

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH**

**2020**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, historically, North Carolina is among states with the highest rates of infant mortality; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, North Carolina's infant mortality reached its lowest rate in the 31 years this information has been tracked, decreasing to 6.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, which is a 4.2 percent improvement from the rate in 2017 of 7.1 per 1,000 live births; and

**WHEREAS**, even with the overall decrease, notable disparities persist in infant mortality rates in North Carolina, particularly among African Americans; while the infant mortality rate among African Americans has decreased by nine percent since 2016 to 12.2, it remains more than twice the white infant mortality rate of 5.0; and

**WHEREAS**, infant mortality is an indicator of societal health and requires a comprehensive response that supports individuals and families; ensures coordinated systems; promotes access to health care, including behavioral health, throughout one's life; and addresses the non-medical drivers of health such as racism, transportation, hunger, poverty, housing, and interpersonal violence, all across multiple generations; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina's Early Childhood Action Plan has set a goal of reducing the statewide infant mortality disparity ratio from 2.5 to 1.92; and

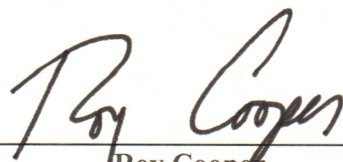
**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Perinatal Health Strategic Plan also focuses on infant mortality and maternal health, particularly the importance of addressing equity, as healthier women tend to have healthier birth outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, local health departments, and organizations across the state provide outreach, support, health education, and care coordination to families, including families of color, during pregnancy and after; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina recognizes the importance of continuing to address infant mortality and commends programs that offer resources, information, and support that can have a positive impact on women's wellness and maternal health;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2020, as "**INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fifth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.