



NEWS RELEASE

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LOCAL INFANT MORTALITY RATE DROPS, AMONG LOWEST IN N.C.

Wake County's infant mortality rate dropped to 5.1 per 1,000 live births in 2013, lower than the 2012 rate of 7.1 per 1,000, and the current overall state rate of 7.3 per 1,000 live births. This is also lower than any other North Carolina county with a population of 250,000 or more.

"Infant mortality rate is a key indicator of the overall health of our community, and one that we have focused on as we work to become the Healthiest Capital County in the United States," said Wake County Human Services Interim Director Regina Petteway.

The local African-American infant mortality rate continues to be higher, 9.3 per 1,000 live births, than White non-Hispanic and Hispanic populations of 3.5 and 4.8 per 1,000, respectively.

"This data shows us that many of the efforts are working," said Petteway. "However, we will continue to work with our community partners through the Healthiest Capital County and other initiatives and partnerships to make additional improvements in the infant mortality rate for all of our population groups."

In conjunction with the County Commissioners and more than 80 partners, the [Healthiest Capital County](#) Initiative will include strategies and opportunities for everyone to connect with needed services and to identify ways to improve their health.

[Statewide and County specific infant mortality data](#) for 2013 is available through the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services and in the [2013 Wake County Community Health Needs Assessment](#).

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