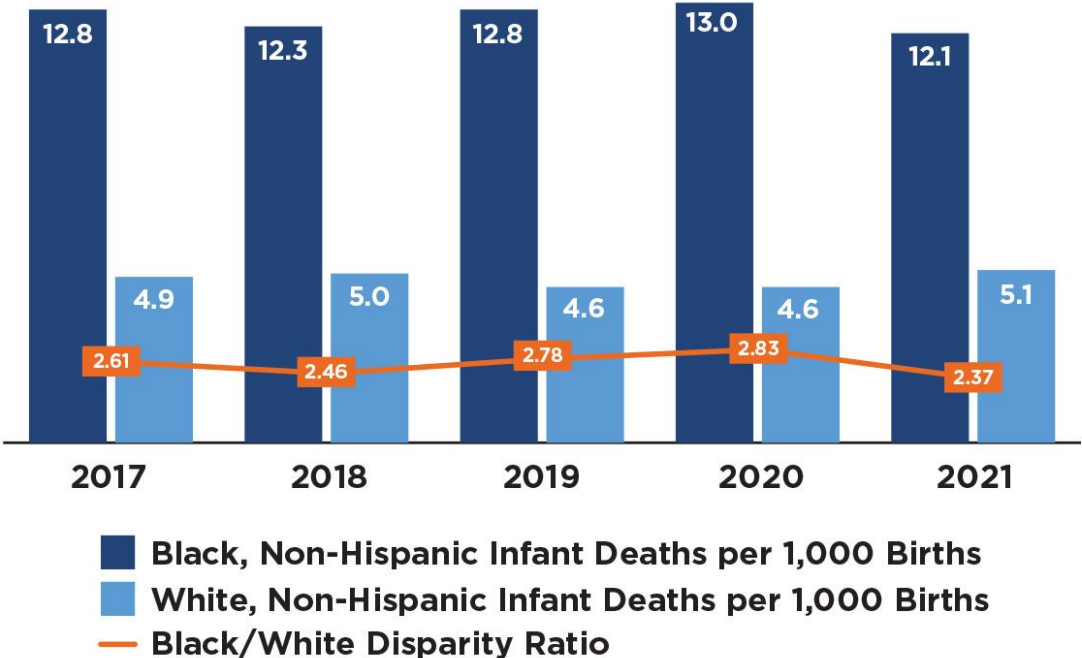




North Carolina's Infant Mortality Reduction Efforts: Key Strategies and Programs

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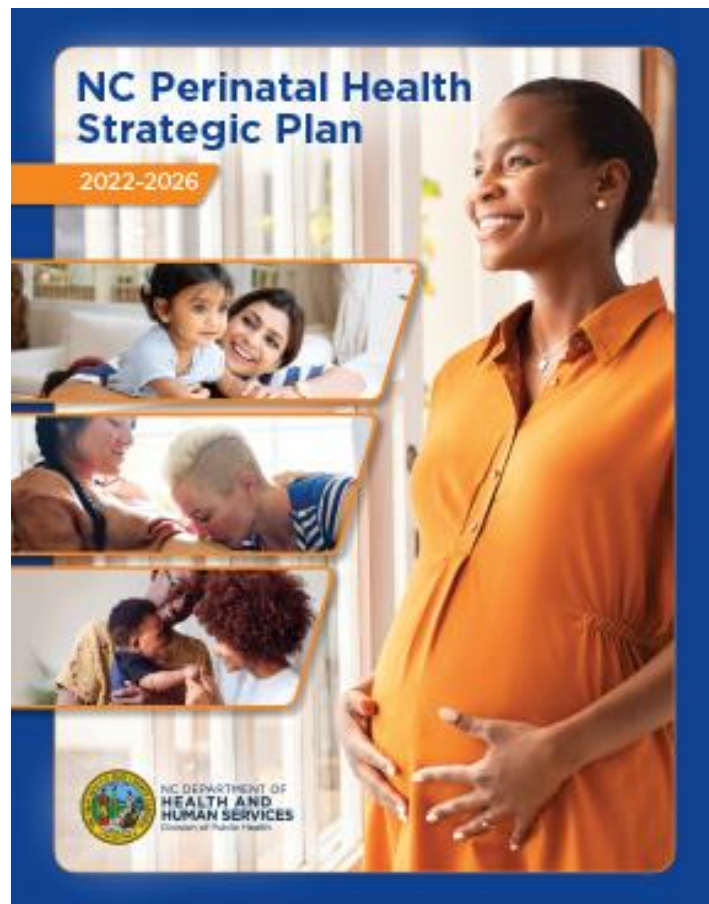
Resident Black and White Infant Mortality Rates and Black/White Disparity Ratio, NC, 2017-2021



Source: NC Vital Statistics/SCHS

North Carolina's Perinatal Health Strategic Plan

- A statewide guide to improve maternal and infant health and the health of all people of reproductive age.
- Based on the “12-Point Plan to Close the Black-White Gap in Birth Outcomes: A Life-Course Approach” by Lu, Kotelchuck, Hogan, Jones, Wright, and Haflon.
- Encompasses infant mortality, maternal morbidity and mortality, and the health of all women and men of reproductive age.





Perinatal Health Strategic Plan: 2022 - 2026

- **Key differences:**
 - Increased emphasis on health equity
 - Highlights the challenges of structural racism and the social drivers of health
 - Establishes greater accountability
 - Puts a monitoring plan in place to better track outcomes
 - Includes four overarching indicators that focus on reducing health inequities in maternal and infant health
 - Strives to use more inclusive language, representative of all NC families

Perinatal Health Strategic Plan 2022-2026

Goal 1 - Address Economic and Social Inequities

- Point 1. Undo racism
- Point 2. Support working parents and families
- Point 3. Reduce poverty among people of reproductive age and families
- Point 4. Close the education gap

Goal 2 - Strengthen Families and Communities

- Point 5. Invest in community building
- Point 6. Support coordination and cooperation to promote reproductive justice within communities
- Point 7. Enhance coordination and integration of family support services
- Point 8. Strengthen father and co-parent involvement in families

Goal 3 - Improve Health Care for All People of Reproductive Age

- Point 9. Expand access to high quality health care
- Point 10. Improve access to and quality of maternal care in all settings
- Point 11. Increase access to preconception, reproductive, and sexual health care for people of reproductive age
- Point 12. Provide interconception care

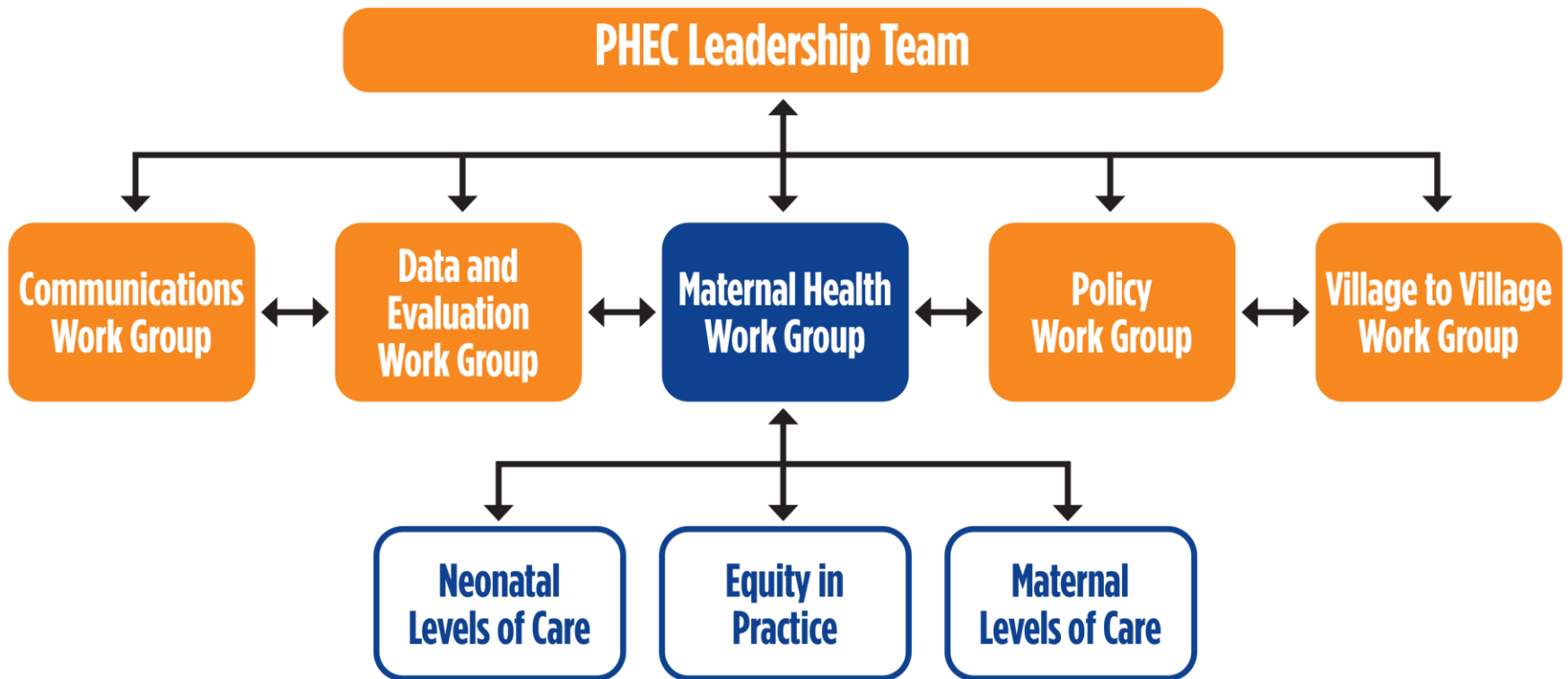
Key Strategies:

| | Perinatal Health Strategic Plan Strategy |
|----|---|
| 1E | Perinatal healthcare providers should participate in trainings around health equity, implicit bias, and cultural competency |
| 2A | Create and expand legislation to provide paid family medical leave, earned paid sick leave, kin care, and safe days for all caregivers |
| 2C | Strengthen policies to support breastfeeding in the workplace and in childcare centers, and increase knowledge and uptake of breastfeeding friendly policies |
| 2F | Work with employers to ensure tobacco cessation services are provided to all employees |
| 3C | Implement policies to reduce poverty (e.g. promote financial literacy education, increase uptake of the federal Earned Income Taxed Credit, and restore the state Earned Income Tax Credit) |
| 3E | Increase funding for stable, safe, and affordable housing, especially during times of disaster and recovery. |
| 4E | Ensure that child care teachers receive compensation and benefits (including health insurance) that match their skills and education |

Key Strategies:

| | Perinatal Health Strategic Plan Strategy: |
|-----|--|
| 7J | Expand efforts to prevent infant deaths related to unsafe sleep environments |
| 8A | Increase implementation sites for evidence-based parenting programs to strengthen parenting skills (e.g. Family Connects, Triple P, Centering Parenting, Nurturing Parenting) |
| 10A | Expand the use of evidence-based and evidence-informed models of perinatal care highlighted in the Maternal Health Innovation Program, including doula services, group prenatal care, group child visits, and community health workers |
| 10C | Improve access to and utilization of first trimester prenatal care and comprehensive postpartum care |
| 10M | Increase use of the North Carolina Psychiatry Access Line (NCPAL)/NC Maternal Health MATTERS Line to improve access to maternal mental health services |
| 12F | Increase same-day access to all methods of contraception |

Perinatal Health Equity Collective



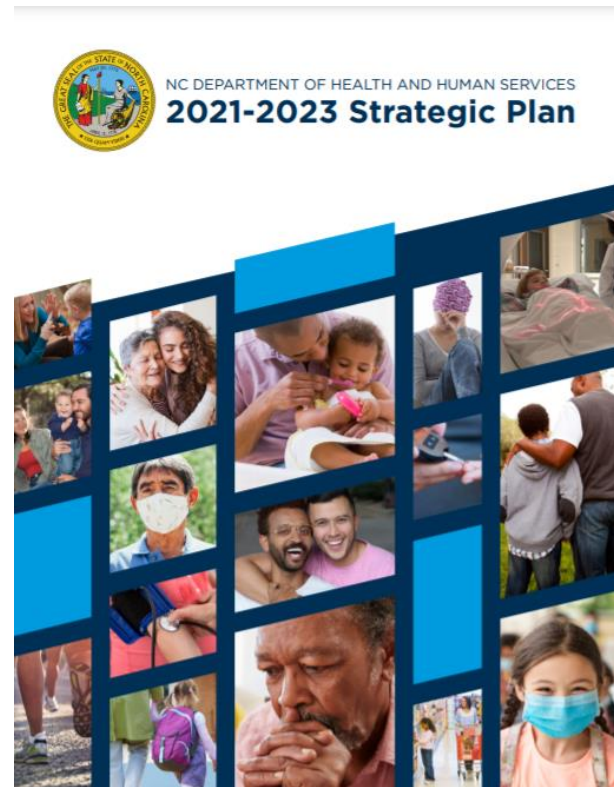


Women, Infant and Community Wellness Section (WICWS)

- The Section provides programs and services that seek to improve the overall health status of women, increase planned pregnancies, reduce infant sickness and death, and strengthen families and communities.
- Composed of three branches:
 - Infant and Community Health
 - Maternal Health
 - Reproductive Health

Division of Public Health Priorities

- NC's healthiest future generation
 - Reduce disparities in infant mortality
 - Healthy Beginnings
 - Improving Community Outcomes for Maternal and Child Health (ICO4MCH)
 - NC Baby Love Plus
 - Reducing Infant Mortality in Communities (RIMC)
 - Reduce unintended pregnancy using a reproductive justice framework
 - Family planning/collaboration with Upstream
 - Preconception health



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