

Disparities in Black Maternal and Child Health

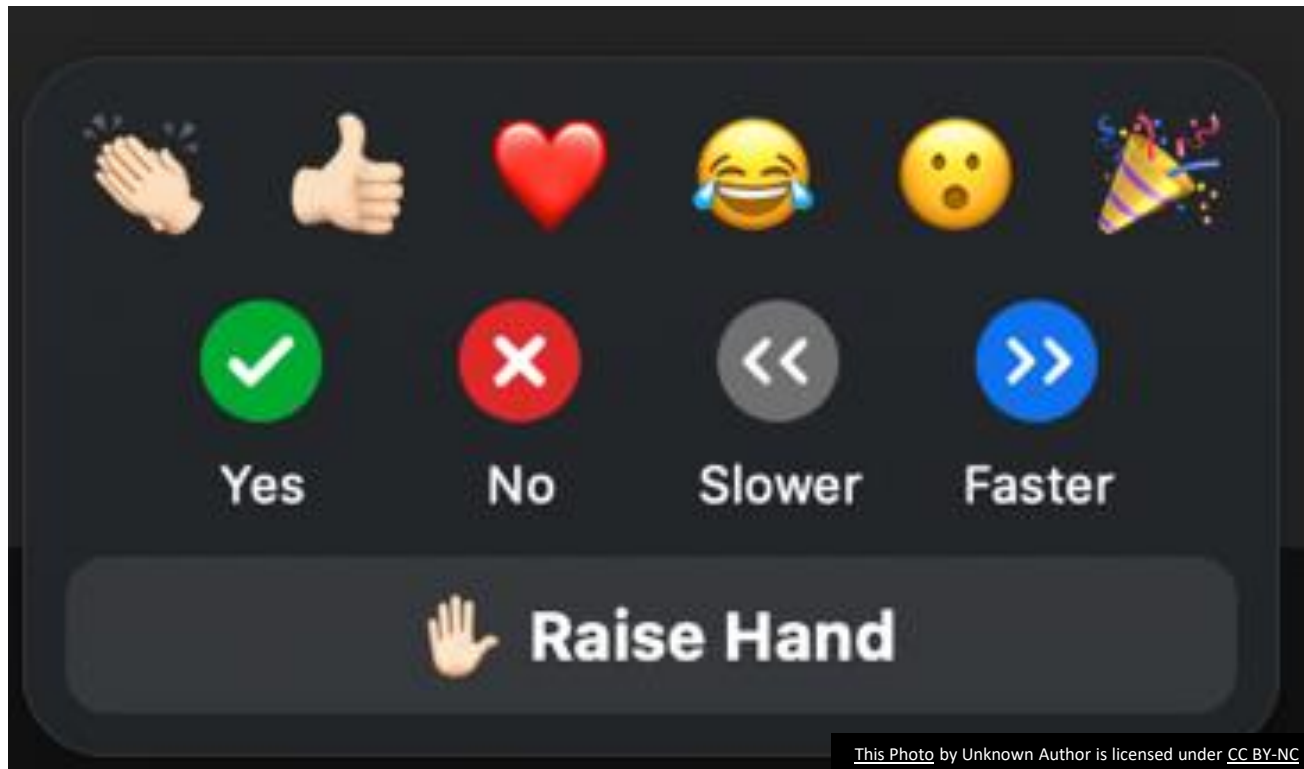
Dauline M. Singletary
MPH, CCE(ACBE), CD(DONA)



@wakegov    

wakegov.com

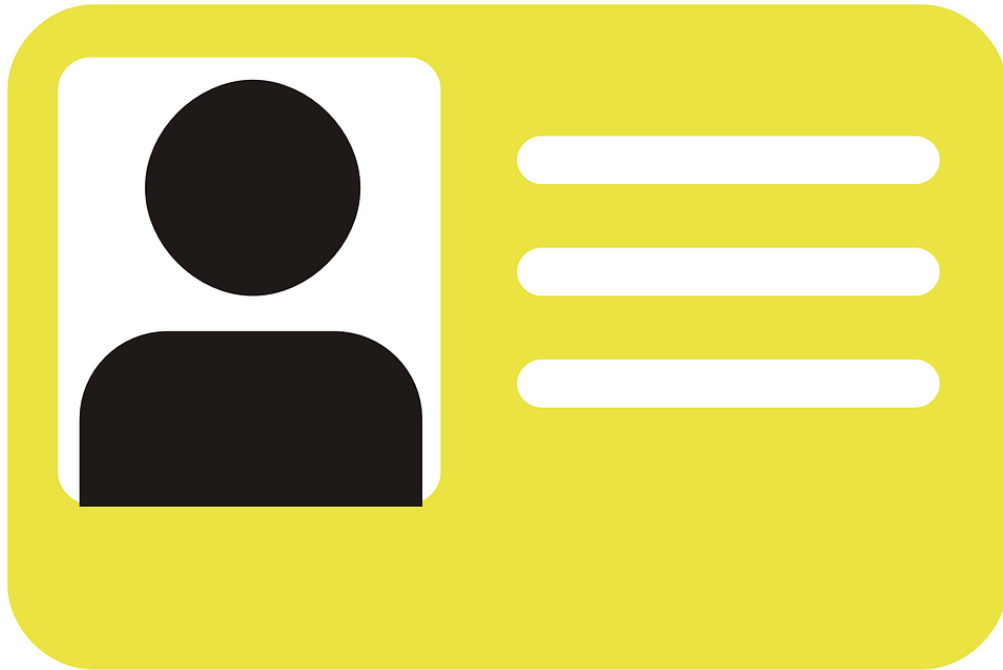
Icebreaker- Would you Rather?



Rules:

- Using the corresponding emoji under the reaction tab or chat and vote your best choice.
- Please feel free to unmute and tell us why.

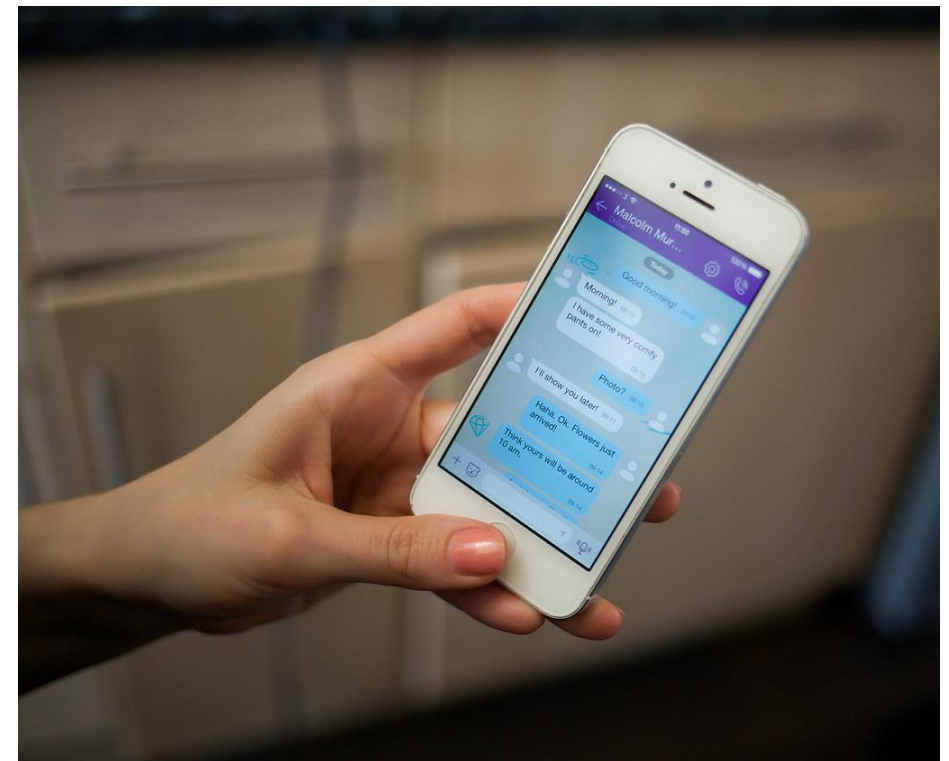
Would you rather lose your I.D or lose your smartphone?



Would you rather live in winter or summer
for the rest of your life?



Would you rather have a phone that only makes calls or only send and received text messages?



Would you rather fight for a cause you believe in, but doubt it will succeed or fight for a cause that you only partially believe in but have a high chance of your cause succeeding?



What is Black Maternal Mortality?

- The World Health Organization (WHO) defines maternal mortality as death that occurs during pregnancy, birth and up to 42 days postpartum. **Black maternal mortality in the United States** refers to the incidence of maternal mortality in the U.S. specifically for those identifying as black or African American.
- Infant mortality is the death of an infant before his or her first birthday. The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births.

What are the Disparities?

- In the U.S, Black women are three to four times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related causes than that of White women.
- In the U.S, Black infant are three times more likely to die within the first years compare to that of white babies.
- Multiple factors lead to these disparities such as:
 - Quality healthcare
 - Underlying chronic health conditions
 - Structural racism and implicit bias
 - Social determinants of health- Economic Stability, Education, Environment, etc



Background: Black Maternal Mortality

- Pregnancy and Childbirth
 - Health Complications
 - Postpartum hemorrhaging
 - Preeclampsia
 - Chronic stress
- Access to reproductive health care and needs
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Snapshot of Wake County Mothers and Babies for 2020

12, 552

Total number of live births

71%

Born to married women

945

Low birthweight babies

48%

Women were overweight or obese
(based on pre-pregnancy BMI)

75%

Women aged 18-35

1,141

Babies born to mother with less than a high school
education

Protective Factors for Wake County Mothers 2020

	Wake County	White	African American	Hispanic
Beginning Care in First Trimester	70.2%	80.3%	58.3%	53.3%
Breastfeeding at Discharge	92.5%	94.1%	86.2%	93.1%
Pre-Term Birth (37 weeks or Less)	8.7%	7.3%	12.3%	8.4%
Birthweight of 2500+ grams	92.4%	94.5%	87.2%	93.6%



Background: Infant Mortality

“Healthy Mother Healthy Baby”

- African American infants born or residing in Wake County are four times more likely to die than White infants.
- African American women in Wake County have poorer birth outcomes than White and Hispanic women for birthweight, gestational age, and adequacy of prenatal care.

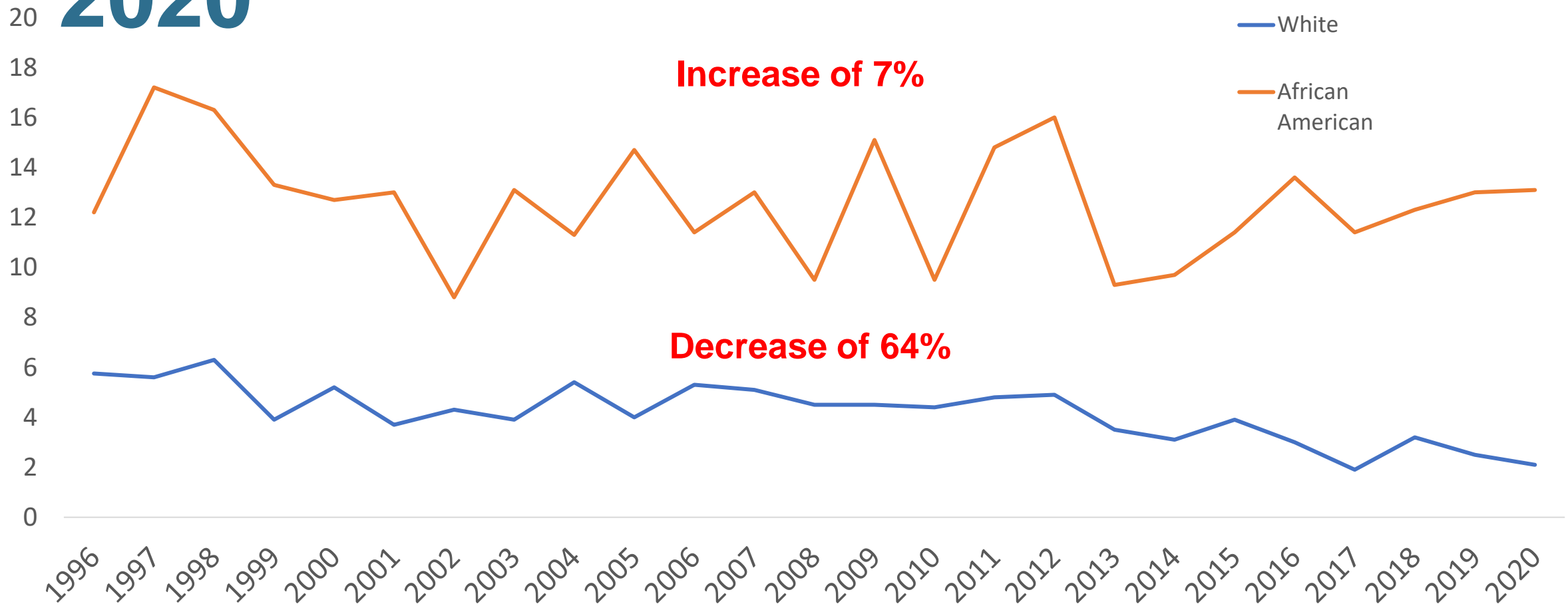
**BBZ Community Champion:
Ashley Richardson**



Infant Mortality in Wake County

Infant Mortality Rates by Race and Ethnicity, North Carolina, 2020								
	Total Infant Deaths	Rate	White Non-Hispanic Infant Deaths	Rate	Black Non-Hispanic Infant Deaths	Rate	Hispanic Infant Deaths	Rates
2020								
North Carolina	803	6.9	297	4.8	366	12.8	112	5.8
Wake County	69	5.5	13	2.1	36	13.1	15	6.9
2016-2020								
North Carolina	4144	7.0	1583	4.9	1820	12.7		
Wake County	353	5.6	84	2.6	176	12.7		

Wake Infant Mortality Rates, 1996 - 2020



Leading Causes of Infant Death in North Carolina

Cause of Death in 2020	Neonatal (<28Days)		
	White	African American	Hispanic
Congenital Malformations & Chromosomal Abnormalities	24.6%	14.6%	19.6%
Prematurity & Low Birth Weight	21.2%	30.5%	32.6%
Respiratory Distress & other Respiratory Conditions	7.4%	7.1%	10.9%
Newborn affected by maternal factors/complications of pregnancy, labor & delivery	13.3%	18.0%	14.1%
Other conditions originating in perinatal period	21.7%	18.0%	15.2%

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, <https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/vital/ims/2020/2020-IMR-TABLE8.html>.

March of Dimes

Wake County Report Card 2021

PRETERM BIRTH RATES BY COUNTIES AND CITY

COUNTY	GRADE	PRETERM BIRTH RATE	CHANGE IN RATE FROM LAST YEAR
Cumberland	F	11.9%	Worsened
Durham	C+	9.4%	Worsened
Forsyth	F	12.3%	Worsened
Guilford	D	11.0%	Worsened
Mecklenburg	D	10.8%	Worsened
Wake	B+	8.5%	Improved

Click on the underlined counties to view more data in PeriStats.

What are parents saying?

With the high infant mortality rate in Wake County. What are some things you feel we could do better?

- “Create more infant mortality groups to help parents better understand the importance of keeping their kids safe”
- “The way people act towards each other”
- “Definitely pay more attention to what is around your child. Pay attention to how you are handling your child”
- “To be honest I think your doing a good job. Only so much you can do.”
- “Help us mothers get into a place without having to be put on a waiting list.”
- “Listen to women ”
- “Do things for the moms, a healthy mom healthy baby”



Wake County Health and Human Services (WCHHS)



Health & Human Services

- **Maternal and Child Health Section**
 - Care Managers for At Risk Children (CMARC)
 - Care Managers for High-Risk Pregnancy (CMHRP)
 - Maternal Home Visiting Nurses
 - Nurse Family Partnership
 - Health Education
- **Improving Community Outcomes in Maternal and Child Health (ICO4MCH)**
- **Best Babies Zone**

Best Babies Zone

- **Infant Mortality Workgroup:**
 - Former commissioner Jessica Holmes convened a work group to address infant mortality outcomes for African American babies in Wake County.
 - Charge for the Workgroup: Uncover the root cause of the infant mortality gap, Identify research-based practices that work & Develop specific actions to reduce the gap.
- **Focus Areas/Needs Identified:**
 - Home Visits
 - Safe Sleep/Infant Safety
 - Access to Prenatal Care
 - Racial Equity/ Racial Bias
 - Fatherhood Initiatives/Involvement
 - Preconception Health/ Women's Health





What is the Best Babies Zone?

A Best Babies Zone is a place-based, multi-sector, community-driven effort that applies the BBZ approach and Life Course Perspective.



The BBZ vision is that all babies are born healthy, in communities that enable them to thrive and reach their full potential. To achieve this vision, a BBZ focuses on four key strategies:

Zonal Focus

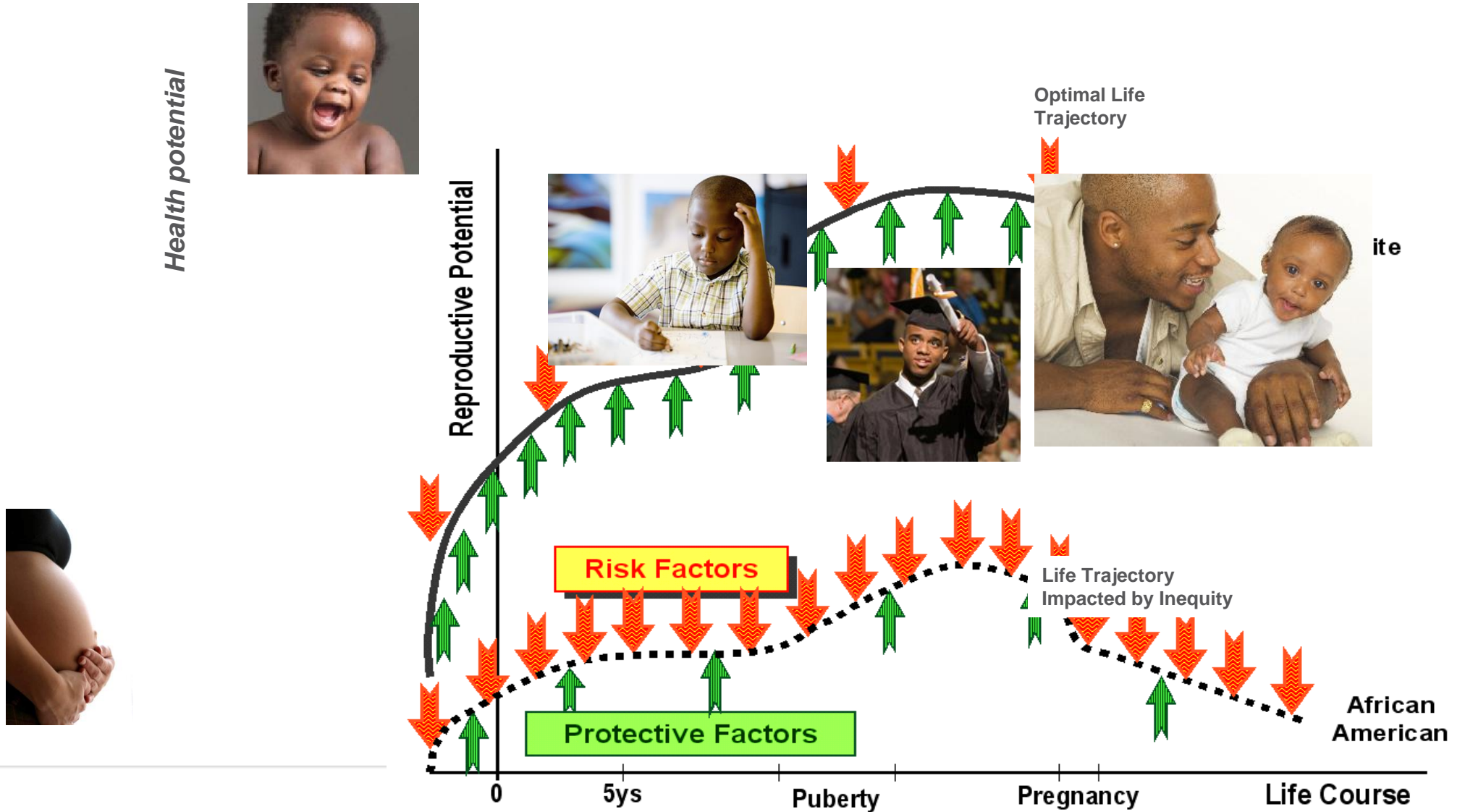
Multi-Sector
Collaboration

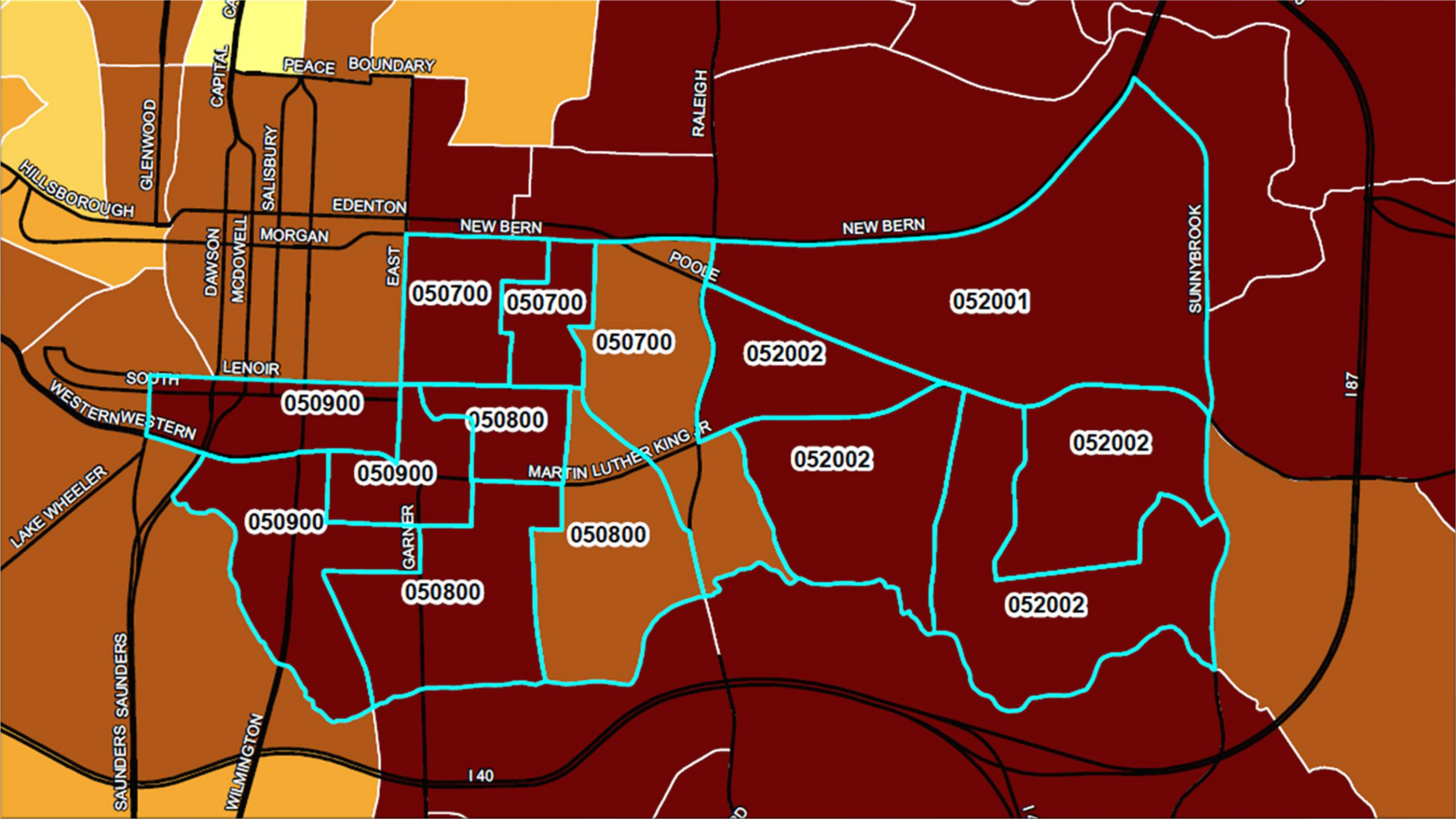
Community-
Driven Action

Cultivating a
Social
Movement

- **Zonal Focus**
 - Southeast Raleigh (Zip codes: 27610 & 27601)
- **Multi-Sector Collaboration**
 - The BBZ has partnered with over 15 local partners that represent 4 of the key sectors.
- **Community-Driven Action**
 - Hosted a Virtual Kick-off event
 - Launched Virtual Townhall meetings
 - Participated in community engagement events (Community baby showers, Mask for moms, etc)
 - Distributed a community survey
- **Cultivating a Social Movement**
 - Participating and collaborating with key partners on racial equity and racial bias.

“The Life Course Perspective”





Best Babies Zone

Health Forums

Parent Education
Sessions

Community
Engagement Events

Community Baby
Shower

Continuing
Partnership w/
Community
Organizations

Virtual Townhall
Meetings

Partnership with the
Green Chair Project

- Distributed Cribs and Safe Sleep Education

Partnership with Wake
County Smart Start

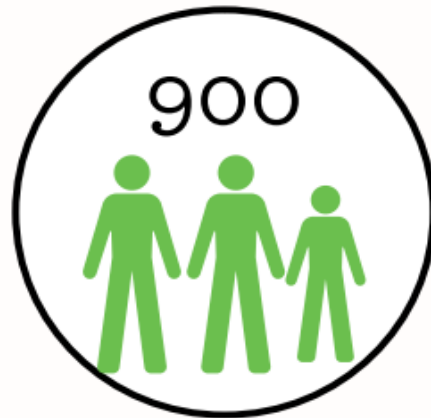
- Tablet distribution to Community



THE
GREEN CHAIR
PROJECT

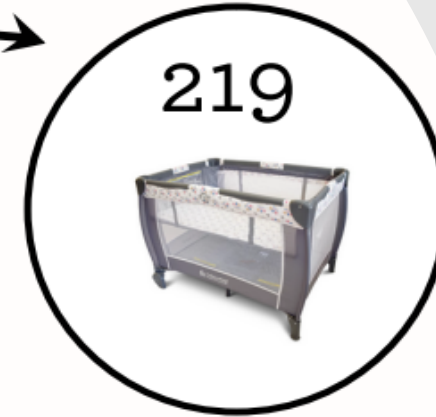


**HOUSEHOLDS
SERVED**

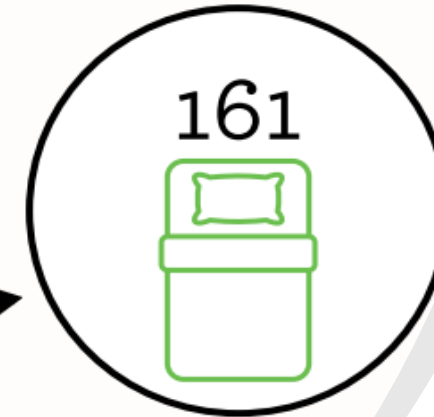


**INDIVIDUALS
SERVED**

Since 2019 The Green Chair Project has partnered with Wake County's Maternal Child Health Department on the Best Baby Zone Initiative to support their efforts in addressing and uncovering the root causes of the infant mortality while finding ways to reduce the gap.



CRIBS



TWIN BEDS





Best Babies Zone



2022 NACo Achievement Award

National Association of
Counties

What Can We Do?

- Invest in health care safety and quality improvement initiatives.
- Address the social determinants of health.
- Expand and maintain access to health coverage.
- LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF OUR COMMUNITY!



Thank you!

Dauline Singletary

Dauline.Singletary@wakegov.com

919-210-9729

References

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- [Infant Mortality Workgroup Report 2020.pdf](https://amazonaws.com/InfantMortalityWorkgroupReport2020.pdf)
(amazonaws.com)
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