

# REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & WELLNESS

In October 2017, the Ohio Department of Health issued a press release with initiatives to decrease the number of infants in Ohio that die before their first birthday. Based on 5 year combined data, Fulton County has had 22 infant deaths out of 2,461 births. This gives us an 8.9 infant mortality rate. That rate puts Fulton County in the “red zone” for infant deaths. Sadly, although infant deaths will likely not be reduced to zero, there are several contributing factors that have been identified, that if addressed can work to decrease infant deaths in Fulton County.



## Contributing factors to infant death:

- ◆ **Births that are close together.** A birth interval of at least 18 months allows a woman to recover from pregnancy, increases the likelihood of a healthy next pregnancy and reduces the risk of having a preterm and/or low birth weight baby.
- ◆ **Life Plans** encourage and support women and men of reproductive age to think about their life goals including whether/when to have children. Having a planned pregnancy can help reduce the risk of preterm birth.
- ◆ **Access to effective family planning methods,** including long acting reversible contraceptives, is important to helping women of reproductive age avoid or delay pregnancy.

Fulton County Health Department has been offering Reproductive Health and Wellness (RHW) Clinics since 1991. Our RHW clinics offer services that address all the above factors contributing to infant death. The RHW clinic can also help Mom quit smoking and achieve a healthy weight so she’s in the best possible health when she decides to become pregnant, contributing to a healthier baby.

Weekly clinics are held at the Fulton County Health Department (FCHD) to meet the reproductive and/or gynecologic health needs of women of all ages.

## Services include:

- Mammography referral provided as appropriate
- Reproductive health education and nutrition counseling
- Testing for sexually transmitted infections for women and men
- Pap tests
- Physical assessment
- Birth control

Visit us on the web: [www.fultoncountyhealthdept.com](http://www.fultoncountyhealthdept.com)

# Reproductive Health & Wellness

We are a Title X agency and provide birth control services on a sliding fee scale according to income and family size. RHW clinic is as an invaluable safety net for men and women needing reproductive health services.

**A core objective of the RHW Title X program is to prevent unplanned births, abortions and miscarriages and help women plan for and be their healthiest when they choose to become pregnant.** Because of this service, it is estimated that **188 unplanned births**, which may have resulted in the termination of the pregnancy, **were prevented.**

The table below shows the trend in the patients served over the past years. Medicaid expansion in Ohio has had a significant impact on the number of women and men served in our clinic. However, there continues to be a significant number of folks needing affordable or no cost reproductive health services.

Year	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Number of unduplicated clients:	638	752	776	818	1097	1179	1112
Number of total visits:	1139	1289	1374	1400	1804	1908	1924

Since 1994, we've collaborated with Fulton County Health Center to provide Prenatal Care to pregnant women living in Fulton County who are uninsured, or have Medicaid. Women are seen by Deb Roth, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and Andrea Schweibert RN, for their prenatal visits. Appropriate bloodwork and ultrasounds are done at Fulton County Health Center. Peg Short, RN, OB Educator from Fulton County Health Center OB unit, comes to the pregnant mom's visit at the Health Department, to provide prenatal education and guidance as to what to expect at the hospital during delivery and after the baby is born. New mom's express appreciation at seeing a familiar face at Fulton County Health Center during their hospital stay.

Throughout the years, various local physicians have provided delivery services to women of the Prenatal Clinic. Currently, OBGYN DR. Sema Fofung provides oversight and delivery care to women in our Prenatal Clinic.

The Fulton County Health Department provides a valuable safety net to Fulton County women who otherwise would be unable to access prenatal care services, thus increasing the risk of preterm delivery and infant death. As with our RHW clinic, uninsured women receive services on a sliding fee scale, based on income and family size.

Whether or not you have health insurance, we are here to help meet your reproductive health and wellness needs and help you or someone you love be their healthiest when they decide to start a family.

**For an appointment, please call the Health Department at: 419-337-0915.  
Long distance callers can contact us through our toll free number: 1-866-962-0598**

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