

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD  
FETAL & INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW BOARD (FIMR)  
COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM (CAT)  
CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM (CFR)**

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**ANNUAL DATA MEETING  
JUNE 12, 2025**



# FIMR Board & Community Action Team

## FIMR BOARD

Conducts reviews of fetal & infant loss in Montgomery County.

Recommends changes to healthcare delivery systems.

## COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

Advisory & advocacy group created to carry out FIMR recommendations.

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## OUR VISION

All infants of all races are born healthy in Montgomery County, MD.

## OUR MISSION

To increase healthy pregnancy outcomes & address related racial disparities by improving healthcare systems & community resources.



# Overview of Fetal Losses in 2024



## TOTAL FETAL LOSSES: 42 Maternal Race/Ethnicity

| <u>Race</u>   | <u>Total Number</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Hispanic:     | 13                  | 31%               |
| NH-Black /AA: | 11                  | 26%               |
| NH-White:     | 10                  | 24%               |
| Asian:        | 3                   | 7%                |
| Unknown Race: | 5                   | 12%               |

## EDUCATION:

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| HS Diploma or GED: | 19%  |
| Some High School:  | 17%  |
| Bachelor's:        | 17 % |
| Advanced Degree:   | 16%  |
| Some College:      | 12%  |
| Unknown:           | 19%  |

## INSURANCE:

Private: 48%    Medicaid: 45%    Other: 7%

# Maternal Characteristics Related to Fetal Loss

**1 or More Risk Factors in Pregnancy: 64%**  
**Most common were Overweight/ Obesity & AMA (35 and above )**

**Normal weight: 29%   Overweight: 29%   Obese: 26%**  
**Underweight: <1%   Unknown: 14%**

**16-20 years: 10%**  
**20-29 years: 24%**  
**30-39 years: 47%**  
**40 years or more: 19%**

**Age range: 16- 45 years old**

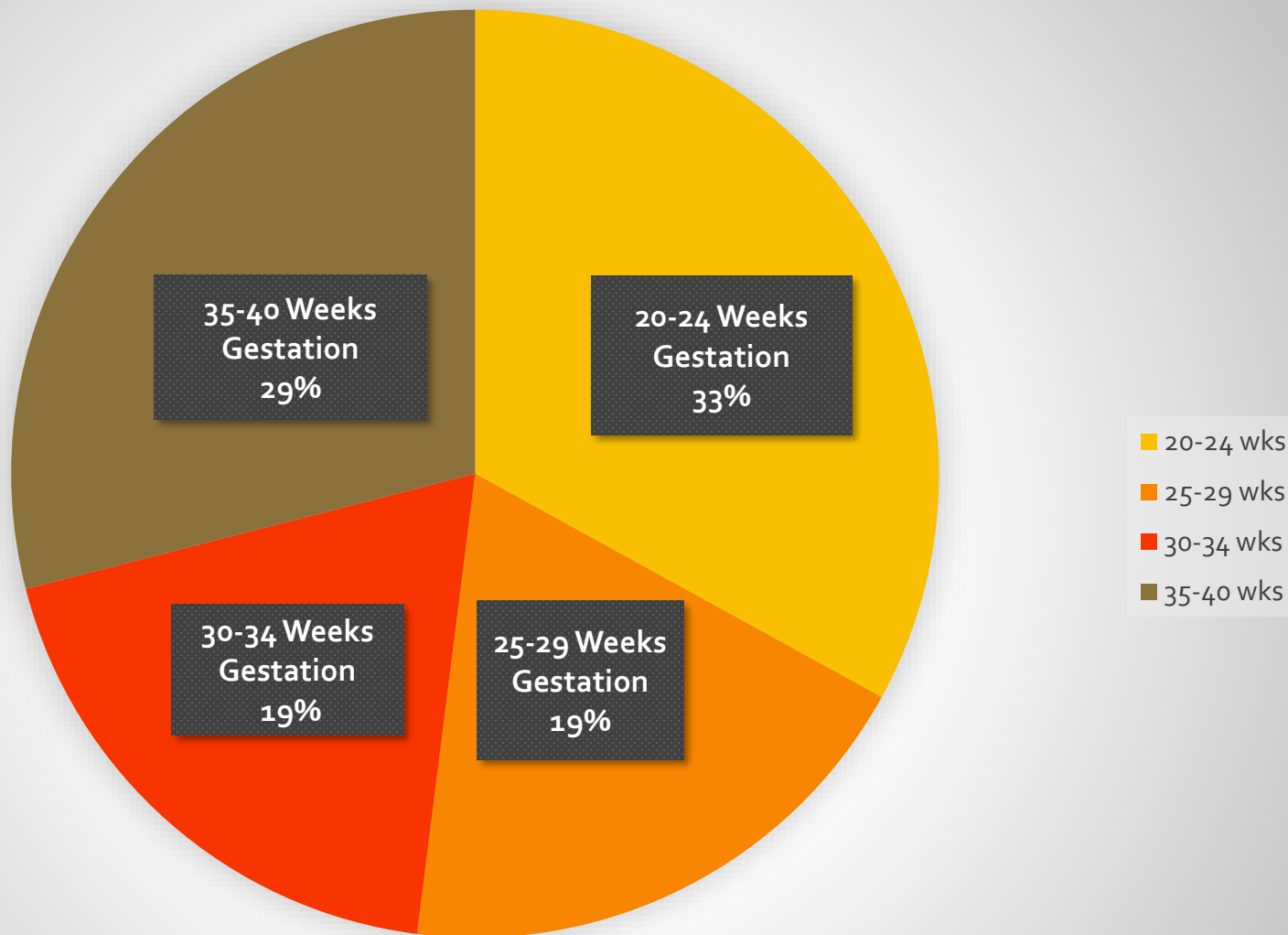
**\*\*AMA (35 years or more) : 38%**

**No prior Loss: 88%**  
**1 Prior Loss: 12%**

**Prenatal Care Starting in 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester: 50%**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester: 21%**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester: <1%**  
**Unknown / missing: 26%**



# Fetal Loss by Gestational Age (42 Total Losses)





## Leading Cause of Death for Fetal Loss in 2024

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42 Total Losses

- Cause Unknown (23)—55%
- Complications of cord or placenta (6)—14%
- Maternal Condition (5)—12%  
(i.e., PTL, cholestasis of pregnancy, fetal growth restriction )

# Overview of Infant Deaths in CY 2024

## TOTAL INFANT DEATHS: 34

\*\*Death occurring under one year of age

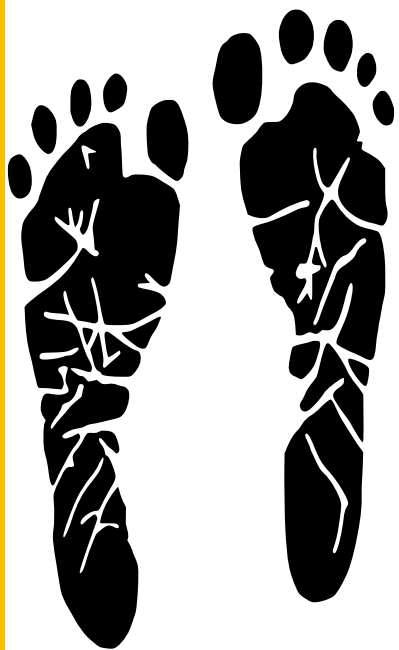
| <u>Race</u> | <u>Total Number</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Hispanic:   | 14                  | 41%               |
| NH Black/AA | 10                  | 29%               |
| NH White    | 3                   | 9%                |
| Asian       | 3                   | 9%                |
| Other       | 2                   | 6%                |
| Unknown     | 2                   | 6%                |

### Gender

|        |    |     |
|--------|----|-----|
| Female | 23 | 68% |
| Male   | 11 | 32% |

### Infant Age at Time of Death

|                   |    |     |
|-------------------|----|-----|
| 1 Minute-23 Hours | 19 | 56% |
| 1 Day-29 Days     | 9  | 26% |
| 1 Month-12 Months | 6  | 18% |



# Cause & Manner of Infant Deaths in CY 2024

TOTAL INFANT DEATHS: 34

| <u>Cause of Death</u> | <u>Total Number</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Prematurity           | 19                  | 56%               |
| Congenital Anomaly    | 10                  | 29%               |
| SUDI                  | 3                   | 9%                |
| Other                 | 2                   | 6%                |

## Manner of Death

|                     |    |     |
|---------------------|----|-----|
| Natural Causes      | 29 | 85% |
| Could not Determine | 3  | 9%  |
| Homicide            | 2  | 6%  |





# Top FIMR Board Recommendations in 2024

- Continue promoting participating and referrals to case management programs such as MPP, Babies Born Healthy and S.M.I.LE. for all pregnancies
- Promote “Health Confidence” among clients in our programs.
- Continue to promote “Count the Kicks” education and ensure fetal movement education is standardized, so all 3 programs are teaching the same thing.
- Connect with Primary Care Coalition (PCC) to coordinate presentations of FIMR/CAT and all county CM programs
- Provide information about nutrition during prenatal and postpartum periods through CM participation and hand outs
- Continue to focus on ongoing training and update of all MCH staff when program requirements/recommendations change.
- Reach out to safety net providers to inquire about preconception and interconception health



# Highlights of FIMR Community Action Team

## 2024 Initiatives

- Continue raising awareness of persistent racial disparities in birth outcomes.
- Worked with the ACCU team to ensure that MPRAs involving NH-Black/A.A. women are automatically referred to BBH or S.M.I.L.E.
- Partnered with 5 Community Hubs to provide cribs to families in need
- Arranged for MPP, BBH, and S.M.I.L.E. to become Count the Kicks Implementation Partners. The program, led by The Maryland Patient Safety Center and MDMOM, seeks to standardize implementation of the Count the Kicks Program. This will ensure that all birthing families participating in MPP, BBH, and S.M.I.L.E. are receiving the same fetal monitoring education.
- Partnered with BBH to run a bus ad campaign. The campaign is running now and should run to late summer/early fall. The ads highlight Count the Kicks education and provide a QR code people can scan to download the Count the Kicks app as well as a telephone number to contact Babies Born Healthy.





# **Montgomery County, MD Child Fatality Review**

## **OUR VISION**

**Children in Montgomery County are protected against preventable causes of death.**

## **OUR MISSION**

**To reduce childhood fatalities through identification of system issues, barriers to care & gaps in services.**



# 2024 Child Fatality Review Team Cases

## 24 Total Child Fatalities

### Leading Causes of Child Fatalities in Montgomery County

- + Congenital and/or other health conditions = 8 (33%)
- + Unintentional Injuries (drowning, vehicular accidents, Etc.) = 7 (29%)
- + Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) = 4 (17%)
- + Homicide = 3 (13%)
- + Suicide=1 (4%)
- + Pending cause of death = 1

### Deaths from unintentional injuries in 2024 were due to:

- + Motor Vehicle Accident w/ Head/Neck or Multiple Injuries = 2
- + Head/Neck Injury only= 1
- + Alcohol Intoxication= 1
- + Drowning = 2
- + Gun shot wound of the head = 1

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### SUDI Cases in Montgomery County :

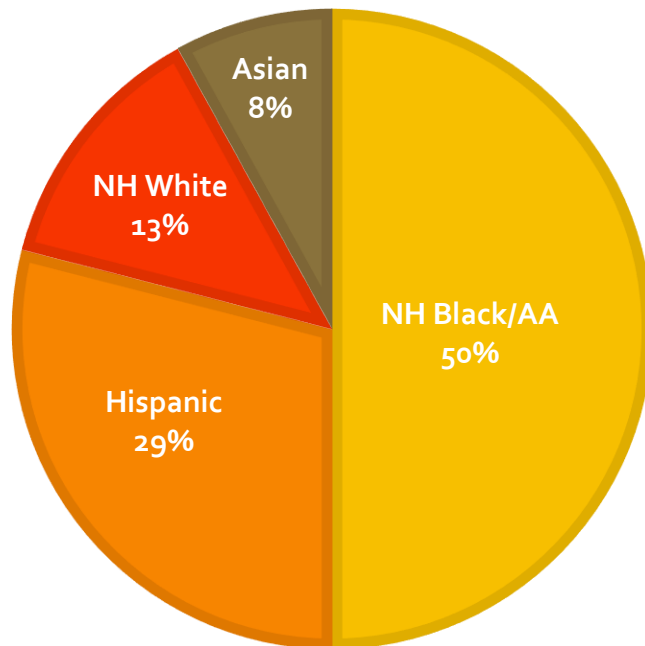
- + 4 cases reviewed
- Manner of death was undetermined for all 4 cases
- 2 cases involved mothers falling asleep on a sectional couch, after feeding
- 2 fatalities involved children sleeping in adult beds
- Race/Ethnicity: NH-Black/A.A-2; Hispanic-1; Asian-1
- Age range of the infants varied from 22 days to 14 months (with premature adjusted age of 11 months).



# Characteristics of Total Child Fatalities in Calendar Year 2024

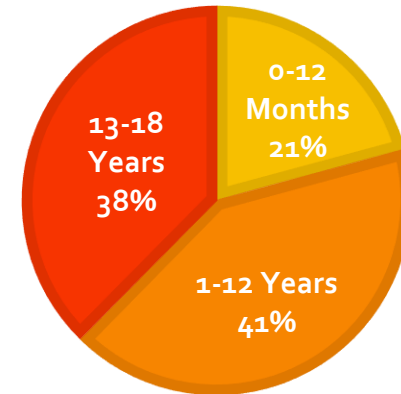
## RACE & ETHNICITY

■ NH-Black/A.A. ■ Hispanic ■ NH-White ■ Asian



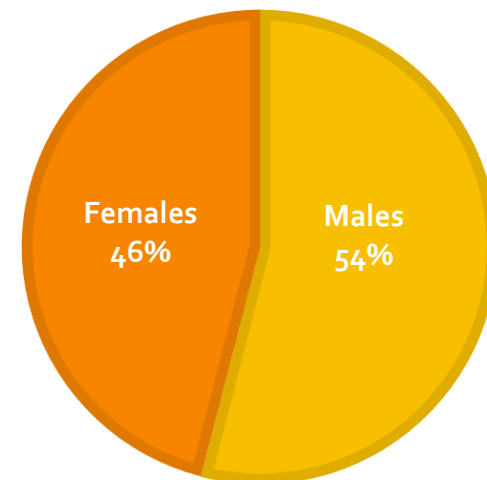
## AGE

■ 0-12 Months ■ 1-12 Years ■ 13-18 Years



## GENDER

■ Males ■ Females



# Key CFR Team Actions in 2024



- In response to the drowning deaths of 2 children on the autism spectrum:
  - Formed a subcommittee to promote water safety awareness for all children and dangers of wandering and elopement by children on the spectrum
  - Arranged for a presentation from the Autism/IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities), Alzheimer's/Dementia Outreach Unit
  - Distributed water safety materials to public community pools as well as private pool owners
  - Arranged for the Autism Waiver & Health-Related Services, Interagency Collaboration Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services to attend the BBH RFTS health and resource fair to provide information about the Autism Waiver Program
- In response to the SUDI deaths:
  - Formed a subcommittee to promote safe sleep education/messaging
  - Will be partnering with BBH and AAHP to launch a bus ad campaign that will run in October during safe sleep awareness month. The bus ads will consist of interior and exterior safe sleep messaging in Spanish and English (combined effort with FIMR/CAT)
- Partnered with the Positive Youth Development Program & Street Outreach Network to apply for a grant from the Center for Firearm Prevention and Intervention (the Center) at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), which will support programs and projects aimed at evidence-informed strategies to reduce gun violence.
- Collaborated with LHI to provide safe sleep education at the Hispanic Heritage Fair





QUESTIONS?