



Media Advisory

John R. Kasich/ Governor
Richard Hodges/ Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 25, 2014

Contact: Office of Public Affairs 614.644.8562

Turning Up the Volume on Infant Mortality *ODH hosts the 2014 Infant Mortality Summit December 4*

COLUMBUS - The Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality is holding the 2014 Ohio Infant Mortality Summit on December 3-4 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in downtown Columbus. The purpose of this free event is to increase awareness about infant mortality in Ohio, highlight statewide and local efforts to save babies' lives and provide concrete ideas for participants to make positive changes in their communities to improve the health of women and infants.

Ohio's overall infant mortality rate of 7.57 per 1,000 live births for 2012 is near the bottom among states and well above the national average of 6.05. Ohio's mortality rate for African American babies ranks last among all states at 13.93.

The summit is entitled "**Turning Up the Volume on Infant Mortality: Step Up to Catch Up!**" More than 1,400 people have already registered for this event.

When: **Thursday December 4, 2014**

Time: **8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Where: **Columbus Convention Center**

Speakers throughout the Day: **Richard Hodges, Director, Ohio Department of Health**
Arthur R. James, M.D., The Ohio State University
Gail Christopher, PhD, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
**Sarah Brown, MSPH, MA, CEO - National Campaign to Prevent Teen
and Unplanned Pregnancy**
Magda Peck, Sc.D., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Lisa Holloway, Program Director, March of Dimes
Judy Bannon, Executive Director, Cribs for Kids

RSVP: **Please RSVP to ODH Public Affairs by Wednesday December 3 to arrange a one-on-one interview with a speaker.**

For more information and registration for the Ohio Infant Mortality Summit, please visit <https://www.osma.org/Training/Infant-Mortality-Summit>. For more information on infant mortality in Ohio, visit the collaborative Website at <http://bit.ly/everbabymatters>.

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About the Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality

The Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality, of which the Ohio Department of Health is a supporting member, is a statewide organization working to improve women's health, birth outcomes, and survival during the first year of life. Membership in the collaborative is made up of representatives

from business, medicine, government, public health, and advocacy groups and includes the Ohio Chapter of the March of Dimes, the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Ohio Section of the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Ohio Hospital Association, and many others. Dr. Arthur R. James of the OSU Wexner Medical Center and Lisa Amlung Holloway of the March of Dimes Ohio Chapter are the organization's co-chairs. To schedule an interview with Dr. Arthur James, contact Julia Gladstone julia.gladstone@osumc.edu. To schedule an interview with Lisa Amlung Holloway, call [513-370-5003](tel:513-370-5003).