



ANNUAL REPORT

From Findings to Action at a Glance:

Safe Sleep Awareness Campaign

Billboard Campaign

- Safe Sleep messaging displayed throughout the service area
- Thousands of community impressions

Coffee Sleeve Campaign

- Educational messages distributed through local coffee partners
- Reached community members during everyday interactions

Radio Public Service Announcements

- Broadcast Safe Sleep education throughout the region
- Increased awareness of infant mortality prevention efforts

Training & Education

40 First Responders Trained

- Topics Included:
 - Safe Sleep Practices
 - Infant Mortality Prevention
 - Family Education Strategies
 - Community Resource Awareness

Community Engagement

Working Together to Improve Outcomes

- Healthcare Providers
- Hospitals
- Maternal & Child Health Programs
- Family Support Organizations
- Emergency Responders

Why It Matters

Every outreach effort represents an opportunity to educate caregivers, strengthen community partnerships, and prevent future infant and fetal deaths.

The Wabash Valley Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) serves Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo counties in west-central Indiana. Families in these communities may face challenges such as limited access to healthcare, transportation problems, workforce shortages, and other factors that affect maternal and infant health. By reviewing fetal and infant deaths, FIMR works to identify ways to improve care and support for families.

During 2024-2025, 34 infant deaths were reported in the region. FIMR has reviewed 31 cases, and 3 reviews are still pending. The most common cause of infant death was congenital anomalies (17 cases). Prematurity-related conditions and unsafe sleep or injury-related asphyxiation were the second most common causes, with 5 cases each.

The most common maternal risk factor was chronic medical conditions, which were identified in 8 cases. Pregnancy complications, including PPRM, chorioamnionitis, preterm labor, and preeclampsia, were identified in 4 cases.

During 2024-2025, 35 fetal losses were reported. FIMR has reviewed 21 cases, and 14 reviews are still pending. Maternal mental health conditions were the most common risk factor, identified in 26 cases. Maternal metabolic and endocrine conditions, such as diabetes and thyroid disorders, were identified in 10 cases.

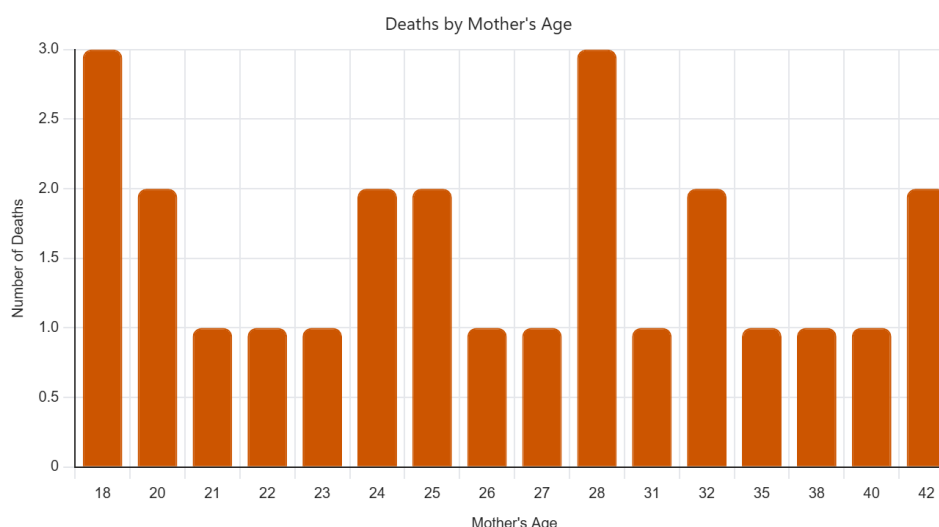
Key Recommendations

Based on case reviews and team discussions, FIMR identified the following priorities to improve maternal and infant health:

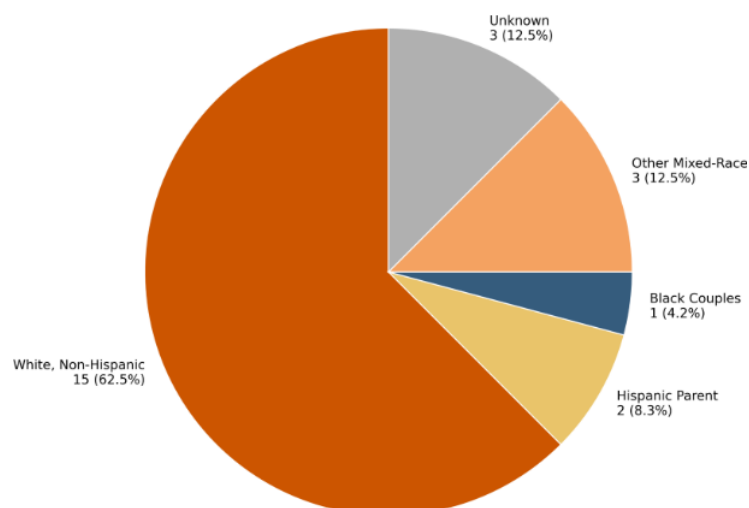
- Increase access to early and regular prenatal care.
- Improve screening and treatment for maternal health conditions, including mental health and substance use disorders.
- Strengthen communication and care coordination among healthcare providers and support agencies.
- Increase education about fetal movement awareness and the importance of reporting concerns during pregnancy.
- Promote safe sleep practices and injury prevention to reduce preventable infant deaths.
- Connect families to community resources such as WIC, local health departments, home visiting programs, and other support services.
- Address barriers that can prevent families from receiving care, including transportation and missed follow-up appointments.
- Increase education on reproductive health, family planning, and genetic risk factors.
- Support the use of current evidence-based practices, including consistent guidance on breastfeeding, breast milk storage, breast pump cleaning, and post-procedure care.
- Through partnerships with healthcare providers, community organizations, and public health agencies, FIMR remains committed to reducing fetal and infant deaths and improving outcomes for families throughout the Wabash Valley.

Insights from Case Reviews: Key Findings and Trends

The highest number of deaths occurred among mothers aged 18 and 28, with 3 deaths each.

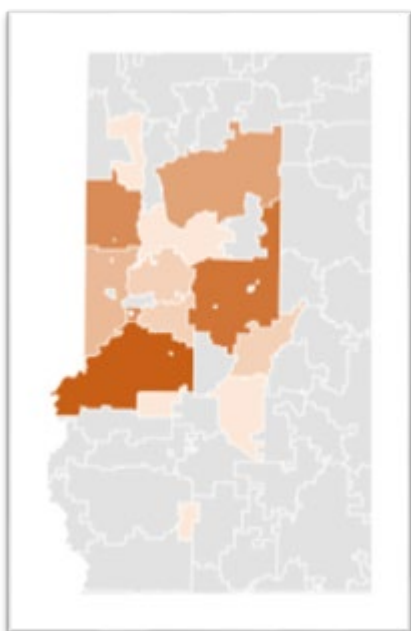


Parental Race and Ethnicity Among Infant and Fetal Loss Cases
Reviewed by FIMR, 2024-2025 (N=24)



Of the infant and fetal loss cases reviewed by FIMR in 2024-2025, most involved White, non-Hispanic couples (62.5%). Cases involving a Hispanic parent made up 8.3% of reviews, while Black couples accounted for 4.2%. Another 12.5% of cases involved mixed-race couples, and 12.5% had missing or unknown race and ethnicity information.

The information in this report reflects the cases and data available at the time of publication. As new information is received and additional cases are reviewed, these statistics may change. Some cases, such as those involving active criminal investigations, cannot be reviewed until the investigation is complete.



Regional Hotspots for Fetal and Infant Loss

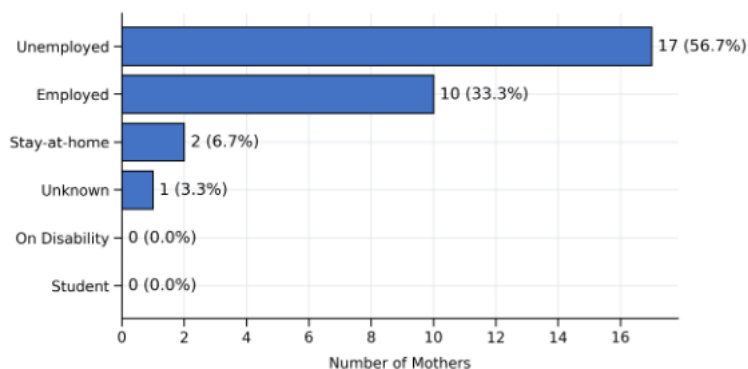
During the 2024-2025 review period, ZIP codes 47802, 47834, and 47842 had the highest number of fetal and infant deaths in the region. These areas were identified as having the greatest impact from fetal and infant loss and may benefit from focused education, support services, and prevention efforts.

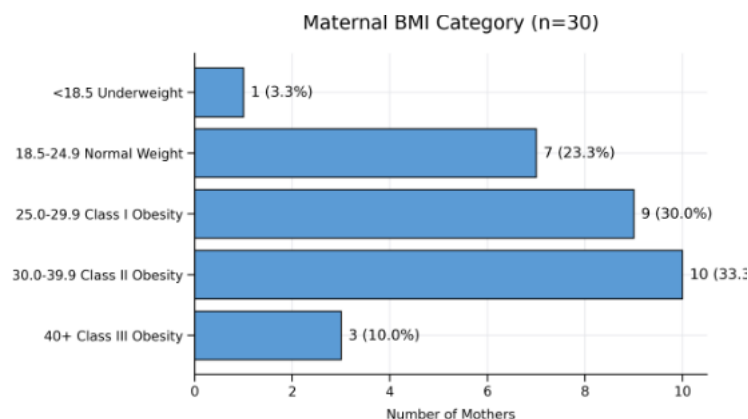
Key Findings: Employment Status

56.7% (17) were unemployed.
33.3% (10) were employed.
6.7% (2) were stay-at-home moms.
3.3% (1) had an unknown employment status.
No mothers reported being students or receiving disability.

Unemployment was the most common employment status among the mothers reviewed.

Employment Status of Mothers at Time of Infant Death or Fetal Loss (n=30)





Key Findings: Maternal BMI

10 mothers (33.3%) Class II Obesity (BMI 30.0-39.9).

9 mothers (30.0%) Class I Obesity (BMI 25.0-29.9).

7 mothers (23.3%) Normal BMI (18.5-24.9).

3 mothers (10.0%) Class III or extreme obesity (BMI 40 or higher).

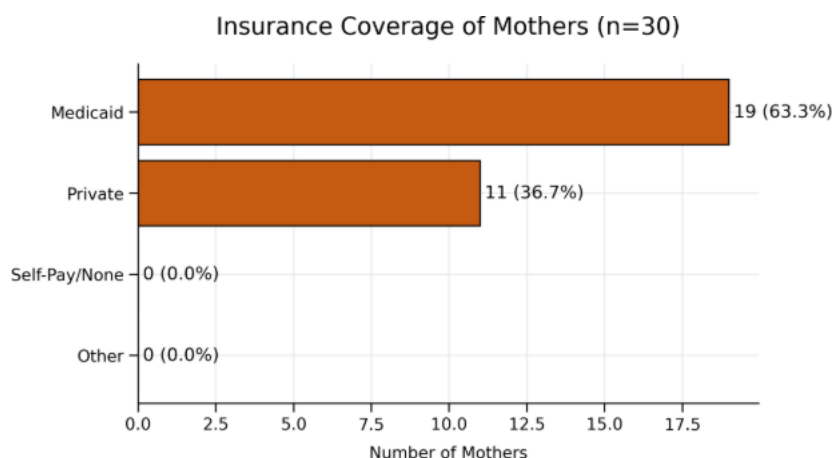
1 mother (3.3%) was underweight (BMI less than 18.5).

Nearly three-quarters of the mothers (73.3%) were in an obesity category at the time of the infant death or fetal loss.

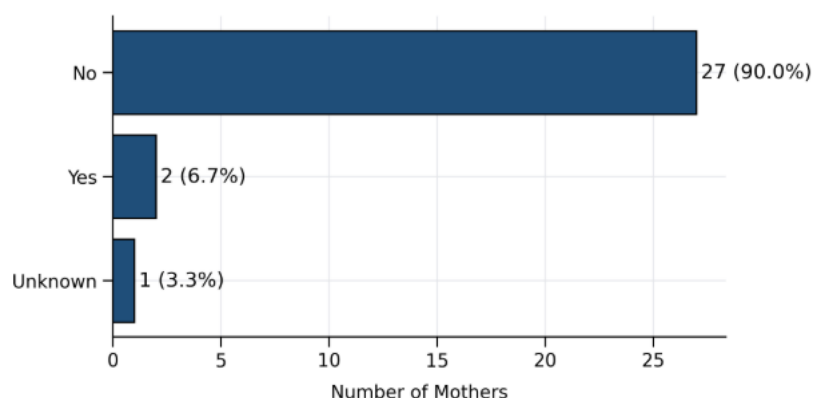
Class II Obesity was the most common BMI category among the mothers in this review.

Of the 30 mothers included in the review, most were covered by Medicaid. Nineteen mothers (63.3%) had Medicaid, while 11 mothers (36.7%) had private insurance. No mothers reported being self-pay or having another type of insurance coverage.

Overall, Medicaid was the most common type of insurance among the mothers in this review, covering nearly two-thirds of the cases.



Maternal Substance Use Disorder During Pregnancy (n=30)



Key Findings: Maternal Substance Use Disorder

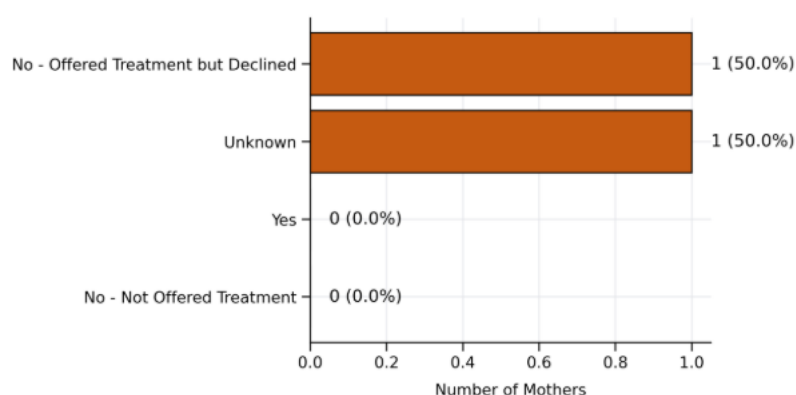
27 mothers (90.0%) did not have a reported substance use disorder during pregnancy.

2 mothers (6.7%) had a reported substance use disorder during pregnancy.

1 mother (3.3%) had an unknown substance use disorder status.

Substance use disorder during pregnancy was reported in only a small number of cases.

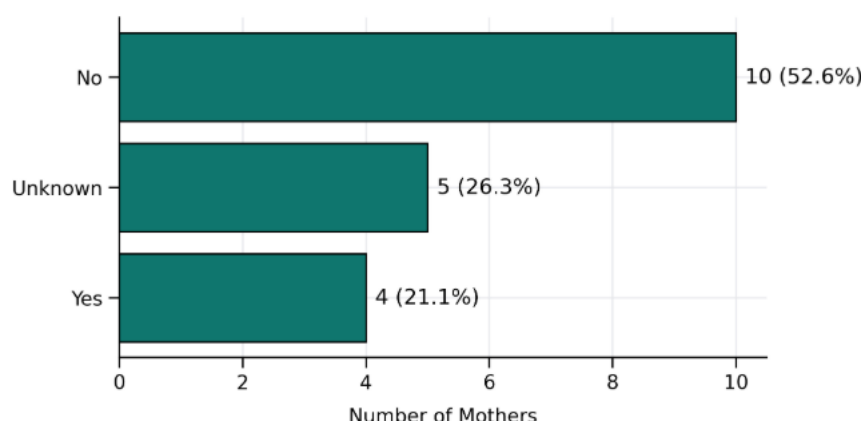
Treatment for Maternal Substance Use Disorder (n=2)



Among the two mothers who had a substance use disorder during pregnancy, neither received treatment. One mother was offered treatment but declined, while the treatment status for the other mother was unknown. No mothers were reported as receiving treatment, and no mothers were reported as not being offered treatment. Overall, the data show that treatment for substance use disorder was not documented as being received in any of the reviewed cases.

Among the 19 mothers included in this question, 10 mothers (52.6%) reported that they did not notice decreased fetal movement before the loss. Four mothers (21.1%) reported noticing decreased fetal movement, while the information was unknown for 5 mothers (26.3%). Overall, most mothers did not report decreased fetal movement, but about one in five mothers did notice a decrease in fetal movement before the loss.

Maternal Report of Decreased Fetal Movement (n=19)

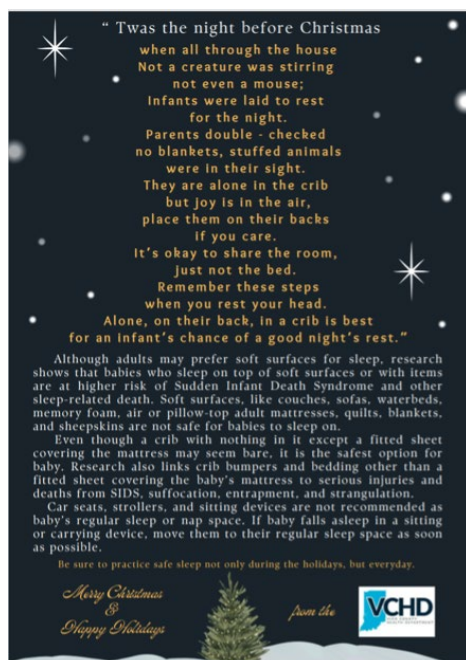


Community Action Team Outreach Efforts

INSSAFE First Responder Training

In October 2024, the Safe Sleep Community Action Team partnered with Parke County EMS and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) to host an INSSAFE (Infant Safe Sleep and Family Engagement) training for first responders. The training was facilitated by IDOH Safe Sleep Coordinator Abby Hummel and focused on infant mortality data, creating safe sleep environments, and strategies for having effective safe sleep conversations with families. A total of 40 first responders participated, including 16 attending in person and 24 joining virtually through Microsoft Teams. The training was well received and helped strengthen local capacity to provide safe sleep education and support to families throughout the community.





Safe Sleep Public Awareness Radio Campaign

The Safe Sleep Community Action Team developed multiple radio public service announcements to increase awareness of safe sleep practices. One campaign featured a holiday-themed adaption of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas that reminded families to follow the ABC's of Safe Sleep: babies should sleep Alone, on their Back and in a Crib. The message aired on local radio stations during the Christmas season, helping reach families during a time when holiday travel and gatherings can increase unsafe sleep risks. The poem was broadcast on Union Radio and published in the Tribune-Star, extending the reach of safe sleep education to both radio listeners and newspaper readers throughout the community.

Bed Sharing Prevention Radio Advertisement

A second radio commercial was developed to educate families about the danger of bed sharing. The script tells the story of parents discovering their infant is not breathing after falling asleep while bed sharing and concludes with the message, "Share the room, not the bed. Bed sharing can kill." The commercial was created to promote awareness of safe sleep environments and prevent sleep-related infant deaths.



Feeding Pillow Safe Sleep Flyer

The Community Action Team developed and distributed a safe sleep flyer addressing the use of infant feeding pillows. The flyer educates caregivers about the risks of allowing infants to sleep on feeding pillows and reinforces the ABC's of Safe Sleep. The resource reminds families that feeding pillows should only be used when an infant is being actively observed and should never be used as a sleep surface.

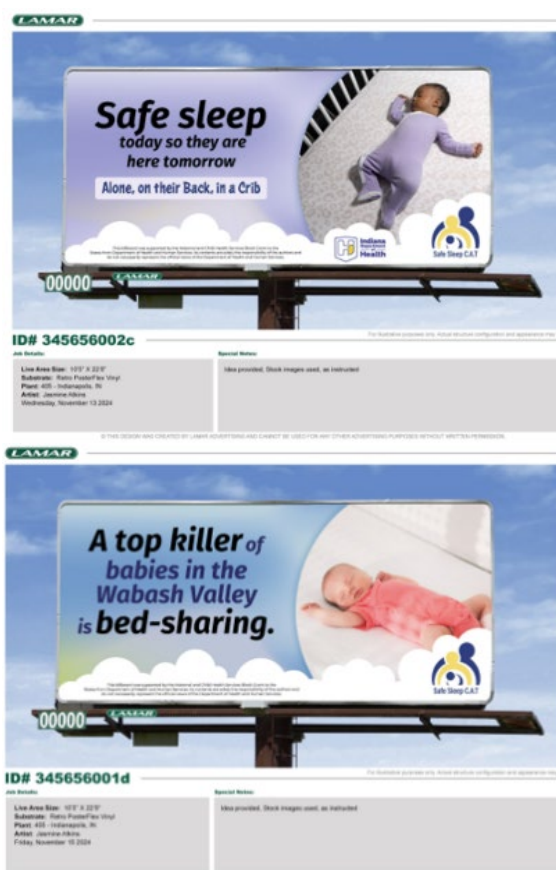


Safe Sleep Coffee Sleeve Campaign

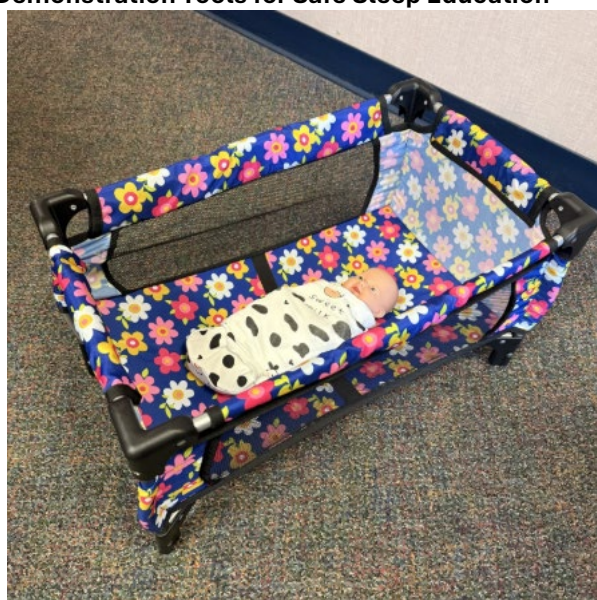
The Community Action Team partnered with local coffee shops to distribute custom coffee cup sleeves featuring safe sleep messaging. The sleeves displayed the ABCs of Safe Sleep along with QR codes and educational resources, helping place life-saving infant sleep information directly into the hands of community members. The campaign was implemented through several local businesses across the Wabash Valley and provided a creative way to promote safe sleep awareness. The provided image shows examples of these sleeves used by local coffee vendors on takeaway cups.

Safe Sleep Billboard Campaign

To increase public awareness throughout the Wabash Valley, the Safe Sleep Community Action Team launched a billboard campaign focused on the danger of bed sharing. Three billboards were placed in high traffic locations across three counties within the service area. The campaign was designed to reach thousands of community members and reinforce safe sleep messaging outside of healthcare settings.



Demonstration Tools for Safe Sleep Education



To support safe sleep education efforts throughout the region, a Safe Sleep CAT member purchased and distributed toy Pack and Plays for our community health workers to use during outreach and education activities. These demonstration tools allow educators to show families what a safe sleep environment looks like and provide hands-on instruction about the ABCs of Safe Sleep. By using visual demonstrations during home visits, classes, and community events, community health workers can help caregivers better understand safe sleep recommendations and create safer sleep environments for their infants.

Prevention Through Partnership

Safe sleep support has been extended through our community partners and agencies serving families. Staff and participants have received training on current safe sleep recommendations, and Pack and Plays and sleep sacks were provided when requested to support families in need. In addition, Safe Sleep Simulation Kits were purchased to enhance education efforts through hands-on demonstrations and training opportunities. The kit includes a demonstration doll and simulation equipment that helps caregivers better understand safe sleep practices.

Impact of Community Outreach Efforts

Through radio announcements, print media, billboards, educational materials, community partnerships, and professional training opportunities, the Safe Sleep Community Action Team has continued to expand safe sleep education throughout the Wabash Valley. These efforts have helped increase awareness of safe sleep recommendations, encourage conversations about infant safety, and support the prevention of sleep-related infant deaths. Although the outcomes of prevention are often invisible, every family that makes a safer choice because of these efforts represents a potential life saved. We may never know the names of the infants whose lives were protected through education and awareness, but their absence from our review process is a measure of success worth recognizing.

The Wabash Valley FIMR was established in 2020 as a community effort facilitated by the Richard G. Lugar Center for Rural Health through the All-Babies Initiative.