

# Report to the Advisory Committee on Infant & Maternal Mortality

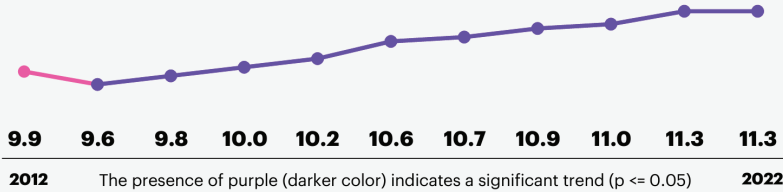


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# March of Dimes Data – Missouri

## 2023 Report Card

Percentage of live births born preterm in MO



**PRETERM  
BIRTH  
GRADE**

**D-**

**U.S. RATE**

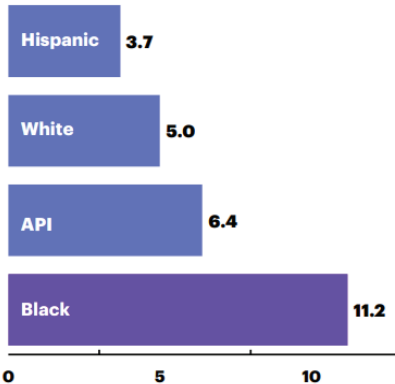
10.4

**MO RATE**

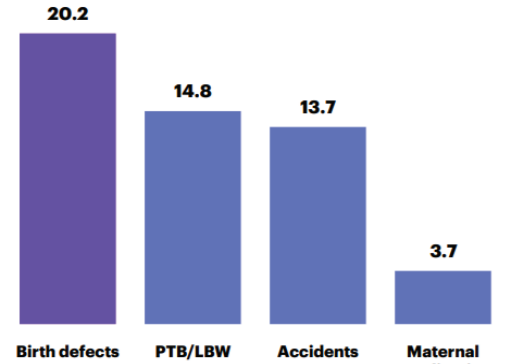
11.3

**The infant mortality rate among babies born to Black birthing people is 1.9x the state rate**

**Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births**  
Rate per 1,000 live births, 2019-2021



**Leading causes of infant death**  
Percent of total deaths by primary cause, 2019-2021



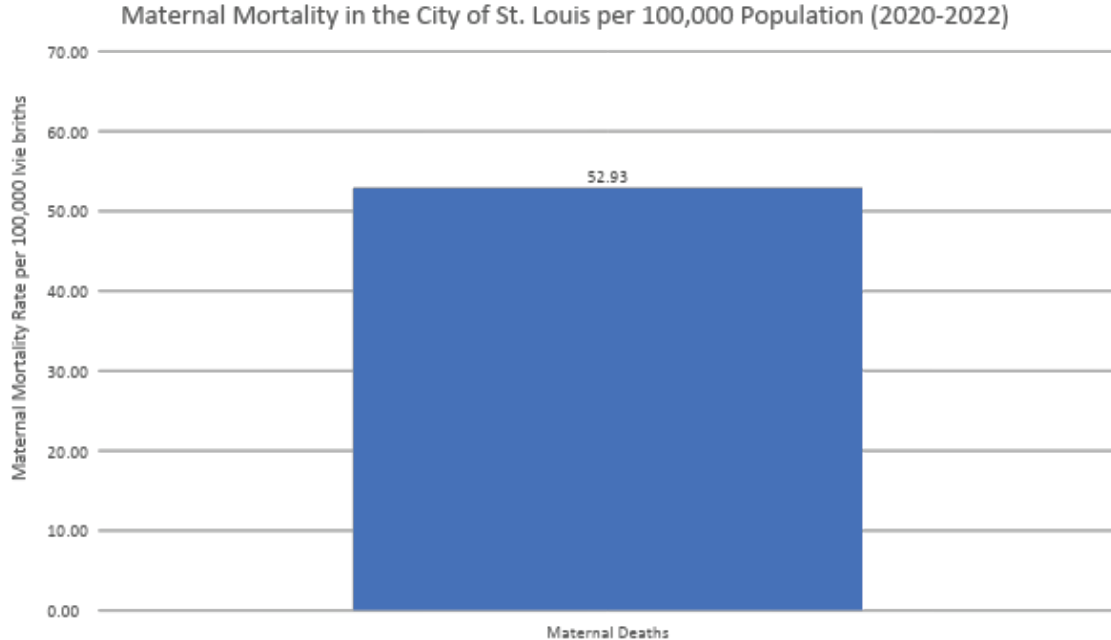
**Notes:** API = Asian/Pacific Islander; AIAN = American Indian/Alaska Native; PTB/LBW = preterm birth and low birth weight; SUID = sudden unexpected infant death.



# Maternal Mortality (2020-2022)

## City of St. Louis

**Objective 1.2:** Decrease racial and ethnic disparities in maternal mortality by improving the delivery of equitable, culturally congruent people facing services for pregnant people and their partners.



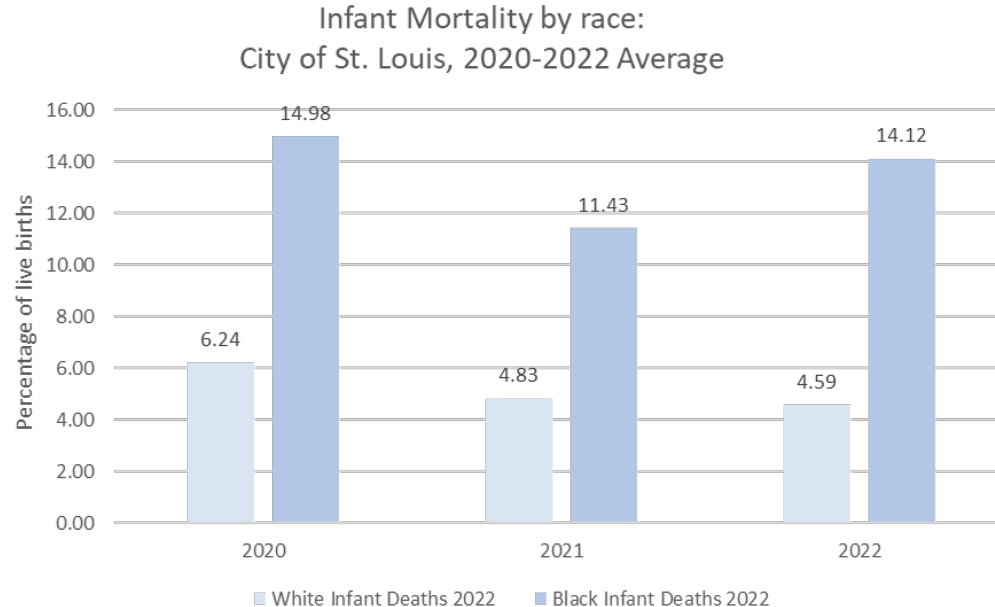
Data as of 3/4/2024



# Infant Mortality Rates (2020-2022)

## City of St. Louis

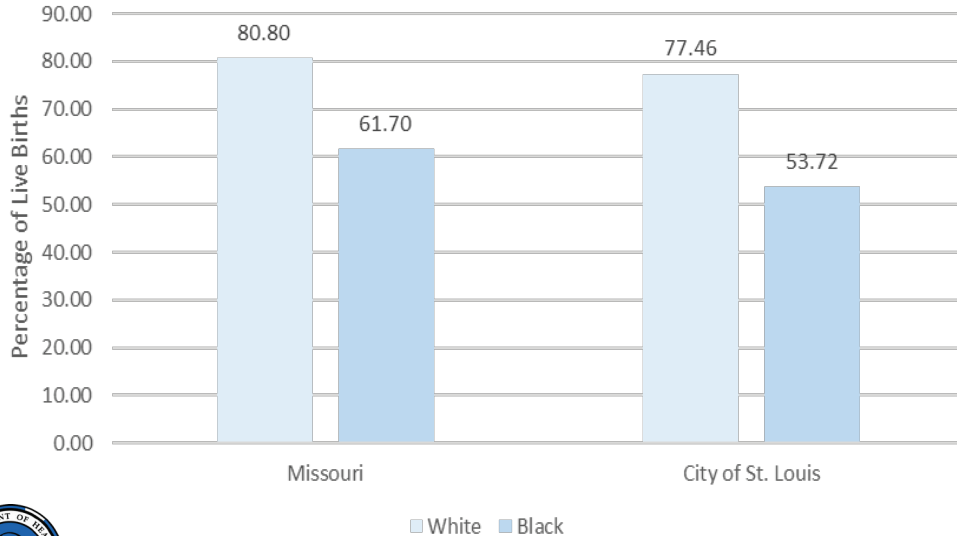
**Objective 1.2:** By 2027, decrease racial and ethnic disparities in maternal mortality by 52.70% and infant mortality by 67.52%



# Initiate Early Prenatal Care

## City of St. Louis

Early Prenatal care by race:  
City of St. Louis, 2020-2022 Average



## Zip Codes with Lowest rates of Early Prenatal Care

63107

63115

63116

63120

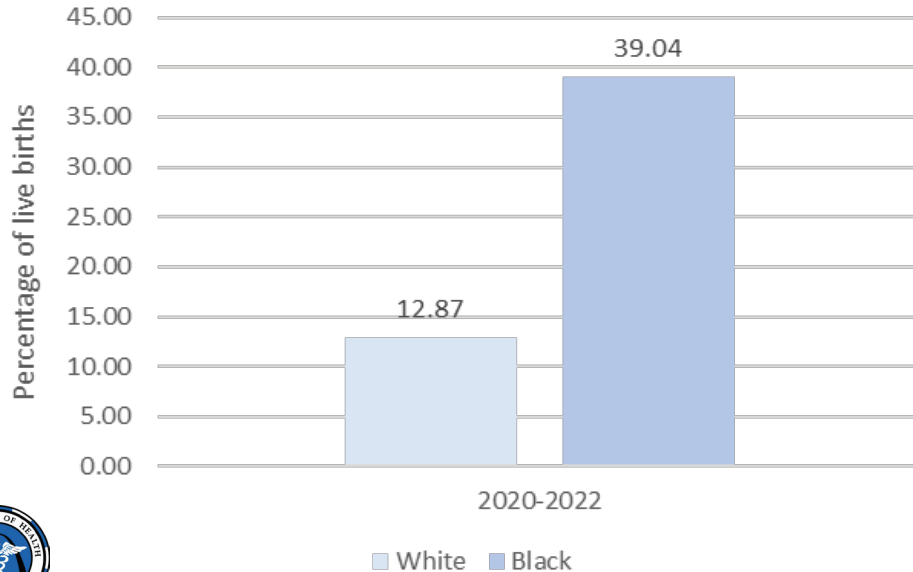
63106



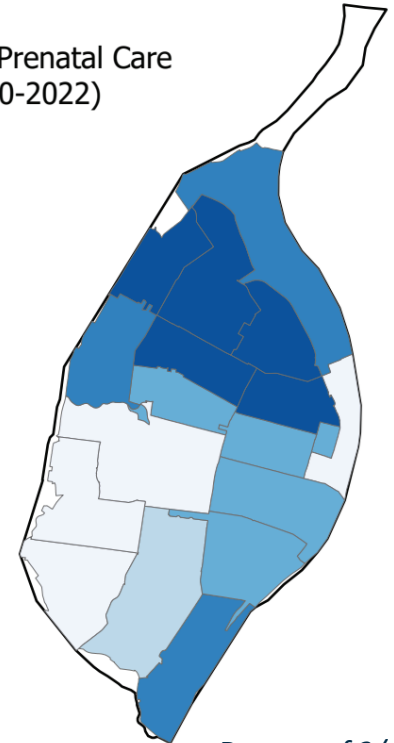
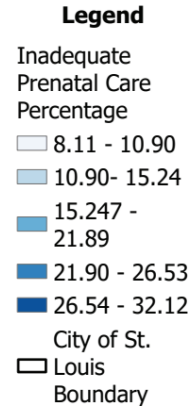
# Initiate Adequate Prenatal Care

## City of St. Louis

Inadequate Prenatal care by race:  
City of St. Louis, 2020-2022 Average



City of St. Louis Inadequate Prenatal Care  
Percentage by Zip code (2020-2022)



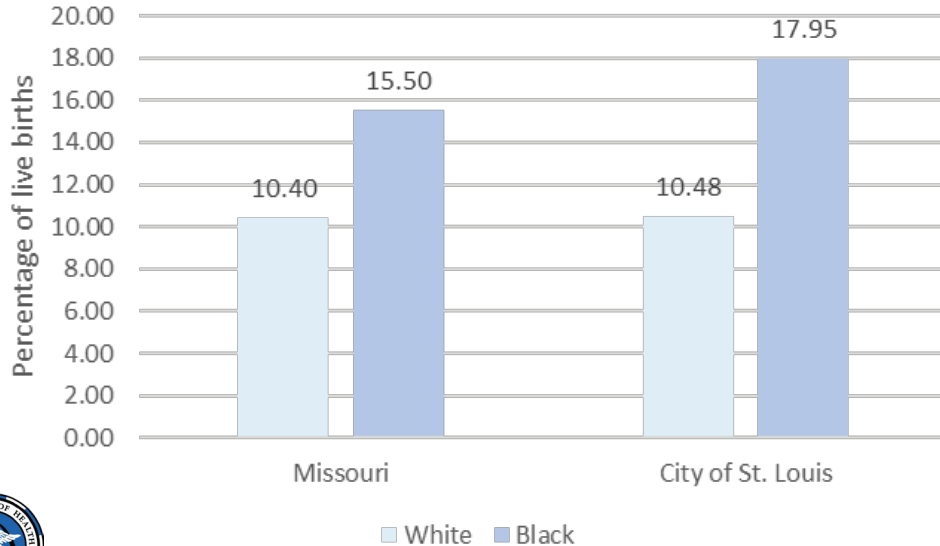
Data as of 3/4/2024



# Preterm Births (2020-2022)

## City of St. Louis

Preterm Births by race:  
2020-2022 Average



City of St. Louis Preterm Birth Percentage  
by Zip code (2020-2022)

**Legend**

Preterm Birth  
Percentage

7.28 - 8.35

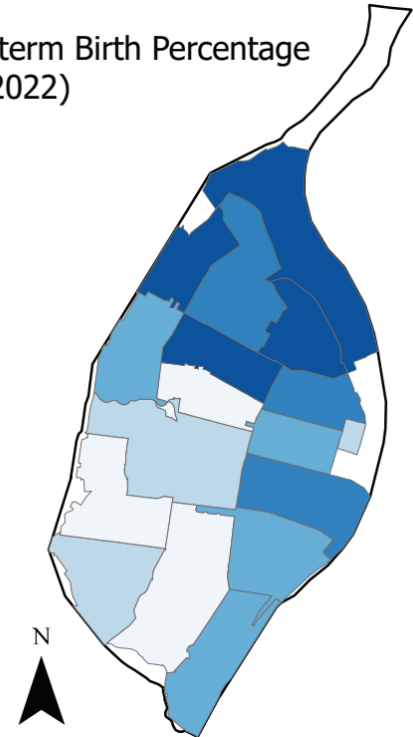
8.36 - 9.56

9.57 - 12.03

12.04 - 13.06

13.07- 15.01

City of St. Louis  
Boundary



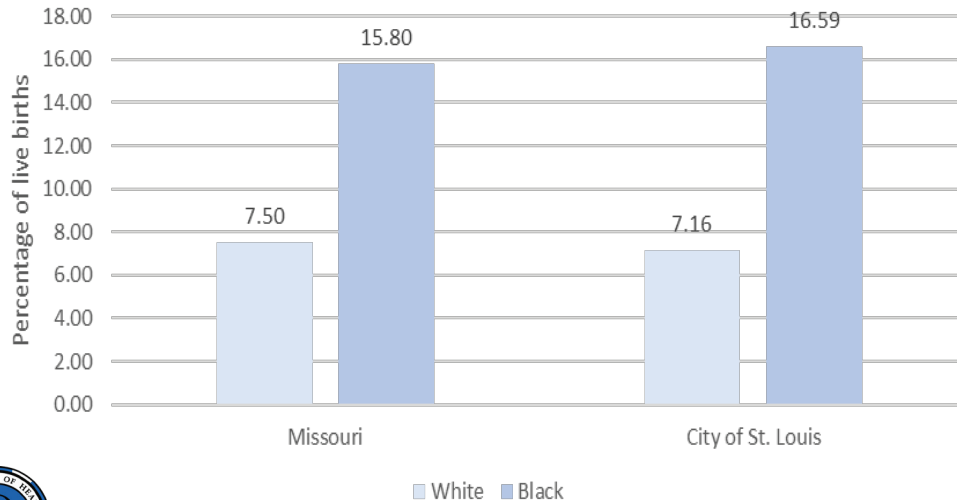
Data as of 3/4/2024



# Low Birthweight (2020-2022)

## City of St. Louis

Low birthweight by race:  
2020-2022 Average



Zip Codes with Highest Rates of  
Low Birthweight

63136

63104

63139

63147

63120

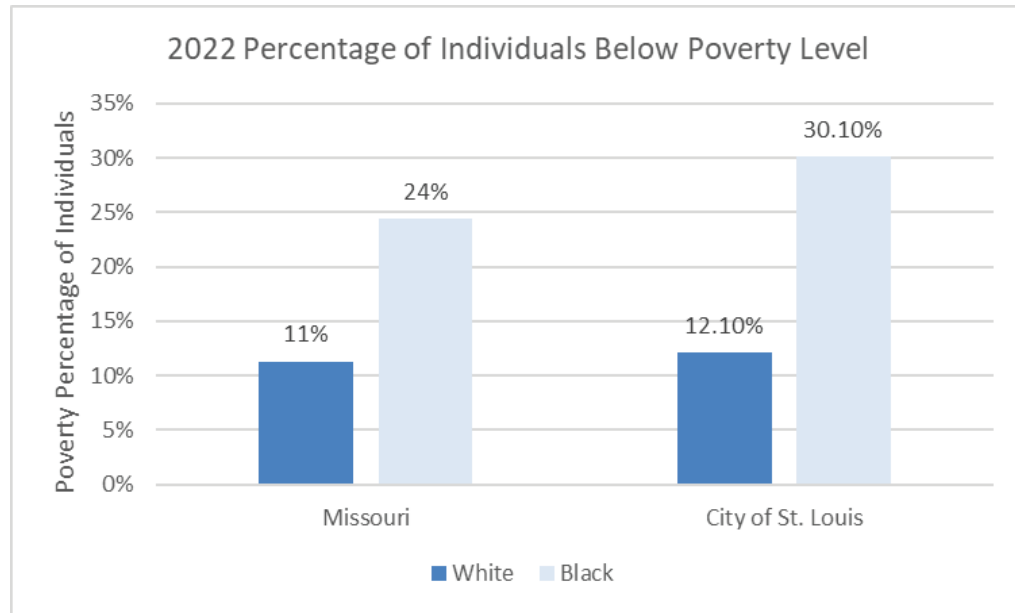




# Social Determinants of Health

## City of St. Louis Department of Health

- Inadequate access to health care
- Systemic bias and racism in healthcare, policies and clinical settings
- Economic stability
- Education access and quality
- Healthcare access and quality
- Neighborhoods and built environments
- Systemic Policies



Source: ACS 1-year estimates subject tables



# What has been successful?

## City of St. Louis Department of Health

- Centering Pregnancy and rebuilding of the metaphorical “village”
  - Group Sessions for maternal support
  - Community-based maternal and newborn care
- Patient-centered care from health professionals and service providers
  - Trauma-informed training
  - Equipping mothers with adequate and culturally congruent prenatal and perinatal care
  - Universal Screenings
  - Prioritizing Black mothers’ care, pregnancy, mental health and comorbidities, including doula care and doula services throughout the birthing process and in postpartum
  - Partnering with Maternal Health Access Project to assess and screen patients for perinatal psychiatry needs and resources
- Trust, confidence and buy-in to at-risk communities and birthing parents
- Free and readily accessible resources for birthing persons and recently pregnant people



# Lessons Learned

## City of St. Louis Department of Health

- Community partner collaborations and coalition forming help to break down barriers
- Patient centered care is vital to improving birth outcomes and reducing negative health outcomes for Black mothers
- Issues are embedded in policies and legislation such as:
  - Permanent housing policies (31 days = permanent housing)
  - Positive toxicology tests (Children's Division)
  - Medicaid Enrollment (children include 50% of people who lost coverage)
  - Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
    - (Missouri employees receive up to 6 weeks of leave, and 2 additional weeks are allowed of PTO time)



# Community Input

## City of St. Louis Department of Health

- *"You only see liquor stores, funeral homes, cemeteries and abandoned houses in our neighborhoods"*
- *"Mental health is the first thing you need to take care of. You can put yourself into a depression and not want to come out, and you have a baby on the way"*
- *"Having the ability to have access to a doula, who made sure she was going to be safe at the hospital"*
- *"Providers need to establish relationships with their patients,, and if you, as the patient, do not feel comfortable, it is ok to make a change. Our health is important too and should be the number on priority"*



# Recommendations:

- Improve birth equity by a full spectrum of care approach.
  - Assess the role of the policies, the culture of care from your area providers, and the “buy-in” of services from the patient.
- Initiate early and adequate prenatal and postpartum care
- Improve autonomy and self-advocacy through health promotion and education



# Improve Birth Equity

## City of St. Louis Department of Health

- Hospital Engagement
- Collaborative efforts of organizations
- Cross cutting resources
- Key strategies
- Measuring metrics
- Patient Centered Care
- Screening Patients
- Linkage and Referrals to care
- Providing patient education on postnatal care, safe sleep, substance use disorder and resources
- Reducing stigma

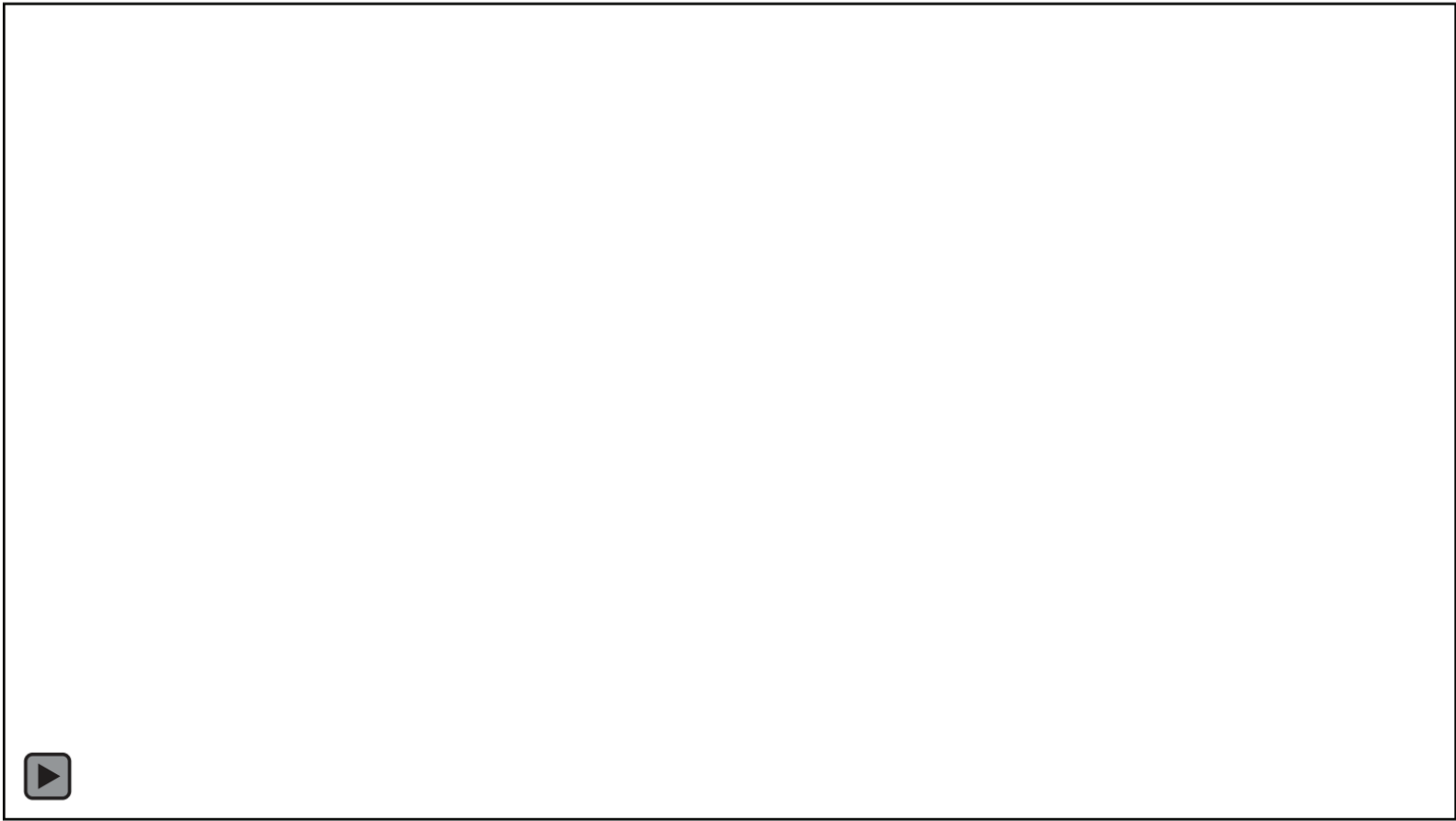


# Public Health Promotion & Education

## Providing Accurate Education

- Education series with parent groups, maternity shelters, and high schools (teen pregnancy)
- Share Content with Stakeholders & Committees
  - General Public
  - Monthly Reports
  - CHIP Action Team Monthly Meetings
  - Mayor's Office
- Use Media Coverage to Share Messaging
  - Broadcast and Newspaper interviews
  - Social media
- Community events with takeaway resources







# Thank you!

## Stay Connected to the Department of Health

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(314) 612-5100

[stlouis-mo.gov/health](https://stlouis-mo.gov/health)



Facebook / X (Twitter) / Instagram: @CityofSTLDOH



LinkedIn: City of St. Louis Department of Health

