

# Ohio Equity Institute (OEI)

## Who We Are

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and CityMatCH are partnering with nine (9) Ohio communities to improve overall birth outcomes and reduce the racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality. Ohio ranks near the bottom of U.S. state rates in overall infant mortality and Black infant mortality. This is unacceptable.

CityMatCH is a national membership organization that supports urban MCH efforts at the local level and whose mission is “to strengthen public health leaders and organizations to promote equity and improve the health of urban women, families and communities”. Based on the model and the work being done in the existing Institute for Equity in Birth Outcomes - a W. K. Kellogg-funded CityMatCH initiative - 9 participating communities across the state make up the Ohio Institute for Equity in Birth Outcomes (Ohio Equity Institute).

“This effort has real potential to become a template for other states to spur our national collective success in making measurable reductions in birth outcome inequities. The nation is watching.” ~ Dr. Arthur James

## Where We Do It

### Ohio Equity Institute Cohort

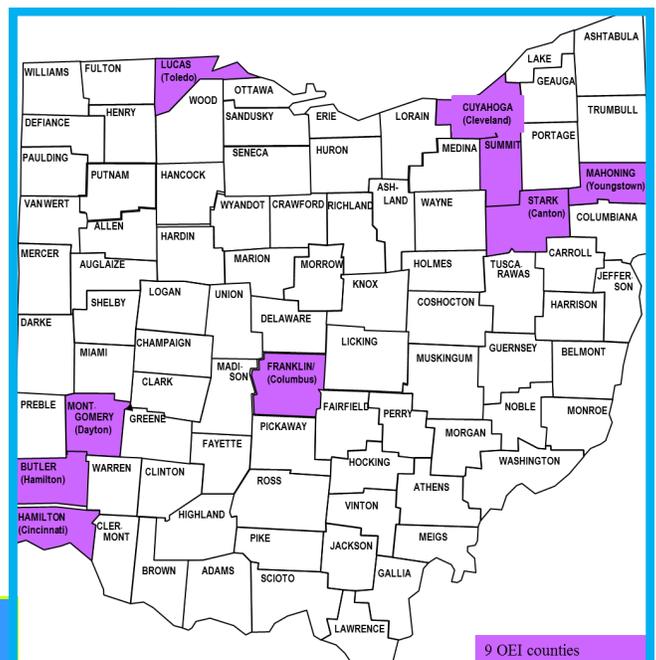
- ◆ Butler County
- ◆ Canton—Stark County
- ◆ Cincinnati
- ◆ Columbus
- ◆ Cleveland—Cuyahoga County
- ◆ Youngstown—Mahoning County
- ◆ Dayton—Montgomery County
- ◆ Toledo—Lucas County



## Why We Do It

The Ohio Equity Institute is an initiative designed by CityMatCH to strengthen the scientific focus and evidence base for realizing equity in birth outcomes. The Institute is a data-driven, high-visibility movement by 9 urban Ohio communities. During a three-year span, these communities will participate and receive training to support them as they select, implement, and evaluate equity-focused projects.

This effort marks the first time that CityMatCH has planned to reduce the disparities in birth outcomes in so many cities in a single state at the same time.



## What We Do

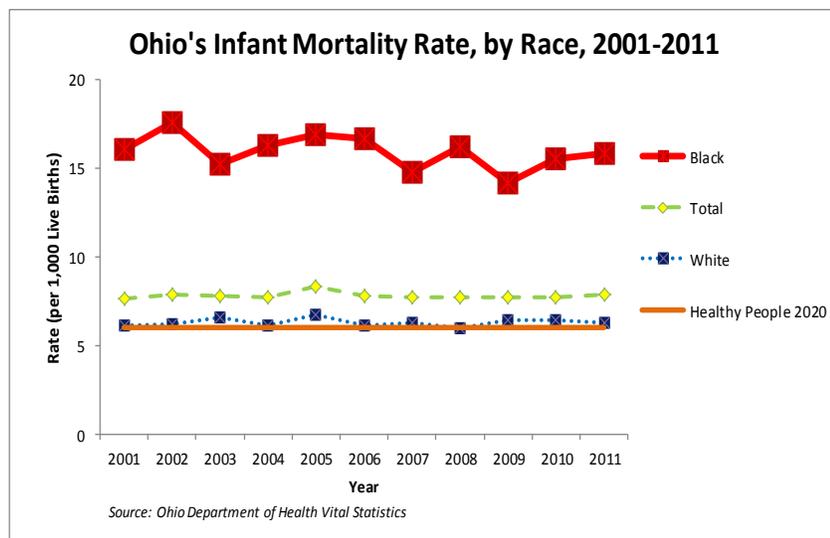
Our challenge is to assess local capacity, examine local data, design and implement an equity project, and demonstrate the evidence base for local interventions that reduce inequities in birth outcomes. Ohio Equity Institute teams will work together and with experts in the fields of public health, epidemiology, birth outcomes, health inequities, and evaluation to accomplish the following two main tasks:

1. Complete the Equity Institute Curriculum with its 5 Major Topics

- ◆ Race, Racism, and Inequities in Birth Outcomes in the U.S.
- ◆ Epidemiology of Birth Outcomes and Racial Disparities
- ◆ Evidence-Based Interventions for Vulnerable Populations
- ◆ Leadership
- ◆ Evaluation

2. Consider, Design and Implement a Local Equity Project

Through the combination of strategies shown to improve birth outcome disparities (ex. 17P, birth spacing, safe sleep, etc.), and data-driven decisions specific to the target populations in each community, teams will engage in two local equity projects aimed at reducing the disparity in birth outcomes. One project will employ upstream strategies, and one project will employ downstream strategies. Teams will receive technical assistance as they consider their capacity, and design and implement their project.



For further information on OEI, contact  
Keeli Cook at 614-644-0602 or  
Keeli.Cook@odh.ohio.gov