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INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY



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Tampa, Fla. – September is Infant Mortality Awareness Month and the Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County (DOH-Hillsborough) wants to highlight facts you may not know. Black infants in Hillsborough County are more than three times more likely to die during their first year of life, when compared to white infants.

In 2017, the infant death rate in Hillsborough County was 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. That translates to:

- Black = 13
- White = 4.2
- Hispanic = 6.2

Preterm birth is the leading cause of infant deaths in the county. Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome (SUIDS) also tops the list.

To reduce infant mortality cases, everyone needs to work together. Here are a few tips:

- Nursing moms should breastfeed their babies unless the doctor doesn't recommend it
- Always ensure babies are in a safe sleeping environment
- Lead a healthy life before, during and after pregnancy

DOH-Hillsborough is happy to help those who may have questions. The public can call (813) 307-8000 if they would like to learn more.

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