

Child Fatality Task Force



OVERVIEW OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CHILD FATALITY TASK FORCE PERINATAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

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NC CHILD FATALITY TASK FORCE: LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION CREATED VIA STATUTE IN 1991

The “policy
arm” of the
State’s Child
Fatality
Prevention
System

Does NOT
review
individual cases

35 Members:
20 Appointed;
11 Ex Officio
(State agency &
community leaders,
experts in child health &
safety, 10 legislators)

CHARGE OF STATE CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION SYSTEM

[VIA ARTICLE 14 OF NC JUVENILE CODE]

- ▶ **Develop a communitywide approach** to child abuse and neglect;
- ▶ **Study and understand causes** of childhood death;
- ▶ **Identify gaps in service delivery** in systems designed to prevent abuse, neglect, and death; and
- ▶ **Make and implement recommendations for laws, rules, and policies that will support the safe and healthy development of our children and prevent future child abuse, neglect, and death.**

THREE MAIN COMPONENTS TO NC CFP SYSTEM



Local Review Teams
(CCPTs & CFPTs)

State Review Team

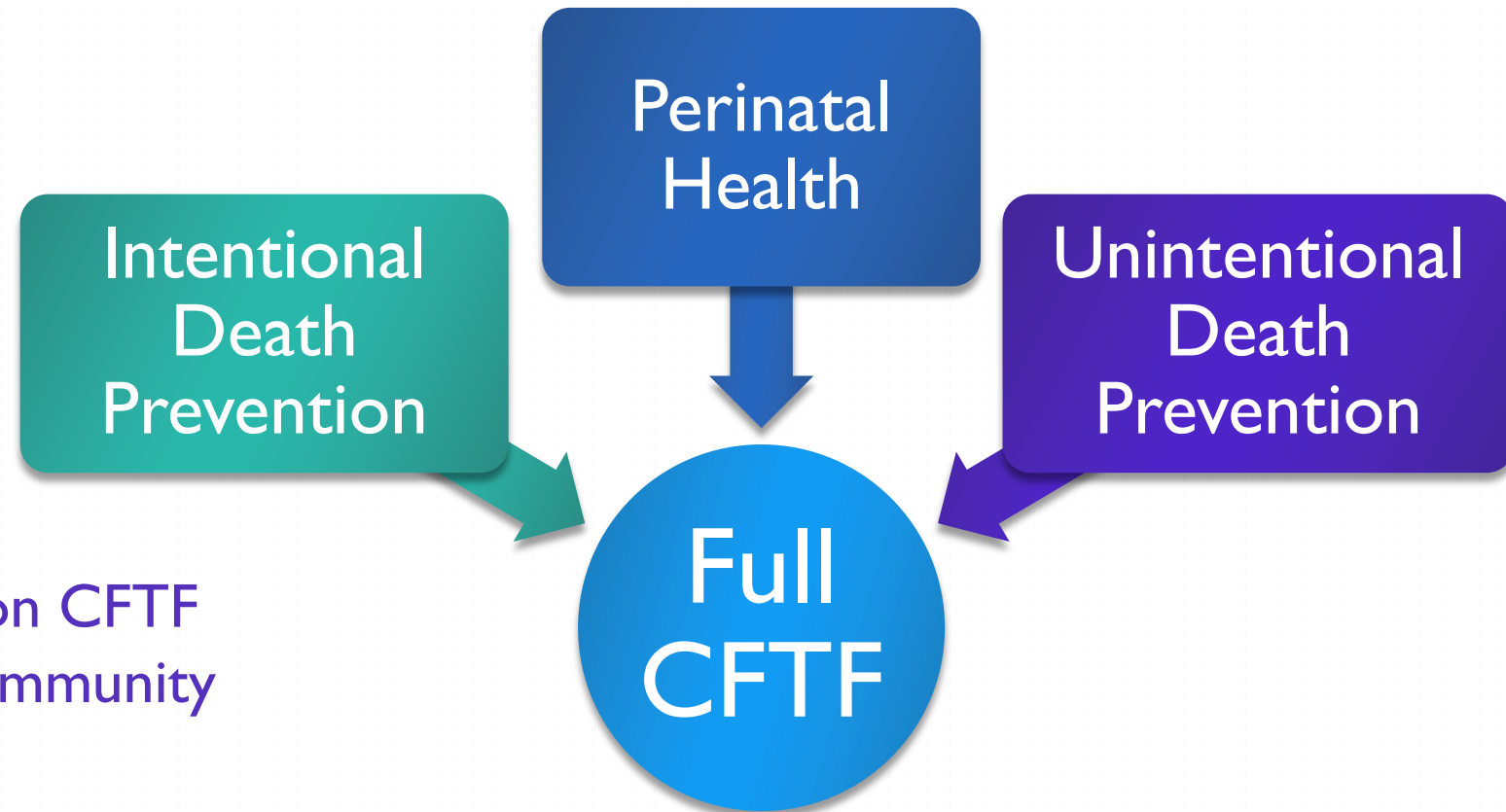
Task Force

TASK FORCE STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

- ▶ Study, analyze, and report on incidences and causes of child death
- ▶ Develop a system for multidisciplinary review of child deaths
- ▶ Receive and consider reports from State Team
- ▶ Perform other studies and evaluations as needed in order to carry out its mandate
- ▶ **Submit annual report to the Governor and General Assembly with recommendations for changes to any law, rule, or policy that it has determined will promote the safety and well-being of children**

See G.S. §7B-1403, -1412

THREE TASK FORCE COMMITTEES WORK TO CREATE A YEARLY ACTION AGENDA



Committees rely on CFTF members AND community volunteers

TASK FORCE PROCESS COMPONENTS

**Public meetings
between legislative
sessions (10-12
meetings with 45-50
presentations per
study cycle)**

**Committees propose
recommendations to
full Task Force**

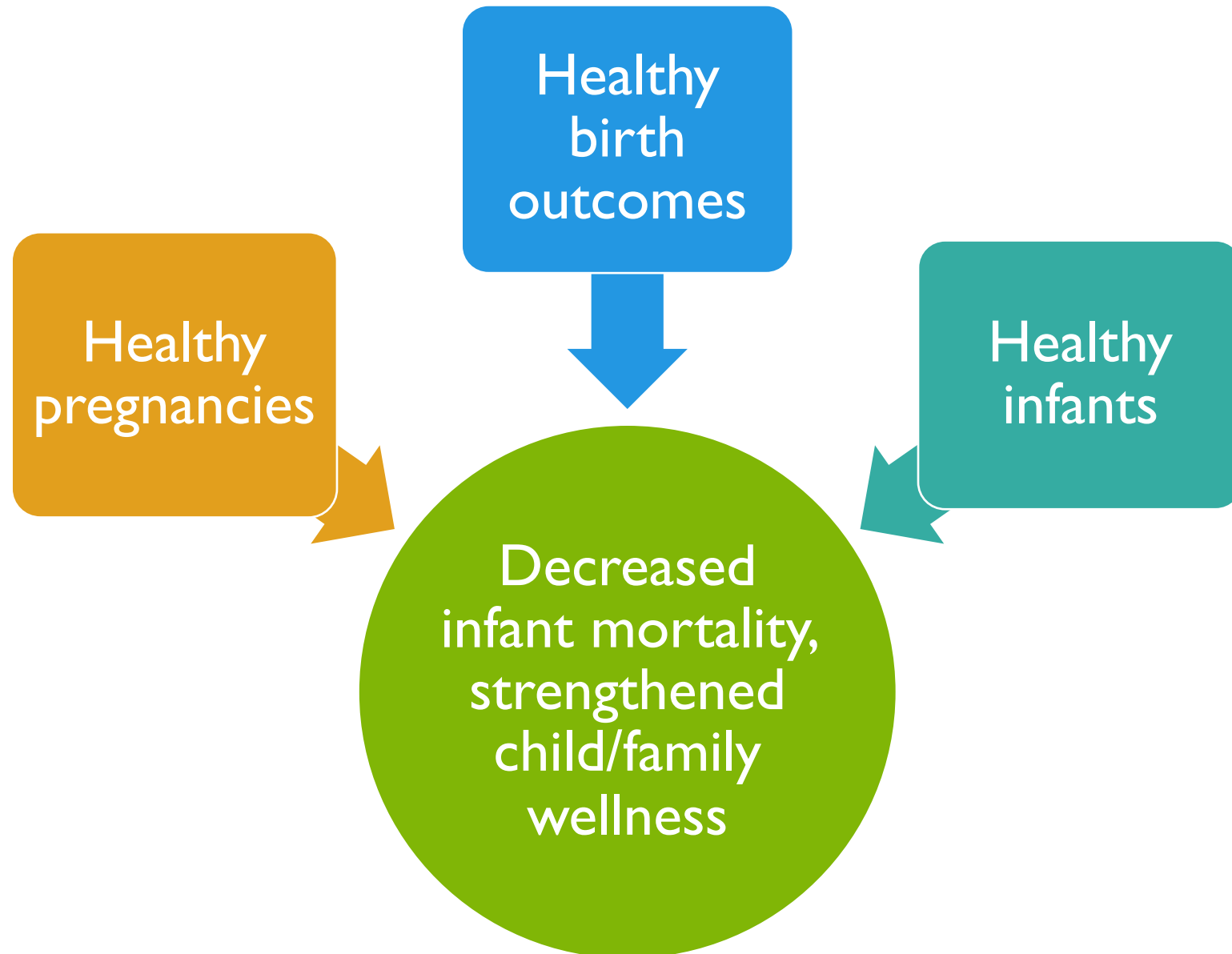
**Stakeholder or work
groups** may be formed to
address or examine in-
depth a particular issue to
bring more information
back to the CFTF

**Ongoing information
sharing and
collaboration** among
experts and community
partners

PERINATAL HEALTH COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

- ▶ Includes ex officio and appointed members of the Task Force (from among 35 statutory CFTF members)
- ▶ Includes volunteer participants with subject matter expertise in perinatal health
- ▶ Examples of professional roles among committee members (CFTF members & volunteers):
 - State Health Director
 - Director of Maternal & Child Health, NC DPH
 - State legislators
 - Physicians
 - Director UNC Center for Maternal & Infant Health
 - Branch Head, Women's Health, NC DPH
 - Chief Medical Examiner, NC DPH
 - Chief Medical Officer, NC Medicaid
 - Director, Council for Women & Youth Involvement
 - Leaders in field of pregnancy & substance use
 - Leaders in perinatal tobacco use prevention
 - Coordinator for NC Perinatal Health Strategic Plan
 - Experts in infant safe sleep
 - Experts in home visiting
 - Experts in breastfeeding
 - March of Dimes leader
 - Centering Consortium leader
 - Guardian ad Litem leader
 - County Commissioner

FOCUS OF PERINATAL HEALTH COMMITTEE



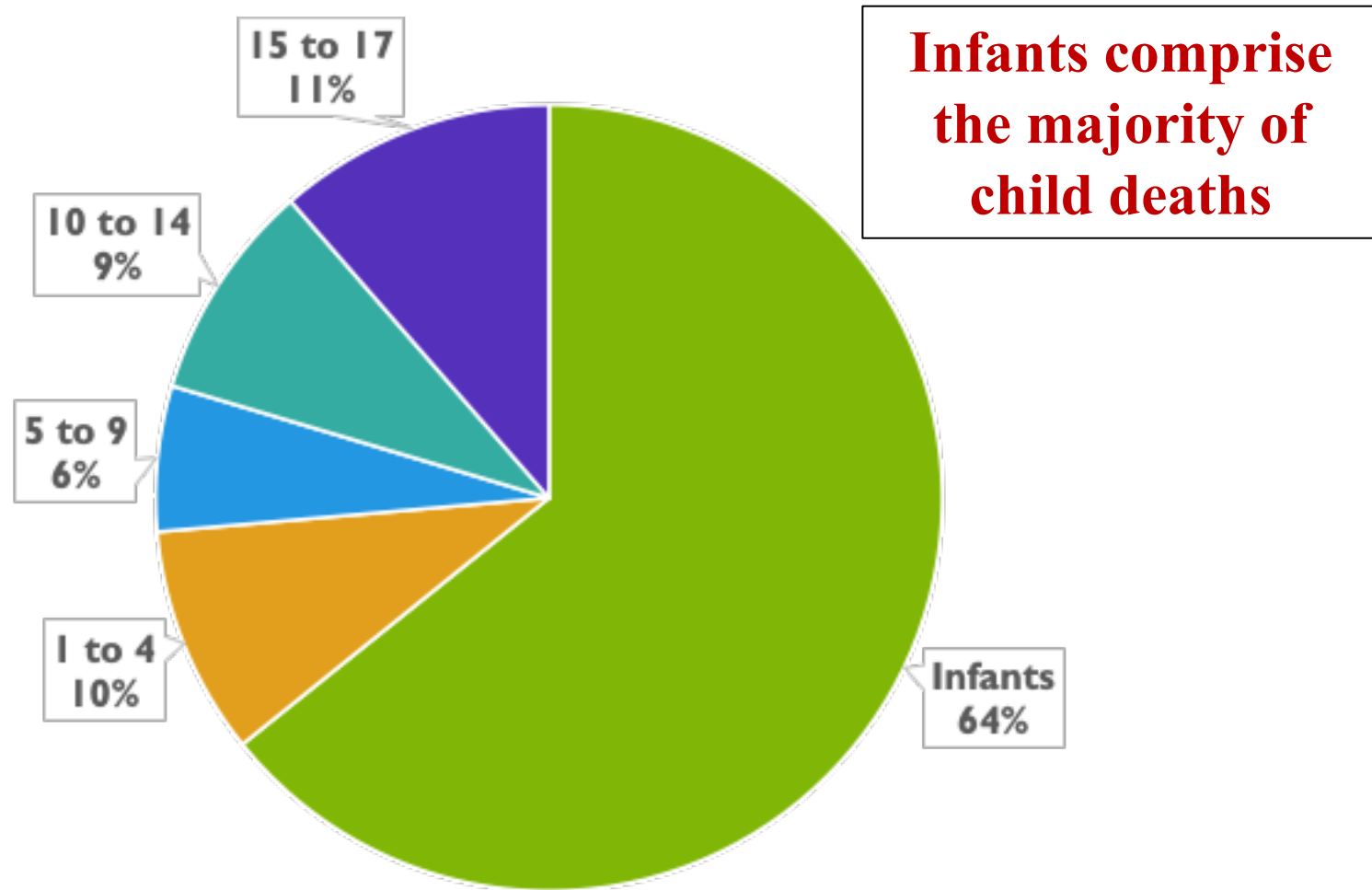
TASK FORCE WORK

- ▶ Urging leaders to prioritize child health & safety in policy decisions
- ▶ Recommendations are based on data and evidence
- ▶ Subject matter experts present to the CFTF and its committees
 - Data (broad and specific)
 - Evidence regarding trend or problem in need of attention
 - Evidence regarding prevention strategies
 - Examples of effective strategies/programs
 - Relevant state or national initiatives

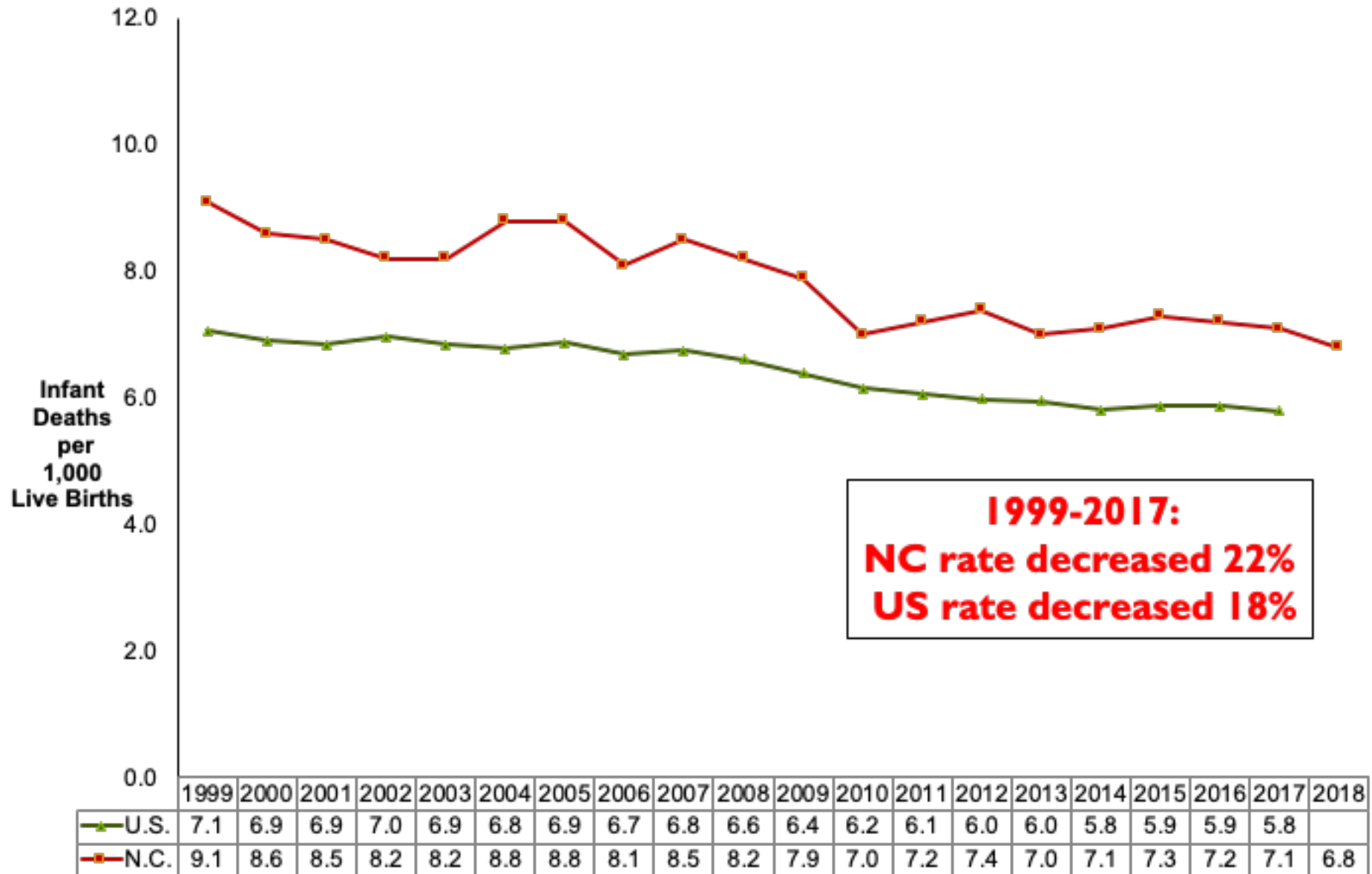
EXAMPLES OF INFANT MORTALITY DATA

Examined by CFTF

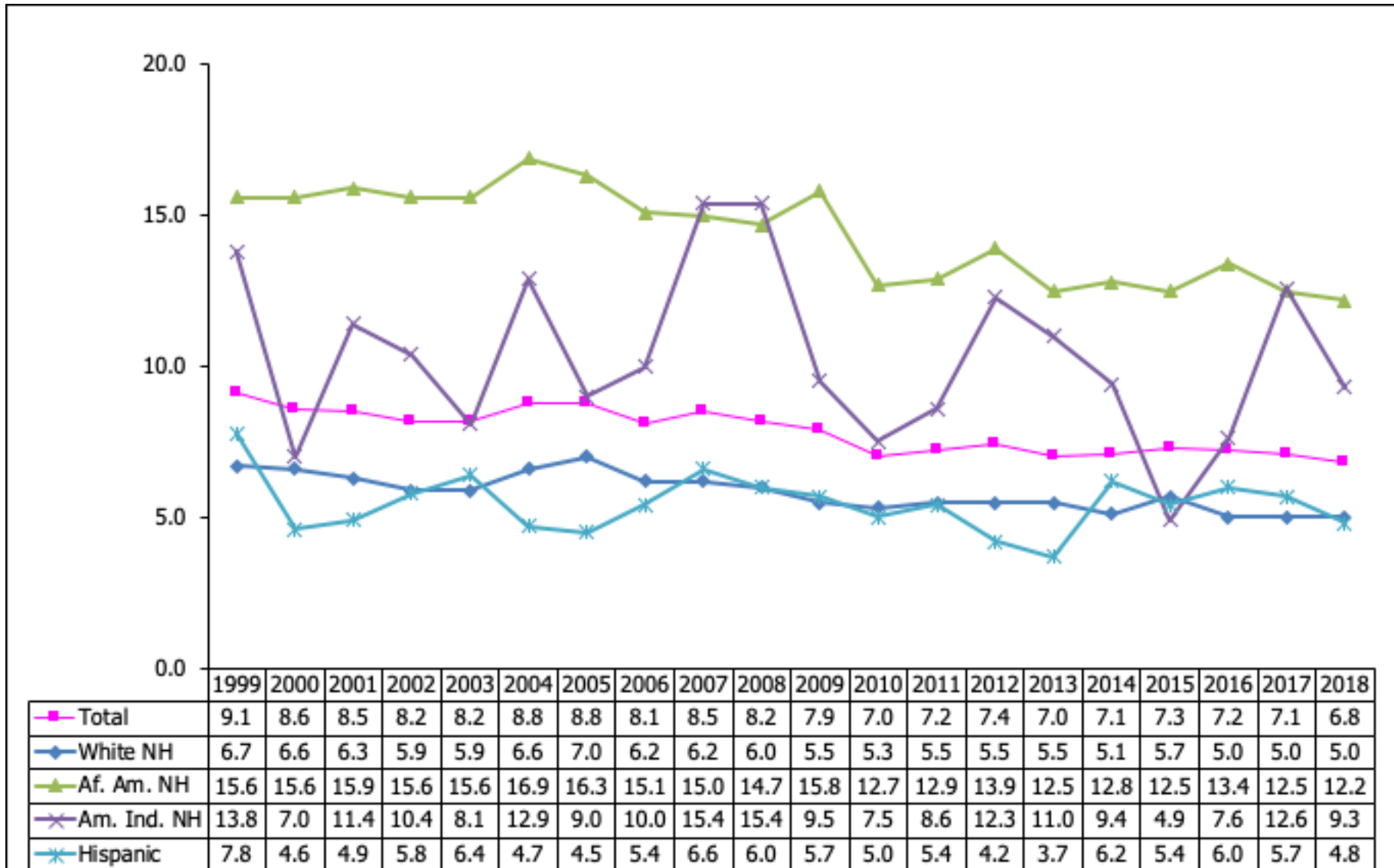
NC RESIDENT CHILD DEATHS BY AGE: 2018



INFANT DEATH RATES: 1999-2018, US VS NC

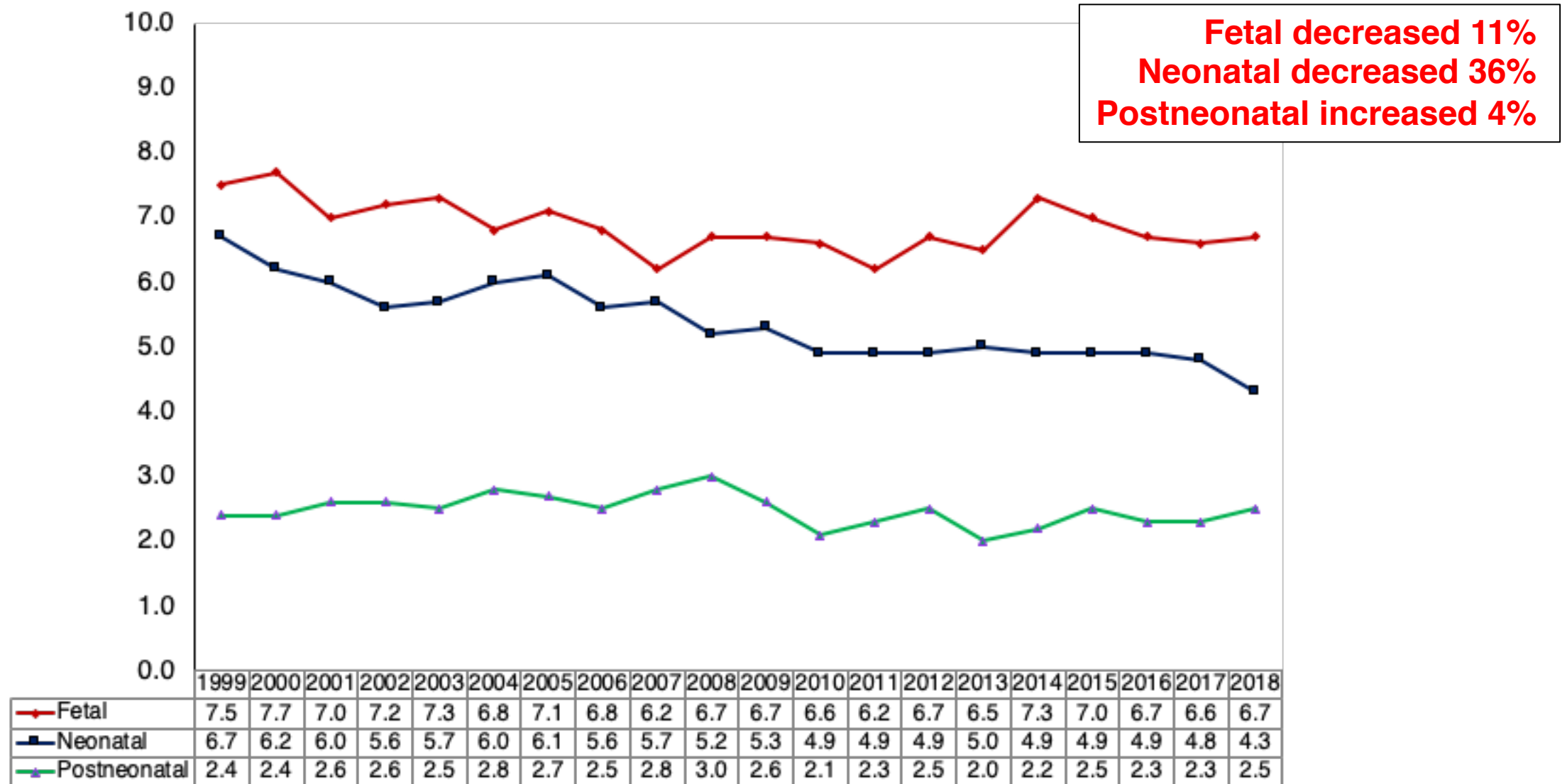


NC RESIDENT INFANT DEATH RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY: 1999-2018



Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics & National Center for Health Statistics

NC FETAL, NEONATAL & POSTNEONATAL MORTALITY RATES: 1999-2018



Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics

LEADING CAUSES OF INFANT DEATH, NC RESIDENTS 2018: NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS BY CAUSE

Cause Category:	Deaths	Percent
Prematurity/Low Birth Weight	140	17.4
Birth Defects	140	17.4
Other Unknown Causes	116	14.4
Other perinatal conditions	93	11.5
Maternal complications	84	10.4
Respiratory Distress	56	6.9
Infections	52	6.5
All Other Causes (Residual)	49	6.1
Circulatory diseases	22	2.7
Accidents	18	2.2
Respiratory diseases	14	1.7
Accidental Suffocation/Strangulation in Bed	10	1.2
Homicide	9	1.1
SIDS	3	0.4

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics

SAMPLE HIGHLIGHTS OF CFTF PERINATAL HEALTH

POLICY ADVANCEMENTS: FUNDING VIA LEGISLATION

- ▶ Funding support for preterm birth prevention treatment (multi-year effort)
- ▶ Funding support for infant safe sleep program (multi-year effort)
- ▶ Funding to support for perinatal tobacco cessation and prevention (multi-year effort)
- ▶ Funding support for program to implement perinatal best practice projects in NC hospitals
- ▶ During state budget constraints (2010 – 2013), maintained funding for several infant mortality prevention programs

SAMPLE HIGHLIGHTS OF CFTF PERINATAL HEALTH POLICY ADVANCEMENTS: LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

- ▶ Legislation to require a study of maternal and neonatal risk-appropriate care in NC facilities & report to GA
- ▶ Legislation to add conditions to the NC newborn screening program
- ▶ Legislation to require pulse oximetry screening for congenital heart disease

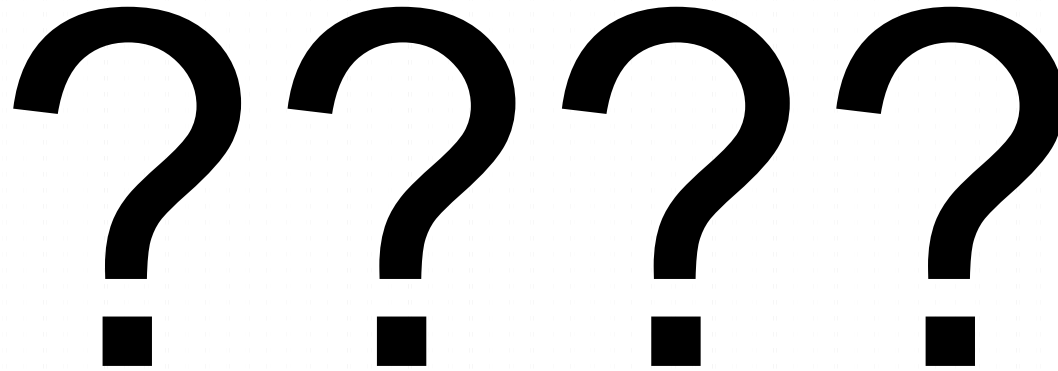
SAMPLE HIGHLIGHTS OF CFTF PERINATAL HEALTH POLICY ADVANCEMENTS: ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORTS

- ▶ Administrative effort through State Personnel for state government offices to have “breastfeeding friendly” designation
- ▶ Administrative effort to get medical lactation services covered by Medicaid
- ▶ Creation and funding for perinatal health network (temporary – 2006)

CURRENT EFFORTS OF THE PH COMMITTEE

- ▶ Endorse workplace supports (paid family leave insurance, pregnancy accommodations, kin care & safe days leave)
- ▶ Strengthen the statewide Child Fatality Prevention System
- ▶ Increase funding support for Infant Safe Sleep
- ▶ Endorse the increase of funding support for Quitline NC

QUESTIONS?



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Task Force website:

<https://www.ncleg.gov/DocumentSites/Committees/NCCFTF/Homepage/index.html>