every baby guilford

ELIMINATING DISPARITIES.
ENDING INFANT DEATHS.
EMPOWERING FAMILIES.

GUILFORD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH

Every baby and family deserves equitable access to achieve the healthiest start in life. In Guilford County, too many babies don't have that opportunity.

In 2023:

5,757	**53**	**70%**
babies were born in Guilford County	of these babies died before their first birthday	were Black from all socioeconomic levels

Every Baby Guilford's mission is to ignite and mobilize Guilford County through partnerships and unified strategies to eliminate racial disparities and prevent infant deaths.

We are a collective action movement building collaborative solutions within the community to disrupt longstanding racial disparities in infant mortality in Guilford County.

Our Bold Goal

Every Baby Guilford and our partners will reduce racial disparities in infant death by **50% by 2026 and eliminate them by 2031.**

Our Strategies

Advance Health Equity	**Center Inclusive Community**	**Strengthen Reproductive Healthcare**	**Promote Infant Wellness**
Addressing systemic racism and implicit bias within the continuum of maternal and infant care	Radically inclusive community engagement to create equitable solutions together	Ensuring equitable access to quality care at every stage of reproductive health	Supporting infant health and positive child development within the community

2025 Crucial Conversations
The State of Infant and Maternal Health in Guilford County

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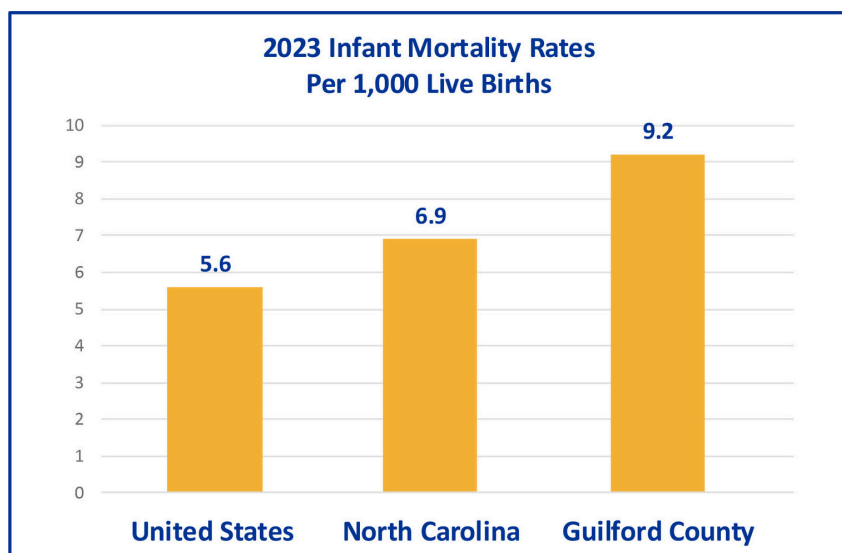GUILFORD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES — PUBLIC HEALTH

Maternal and infant health outcomes are key indicators for gauging the overall health and wellbeing of a community. Guilford County's infant mortality rate increased by 4% in 2023 from 8.8 to 9.2 per 1,000 births and remains higher than the state and national rates.

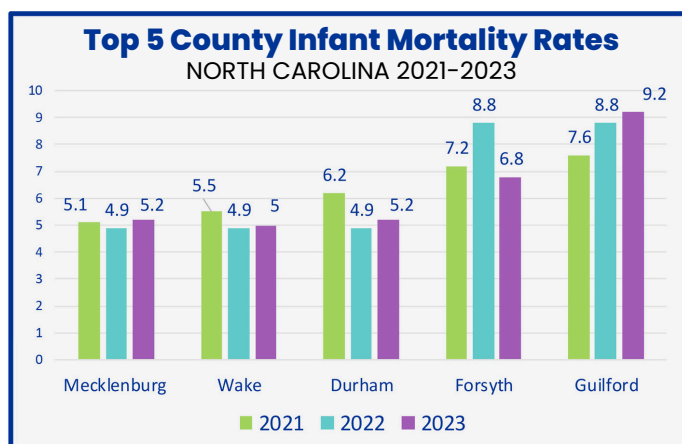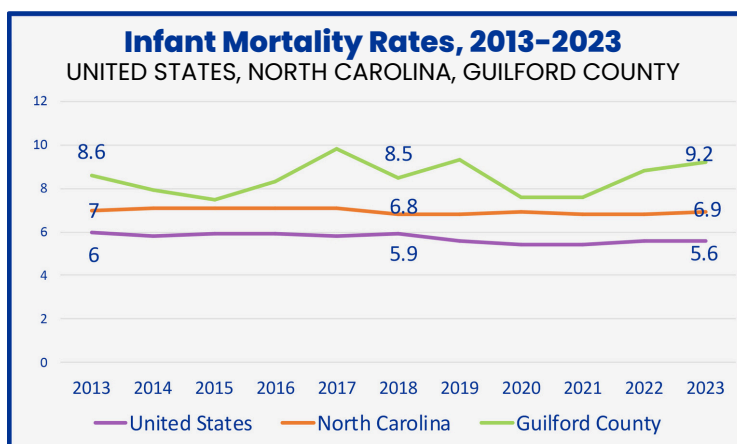*Infant mortality:* the death of an infant before their first birthday

Infant mortality rate: the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births

When poor birth outcomes lead to higher infant mortality rates, one should ask what is wrong with the community, not the individual, that causes poor outcomes? As Alexander Den Hiefer stated, "When the flower does not bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower."
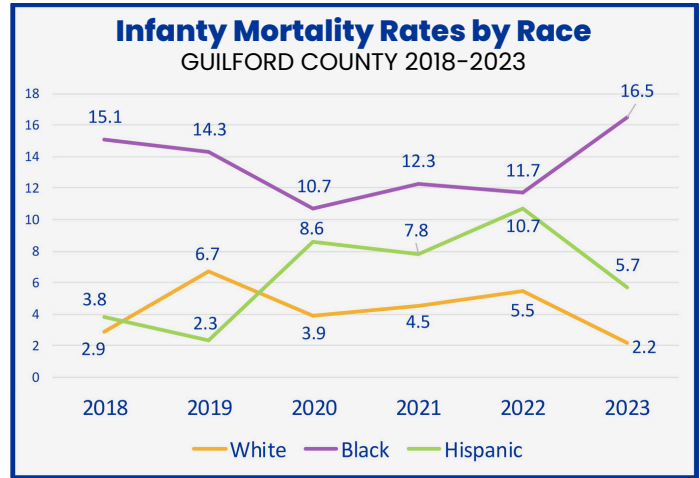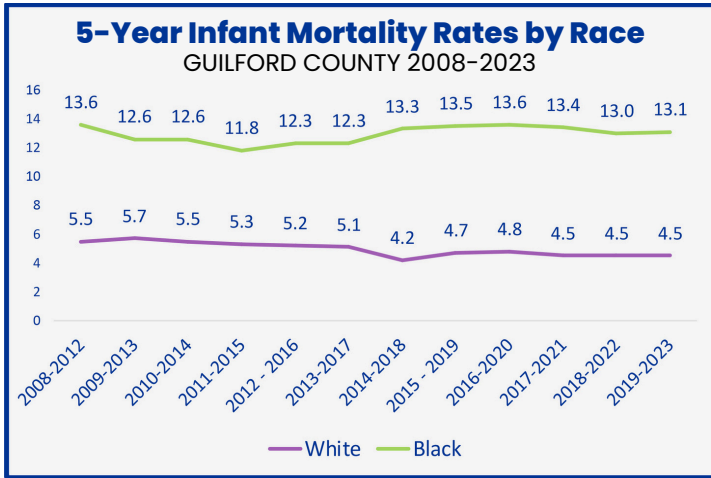
2023 Infant Mortality Rates Per 1,000 Live Births

	Value
United States	5.6
North Carolina	6.9
Guilford County	9.2

Infant Mortality Rates
US, NC, Guilford County and Comparison Counties

Infant Mortality Rates, 2013-2023
UNITED STATES, NORTH CAROLINA, GUILFORD COUNTY

Guilford County: 8.6 (2013), 8.5 (2018), 9.2 (2023)
North Carolina: 7 (2013), 6.8 (2018), 6.9 (2023)
United States: 6 (2013), 5.9 (2018), 5.6 (2023)

Legend: United States — North Carolina — Guilford County

Top 5 County Infant Mortality Rates
NORTH CAROLINA 2021-2023

County	2021	2022	2023
Mecklenburg	5.1	4.9	5.2
Wake	5.5	4.9	5
Durham	6.2	4.9	5.2
Forsyth	7.2	8.8	6.8
Guilford	7.6	8.8	9.2

For many years, Guilford County's rate of infant deaths has been consistently higher than both North Carolina and the country as a whole. Guilford County's infant mortality rate decreased by 18% from 2019 to 2021. However, it increased by 19% between 2021 and 2023. While Guilford and Forsyth Counties retain two of the highest rates for infant deaths, Forsyth County experienced a dramatic decline of nearly 26% from 2022 to 2023.

Data provided by NC Center for HealthStatistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

Five Year Comparisons By Race

5-Year Infant Mortality Rates by Race
GUILFORD COUNTY 2008-2023

White: 5.5, 5.7, 5.5, 5.3, 5.2, 5.1, 4.2, 4.7, 4.8, 4.5, 4.5, 4.5
Black: 13.6, 12.6, 12.6, 11.8, 12.3, 12.3, 13.3, 13.5, 13.6, 13.4, 13.0, 13.1

Years: 2008-2012, 2009-2013, 2010-2014, 2011-2015, 2012 - 2016, 2013-2017, 2014-2018, 2015 - 2019, 2016-2020, 2017-2021, 2018-2022, 2019-2023

— White — Black

Infanty Mortality Rates by Race
GUILFORD COUNTY 2018-2023

White: 2.9, 6.7, 3.9, 4.5, 5.5, 2.2
Black: 15.1, 14.3, 10.7, 12.3, 11.7, 16.5
Hispanic: 3.8, 2.3, 8.6, 7.8, 10.7, 5.7

Years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
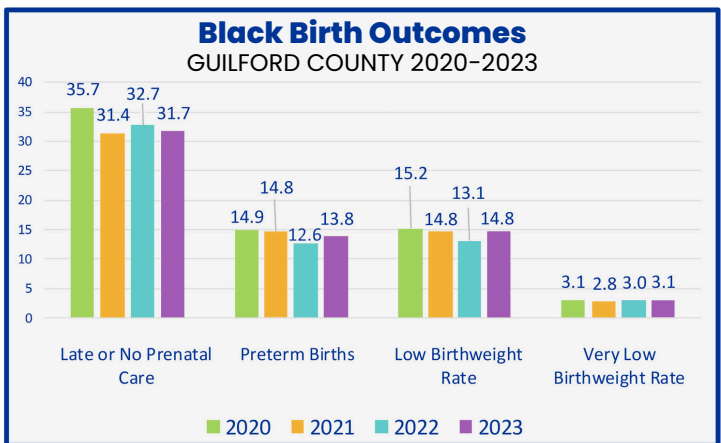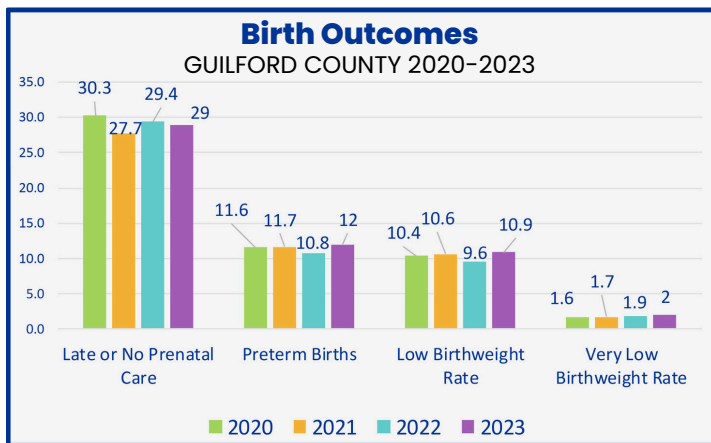
— White — Black — Hispanic

Rolling five-year infant mortality rates over the past decade are showing a slight overall improvement of 3.7% for Black infants in Guilford County.

Yearly infant mortality rates by race show a lot of fluctuation. It is more reliable to focus on five-year trends rather than year-to-year fluctuations.

Birth Outcomes Impacting Infant Mortality

Every Baby Guilford uses three measurements for defining our success towards reaching our bold goal: late or no prenatal care, preterm birth, and low or very low birthweight rates.
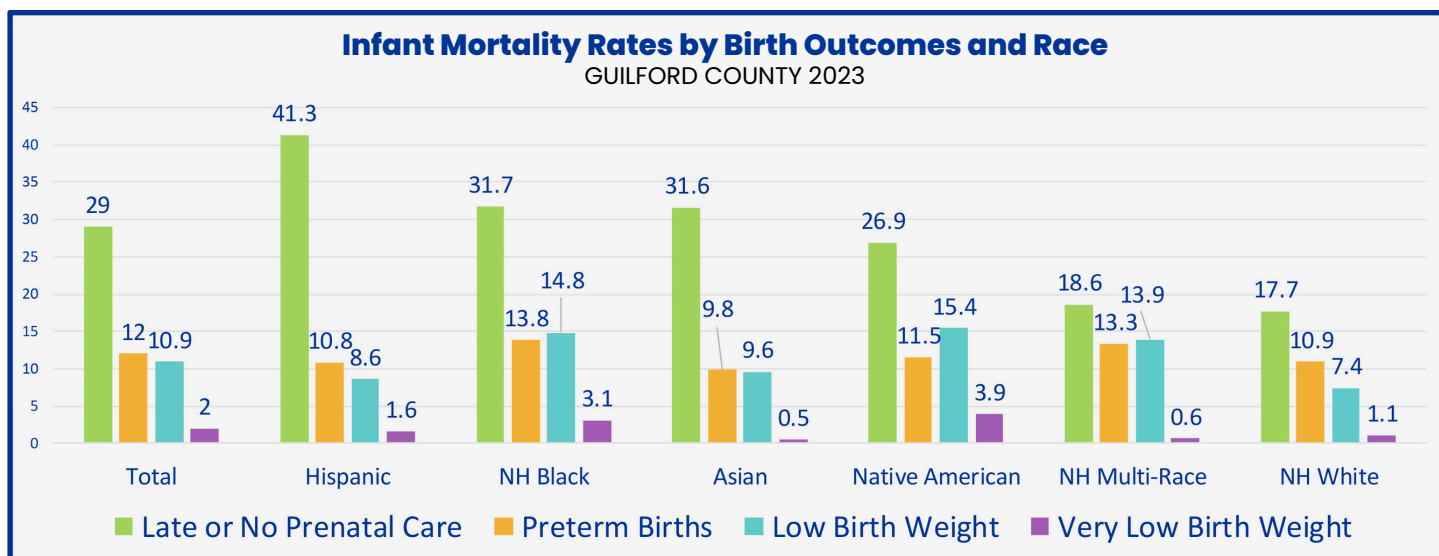
> Preterm = <37 weeks gestation
> Low = <2500 gms/5.5 lbs
> Very Low = <1500 gms/3.3 lbs

Birth Outcomes
GUILFORD COUNTY 2020-2023

Late or No Prenatal Care: 30.3, 27.7, 29.4, 29
Preterm Births: 11.6, 11.7, 10.8, 12
Low Birthweight Rate: 10.4, 10.6, 9.6, 10.9
Very Low Birthweight Rate: 1.6, 1.7, 1.9, 2

■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023

Black Birth Outcomes
GUILFORD COUNTY 2020-2023

Late or No Prenatal Care: 35.7, 31.4, 32.7, 31.7
Preterm Births: 14.9, 14.8, 12.6, 13.8
Low Birthweight Rate: 15.2, 14.8, 13.1, 14.8
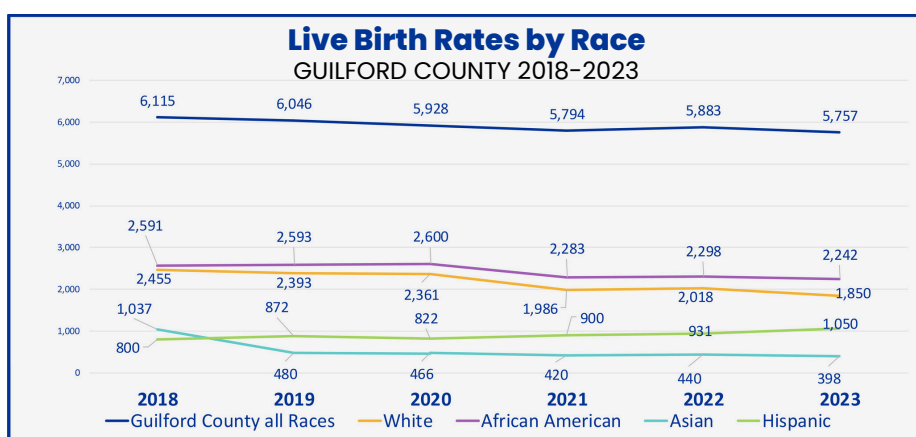Very Low Birthweight Rate: 3.1, 2.8, 3.0, 3.1

■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023

per 1,000 live births

While Guilford County has succeeded in reducing rates in all four infant health indicators, when looking at health outcomes across race it is clear that Black women and their babies are continuing to do disproportionately worse than White women and infants.

Data provided by NC Center for HealthStatistics, National Center for Health Statistics.

Infant Mortality Rates by Birth Outcomes and Race
GUILFORD COUNTY 2023

Chart data — Infant Mortality Rates by Birth Outcomes and Race:

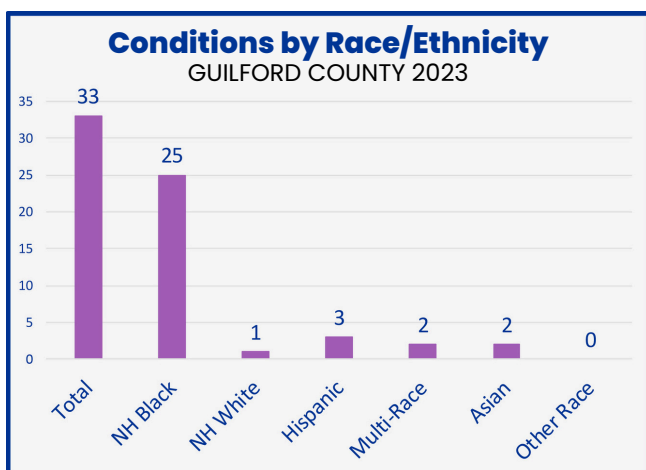| Category	Late or No Prenatal Care	Preterm Births	Low Birth Weight	Very Low Birth Weight
Total	29	12	10.9	2
Hispanic	41.3	10.8	8.6	1.6
NH Black	31.7	13.8	14.8	3.1
Asian	31.6	9.8	9.6	0.5
Native American	26.9	11.5	15.4	3.9
NH Multi-Race	18.6	13.3	13.9	0.6
NH White	17.7	10.9	7.4	1.1

Guilford County experienced 358 fewer births since 2018. This trend is consistent across all races and ethnicities except Hispanic births, which increased by 250 births. Asian births experienced the highest decrease of 639 births, followed by White births with a decrease of 605 births.

Live Birth Rates by Race
GUILFORD COUNTY 2018-2023

Race	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Guilford County all Races	6,115	6,046	5,928	5,794	5,883	5,757
African American	2,591	2,593	2,600	2,283	2,298	2,242
White	2,455	2,393	2,361	1,986	2,018	1,850
Hispanic	800	872	822	900	931	1,050
Asian	1,037	480	466	420	440	398

2023 Causes of Infant Death
Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period

Conditions by Race/Ethnicity
GUILFORD COUNTY 2023

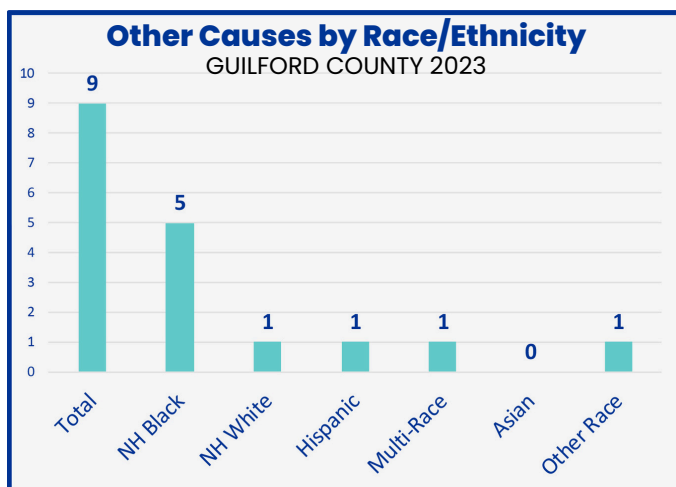| Category	Value
Total	33
NH Black	25
NH White	1
Hispanic	3
Multi-Race	2
Asian	2
Other Race	0

Types of Conditions:
- Extreme prematurity or premature newborn (12)
- Respiratory distress syndrome of newborn
- Newborn affected by premature rupture of membranes
- Newborn affected by incompetent cervix
- Primary atelectasis of newborn/respiratory failure
- Persistent fetal circulation
- Bacterial sepsis of newborn
- Blood clotting disorder of newborn
- Excessive fluid accumulation
- Neonatal cardiac failure
- Perinatal intestinal perforation

Of the 53 infant deaths in Guilford County in 2023, 33 (62%) were caused by conditions originating in the perinatal period, and 25 (76%) of these deaths occurred in Black infants.

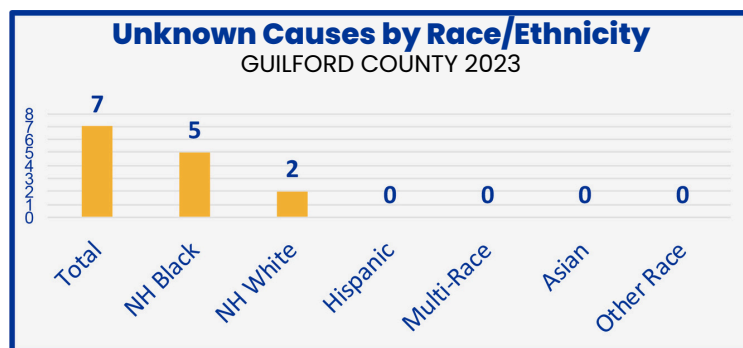*Data provided by NC Center for HealthStatistics, National Center for Health Statistics.*
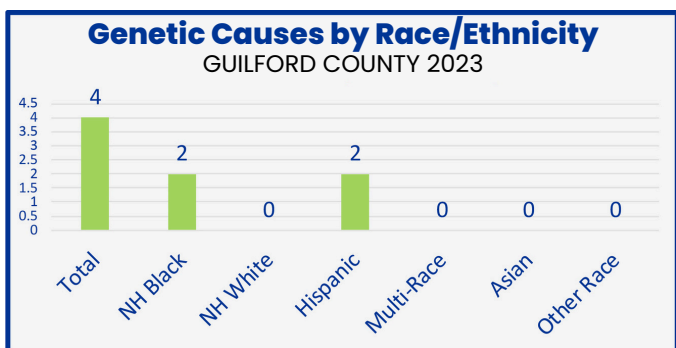
Other Causes

Other Causes by Race/Ethnicity
GUILFORD COUNTY 2023

Category	Value
Total	9
NH Black	5
NH White	1
Hispanic	1
Multi-Race	1
Asian	0
Other Race	1

Types of Causes:
- Suffocation, undetermined
- Other & unspecified gastroenteritis & colitis of infectious origin
- Other specified hereditary hemolytic anemias
- Dehydration
- Anoxic brain damage, not elsewhere classified
- Accidental drowning and submersion while in a bathtub
- Maltreatment & neglect, unspecified perpetrator
- External causes; Other specified events, undetermined intent

A total of 9 infant deaths were due to other causes, 4 of which were unsafe sleep. Five (55%) Black infants died from this classification.

Genetic Causes by Race/Ethnicity
GUILFORD COUNTY 2023

Category	Value
Total	4
NH Black	2
NH White	0
Hispanic	2
Multi-Race	0
Asian	0
Other Race	0

Unknown Causes by Race/Ethnicity
GUILFORD COUNTY 2023

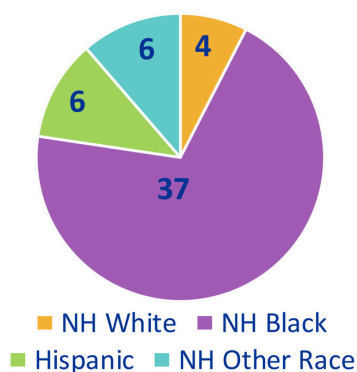| Category	Value
Total	7
NH Black	5
NH White	2
Hispanic	0
Multi-Race	0
Asian	0
Other Race	0

Unpreventable congenital malformations or chromosomal abnormalities accounted for 4 infant deaths. The remaining 7 infant deaths occurred under ill-defined or unknown causes with Black infants having a higher disparity in both categories.

Racial Disparities in Infant Mortality

In 2023, Black babies made up 39% of births in Guilford County but 70% of infant deaths, an increase of 30% from 2022)

Total Infant Deaths by Race/Ethnicity
GUILFORD COUNTY 2023

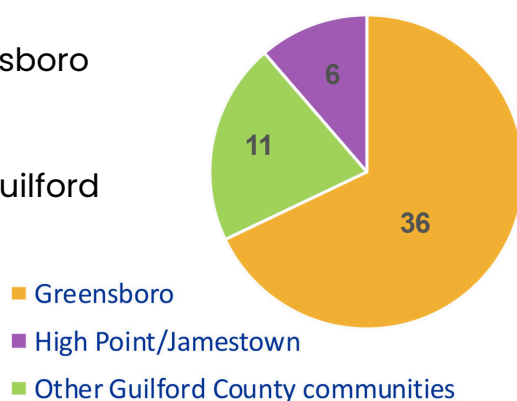| Category	Value
NH White	4
NH Black	37
Hispanic	6
NH Other Race	6

Of the 53 infant deaths:
- 68% resided in Greensboro
- 21% resided in High Point/Jamestown
- 11% resided in other Guilford County communities

Total Infant Deaths by Town
GUILFORD COUNTY 2023

Category	Value
Greensboro	36
High Point/Jamestown	6
Other Guilford County communities	11

Data provided by NC Center for HealthStatistics, National Center for Health Statistics.