

## **“I Believe” Statements**

Note: Each Summit attendee was asked at the end of the Summit to write down on an index card a statement that summarized their belief about infant mortality in their community. Attendees were instructed to start the statement with “I Believe.....” and complete the phrase with their own thoughts. The statements below represent the actual statements submitted by Summit attendees.

“I believe.....”

- Every baby should celebrate their first birthday.
- Infant mortality is a key indicator of the general health of a community and is deserving of the best resources we have to offer to make an impact to lower our rates.
- Infant mortality can be affected by collaboration and persistence.
- We need to cooperate between agencies for better resource utilization to decrease infant mortality. Legislators need to be educated on evidence.
- We can impact the infant mortality rates in West Tennessee by increasing awareness of the Life Course Model and ensuring quality health care.
- We can impact infant mortality rates in West Tennessee in a positive way.
- All babies born in 37208, Nashville, Davidson County, and Tennessee have the right to an equal start through equity in medical care, education, etc.
- Infant mortality in my county is challenging, but decreasing the rate below or at the state and national rate is obtainable!
- Through true collaboration and love for one another we can one day work ourselves out of a job.
- Every mom and baby have the rights to good prenatal education and in-hospital support and follow-up support to optimize their chance for good health.
- Infant mortality is in large part due to stress from life circumstances.
- An increased focus on health equity, safe sleep promotion, and access to educational resources will help to decrease the infant mortality rate in Nashville, TN.
- By moving up stream, we can eliminate the primary causes of infant mortality.
- All mothers deserve equal resources for prenatal care. As we raise awareness on safe sleep and work on substance abuse exposed infants, we will have improved outcomes.
- Every baby deserves the best start!
- Together, we can reduce the infant mortality rate in Tennessee.
- Hopefully, reduction in infant mortality is the outcome of “successful” planning and preparing for pregnancy, maximal promotion of good health and community services to support families and children.
- All babies deserve to be nurtured and protected.
- To turn this around, we must believe totally in the collaboration effort, to improve our infant mortality. Every topic is equally significant to put together the idea of a changed improvement.

- Every child deserves a safe start, including protection from sleep and illicit drug-related deaths.
- Children can be saved from those practices that shorten their precious lives. We (public and private organizations) can help babies see their first birthday.
- Infant mortality does not get enough attention from parents or communities.
- Infant mortality reduction relies more on community transformation than on individual behaviors.
- More education can make an impact in our community.
- Communities succeed better when babies are born and stay healthy.
- Every baby should have an equal chance at a good outcome (i.e. no disparities).
- Improving birth outcomes will require a much more coordinated effort and partnerships.
- Every child deserves a healthy start.
- Infants can live longer, healthier lives when quality home visiting programs connect early with families, and when families are educated on infant care especially regarding the stresses of infant crying. Families with newborns need support long after the birth of the baby!
- All children who are conceived deserve a chance to live. Most parents are not FULLY aware of the scope and gravity of sleep-related deaths due to unsafe sleep environment. If aware of the gravity of just how many babies die of sleep-related practices that many would adopt safe sleep practices.
- More efforts need to be made to give consistent messages about safe sleep to parents and caregivers to reduce sleep-related deaths.
- It is all about the mothers and the babies health and academic growth.
- As breastfeeding rates increase, infant mortality rates will decrease.
- Every baby deserves a chance to graduate, get marrieds and have babies of their own.
- We have several task force groups that work on infant mortality awareness of which I am a part—one is for teens and the other is for everyone—IMPACT and IRIS.
- All women deserve the right to a healthy pregnancy and that all children have the right to a healthy gestation and birth.
- Partnership and better communication between health care professionals, child care providers and parents would greatly impact the reduction of SIDS/SUID.
- All children should be able to survive and have the optimal health care available. Not enough information is given to members while inpatient/after delivery about infant mortality and educate them on factors.
- I will go back and make a change in my community to reduce teen pregnancy and decrease infant mortality.
- A change is getting ready to happen and it starts with me and my community.
- Infant mortality can be positively impacted by education, preventive health and community support.
- We can (“yes we can”) decrease infant mortality in our communities and in our region and in our state and in our nation through effective partnerships and relationships in order to bring awareness and education to all.

- We must put a relevant story or “picture” together to show people that infant mortality is a serious regional issue that requires a change.
- Infant mortality is still high in our state of TN. I understand a big effort has been done but we need to continue implementing more activities and education to get lower rates.
- We have the tools necessary to begin mobilizing and engaging communities and teams to make a positive difference in infant mortality rates.
- Infant mortality rate is too high in Tennessee and it can be reduced tremendously by educating parents and bringing them awareness on this issue.
- Infant mortality can be reduced through community collaboration, local involvement, and culturally-sensitive interventions.
- Infant mortality can be prevented. We must all take responsibility for our own health and value the life that we are given...ourselves and the children we have. Some solutions are more ingrained and harder to move within our society, others such as the ABC's of safe sleep can be easily addressed if we all commit to it.
- Educating our caregivers will make a difference. Building a rapport and collaboration with community partners can help to save a baby.
- Supporting parents (especially those that have many disadvantages) will promote protective factors in young children and lead to them having healthier babies.
- We can effect infant mortality by increasing emphasis on preconception health and better identifying substance abuse in women of childbearing age and those pregnant.
- With community collaboration and involvement we can reduce the rate of infant mortality in Tennessee.
- More of the social risk factors and impacts need to be addressed to fully understand and make real change in infant mortality rates (up to age 1).
- Safe sleep should be a birth right for Tennessee babies. Parents want to provide the safest environment for their baby—they may not know what that is.
- Infant mortality studies should include babies age 0-12 months.
- The State of Tennessee will be able to make a significant impact in the infant mortality statistics. We cannot stop until preventable deaths stop.
- The State of Tennessee can reach its goal for 2020 reduction in infant mortality with hard work and dedication.
- Infant mortality can be reduced by educating about co-sleeping.
- Infant mortality can be decreased through nurse home visiting for all new parents.
- Infant mortality can be eradicated.
- Infant mortality would decrease if more things were put in an electronic format that identified more of the options to treat the problem quicker.
- Infant mortality reduction is the single most effective goal we can achieve to guarantee the future of our nation.
- The infant mortality rates in Tennessee (even more for the United States) can be changed. The success of change solely depends on each group's involvement in coming up with goals that meet the community needs.
- Educating our young teens can lead to improved rates of infant mortality—as these are our future parents!

- The African-American community does not fully understand the impact of how the choices for health care or lack thereof has on the national rates of health outcomes. I believe the African American community is not fully informed.
- The work being done now will bring about more work which will bring about greater change.
- The global approach is 100% necessary—the patients alone cannot and will not make change until they believe they can and that it will matter.
- Through summits such as these I can positively impact the social and health challenges of adults, infants, and the community at large.
- If we decide to work in more collaborative efforts, our rates will decrease.
- Infant mortality due to unsafe sleep conditions is a crisis in Tennessee and must be addressed. Modeling safe sleep in hospitals is a great way to influence sleep practices.
- I can help save babies through effective understanding, communication, and education as a healthcare provider/perinatal educator for the patients/clients and community I serve.
- Infant mortality in my community is an issue that the general population is unaware of.
- The infant mortality rate is directly related to maternal health and family values and resources.
- We will see a decrease in infant mortality if we establish more satellite health care for prenatal care. Shelby County is the leading county in infant mortality. Health care providers are growing further and further apart. They tend to relocate where the money goes.
- I can continue to provide prenatal education to empower expectant moms to know normal vs. abnormal signs and symptoms of complications.
- Implementing a program for all 9-12 year old boys and girls about their bodies and involve parents to start the sexual communication early. I have seen results of building the confidence in individuals.
- Infant mortality rates can be reduced if reduction is a priority to the entire community.
- Through education and resources made available to all and in multiple languages we will reduce infant mortality in our community.
- We can do better with infant mortality and rival that of Bermuda.
- Infant mortality is a national problem that could be reduced with additional prenatal care and education.
- Nurses can make a difference in infant mortality rates.
- Infant mortality can be reduced in 2013.
- Reduction of infant mortality rate is the responsibility of the community as a whole to be the voice and advocate of those (infants) who can't be for themselves.
- The reduction of infant mortality and education should begin prior to delivery.
- There are too many infant deaths, and we as healthcare professionals need to educate the public about ways to prevent infant death.
- Fetal and infant deaths could be decreased by national education.
- Tennessee can reduce its infant mortality rate to one of the lowest in the country.

- Infant mortality in our community is a complex problem which needs broad collaboration, sustained effort, and commensurate funding.
- Rates of infant mortality can be reduced in Tennessee.
- The infant mortality rate among African-Americans can improve and I believe we here in Tennessee can make a difference.
- Infant mortality is something that, addressed successfully, will improve our entire community.
- All children deserve to see their first birthday and have the ability to prosper and grow beyond that day.
- Each pregnancy deserves a healthy birth outcome.
- Preconception and prenatal care is essential to healthy nation and healthy workforce/economy.
- Infant mortality in Tennessee should be a part of high school health curriculum—as we see a correlation between young moms and premature births.
- We can make a difference one person at a time with an eye on the bigger picture.
- Every child that is conceived has a purpose, and therefore it is our responsibility as a community to make sure they live to fulfill their purpose.
- Infant mortality is an issue that everyone in public health can help to change.
- Tennessee's infant mortality rate could be decreased if we work together to provide education and promote teamwork.
- Infant mortality could be decreased by better education of our lower income families.
- Infant mortality can be improved by improving the health of moms before they become pregnant.
- Davidson County can reach <5 sleep-related deaths in 2012.
- Infant mortality can be reduced if we respect and value all babies of all birth circumstances, all members of our society.
- Every child in Nashville, Tennessee will have a fair chance to have a viable birth if maternal/child home visitation services are permitted to continue to better educate families to have better birth outcomes. There are Healthy Start, Healthier Beginnings, HUGS, PCAT, etc.
- In order to build a nation that can rise up above others we can decrease infant mortality by: a) informing (outside of the box) by aggressive billboards (informative but eye-catching); b) fliers (pictures and simple); and c) entertaining (games on topic)
- Out students at Belmont can make a difference in reducing infant mortality
- Every baby deserves a chance at a healthy infancy and life! We want and need to make that happen!
- All babies deserve a first birthday. All babies should be celebrated. Children shouldn't be viewed as a right but are a privilege.
- Every baby should be offered the opportunity to initiate breastfeeding.
- Infant mortality needs to be a national priority.
- I am a stakeholder and I believe that decreasing infant mortality significantly is possible in my lifetime.

- We can positively impact infant mortality by increasing awareness of infant safe sleep environments, the importance of immunizations and the need for substance-free (includes drugs, alcohol, and tobacco) living environments.
- Infant mortality is something that affects/effects us all. We all can do something to help protect our future.
- Infant mortality rates in the United States need to be lowered and the gap of disparities between races needs to be non-existent.
- Voices unable to speak must be protected by the ones who have learned to express needs. To do so means to reach to the core (environment, history, triggers, inner child, etc) of those carriers of life to begin healing the mind, body, and soul. I believe that clinical and medical staff need to bridge the gap of education and accountability.
- Infant mortality can be changed by supplying the mother with vital information and support. To walk every step with her during her pregnancy to have a healthy baby.
- It is the responsibility of the entire community to provide a continuum of care that promotes responsible prenatal care.
- Every person should have access to health education and proper infant care. Using evidence-based research we can decrease infant mortality by empowering people to embrace this effort.
- We can reduce infant mortality in Tennessee.
- We can improve our infant mortality rate in Tennessee.
- As community partners we can make a difference when it comes to reducing the rates of infant mortality. We must educate, collaborate, and take action with each of being willing to play an active role to put into place things to make a difference.
- Infant mortality can only decrease when our systems and programs work together, not individually, to combat this nationwide problem.
- We can curtail infant mortality in my community and across the state. We have the knowledge and dedicated people.
- Disparities should begin by going to all area of the community: homes, department of health, transportation outlet, retail, and entertainment.
- We can reduce infant mortality in Tennessee.
- Infant mortality is a local, state, national, world-wide problem that affects/touches all of us. Everyone knows someone who has lost a child. Multiple small steps become leaps—many people working together can make a difference. Today is a start.
- Infant mortality has so many barriers that we need to work on. However, some of the barriers will be very hard to change, including cultural differences, socio-economic status, environment, etc.
- We can make great reductions in infant mortality by improving education around newborn health issues-specifically safe sleep environment.
- Infant mortality issues in rural areas is often overlooked. I believe we need to target a broader audience beyond mothers. Fathers, grandparents, and other caregivers are also key. I believe attachment parenting (i.e. bed-sharing) may stall improvement temporarily.
- We can reduce the number of babies born addicted to drugs.
- We can make a difference in infant mortality rates in our community.

- Our Health Department nurses need to be given appropriate information in assessment and given the time to spend with patients/clients to help them make behavioral changes, etc to make the ultimate difference to decrease the mortality rates.
- We need to identify the stakeholders—all those that can reiterate at every step==be all on the same page in improving the rates.
- Incorporating PPOR analysis would be very beneficial for my region.
- Infant mortality numbers can be reduced.
- We have a responsibility to help make sure all children have the opportunity to live and succeed.
- High infant mortality is a symptom of the community.
- Infant mortality can be decreased in Tennessee!
- An effort to Tennessee to be proactive rather than reactive about tackling the issue of infant mortality may be more effective for a desired change.
- We can effectively impact infant mortality by improving the health outcomes for the majority of babies born and living in our community.
- Women who have multiple fetal losses or infant deaths should have a case manager to follow them for at least two years to improve preconception health and help reduce infant mortality.
- Infant mortality needs to be a priority in our community. We must take it seriously, and continue our efforts to reduce it.
- Continuing summits on infant mortality can decrease infant deaths in the future.
- Infant mortality is sad and crippling for our country. Infant mortality stunts our country's growth and development because when infants die, we lose a great citizen that could have possibly led our country in the future.
- A healthy Tennessee is possible.
- All children deserve a healthy start.
- Everyone plays a role in reduction of infant mortality.
- Infant mortality rates in Tennessee can be lowered with a commitment (and related actions) to full systems integration of healthcare for women and children.