

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Canton City Public Health

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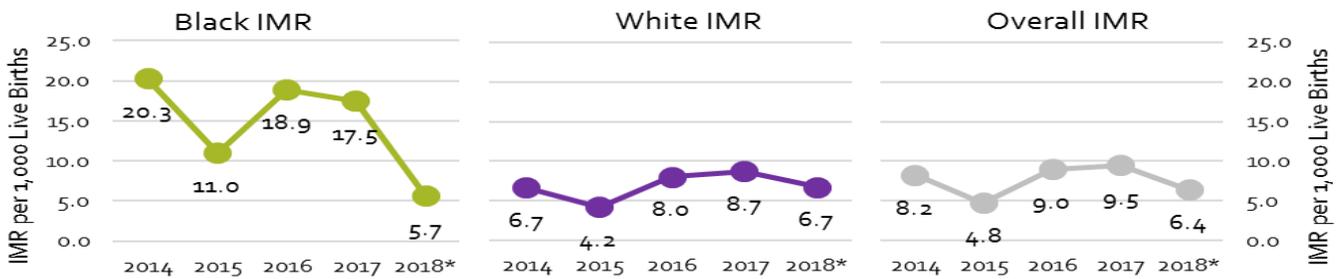
### For Immediate Release

### Stark County THRIVE Announces an Improvement in Infant Vitality

CANTON, OHIO – Canton City Public Health on behalf of Stark County THRIVE announced today that Infant Vitality in Stark County has improved!

In 2017, Stark County's infant mortality rate (IMR) was 9.5, which was an increase from the 2016 rate of 9.0. Preliminary 2018 data shows a promising decrease in overall infant mortality in Stark County with a rate of 6.4 and a Black to White disparity rate ratio of nearly one. This means in 2018, Black and White babies experienced near equity in the rates of vitality after birth. (Infant mortality is defined as the death of a live-born baby before their first birthday and infant mortality rates are calculated per 1,000 live births.)

5-Year History of Infant Mortality Rates (IMR per 1,000 Live Births) in Stark County Ohio



5-Year History of Infant Mortality Disparity Rate Ratio in Stark County Ohio



\*Data is preliminary and subject to change. Data is reviewed monthly. \*\*Disparity Rate Ratio is calculated by Black IMR ÷ White IMR. "These data were provided by the Ohio Department of Health. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions". For questions regarding this data, please contact Jessica Boley, RD, LD, THRIVE Epidemiologist [jboley@cantonhealth.org](mailto:jboley@cantonhealth.org) Created 1.25.2019 ©2019 Stark County THRIVE

Managed by Canton City Public Health, Stark County THRIVE (Toward Health Resiliency for Infant Vitality and Equity) is a collaboration and partnership between Stark County residents, organizations, agencies and businesses focused on preventing and reducing the rates of infant deaths and disparities in birth outcomes.

The success of Stark County THRIVE would not be possible without the support of our community partners and funders: Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Health Plans (Buckeye, CareSource, Molina, Paramount, United Healthcare), Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, Stark Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Stark County.

Stark County THRIVE is focused on decreasing infant mortality and the improvement of racial disparities. Our overarching goal is that ALL Stark County babies will celebrate their first birthday. Stark County THRIVE will continue to work towards improved infant mortality rates in 2019 and beyond!

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