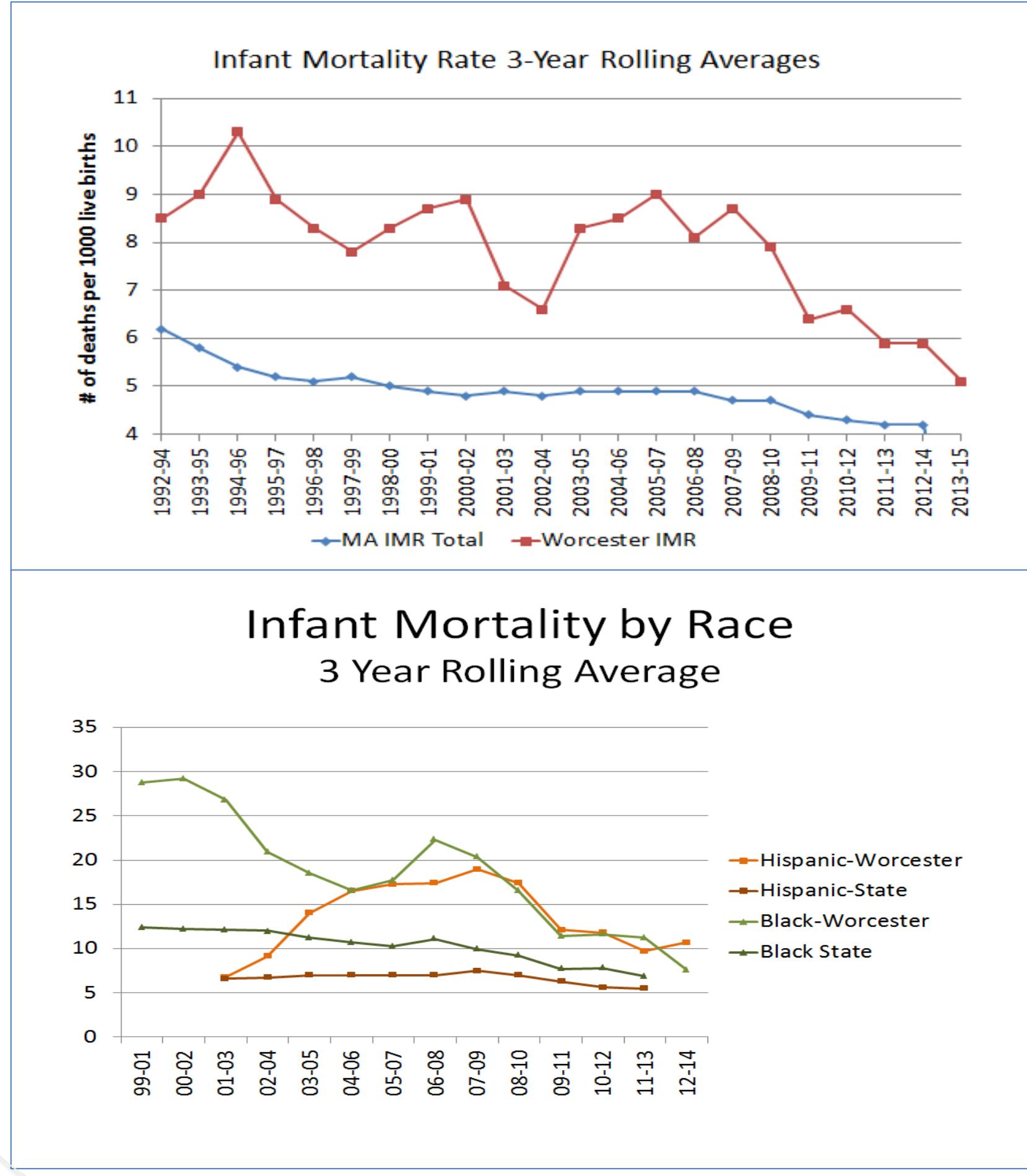


## Infant Mortality In Worcester

Infant Mortality rates (IMR) are higher in Worcester than in Massachusetts and the U.S in general.

- socioeconomic & racial/ethnic disparities influence this higher IMR
- WHBC used a community engagement model & Project Nhyira Ba to address IMR in Ghanaian population with success
- Alarming rise in infant deaths to Hispanic mothers
- Current work: focused on Latino/Hispanic population in Worcester



## Infant Safe Sleep

### March of Dimes Recommendations:

- Infant asleep on back
- Avoid bed-sharing
- Asleep on flat, firm surface
- No toys or objects in sleeping space



### Baby Box Movement:

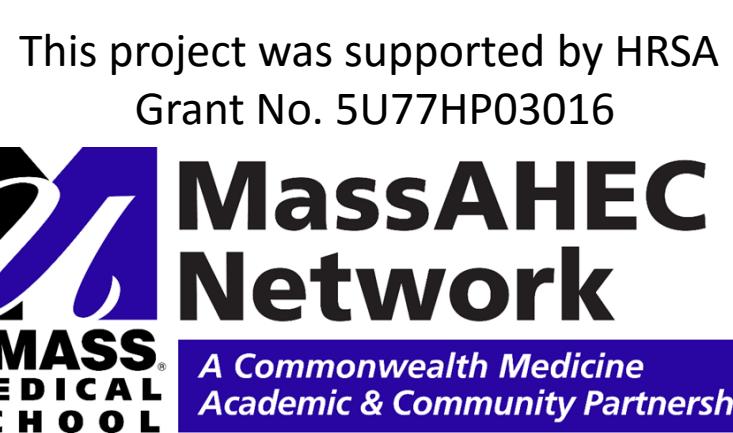
- Temple University Hospital began providing "Baby Boxes" for patients
- Provide safe space for infant sleep
- Potential ideas moving forward

The Worcester Healthy Baby Collaborative (WHBC) is a public health-focused task force that was created in 1996. The goal of WHBC is to work together with the community of Worcester to improve infant health. Previously known as the *Infant Mortality Reduction Task Force*, WHBC's main focus is to lower infant mortality and premature birth rates in Worcester.

WHBC is funded by a community grant from the March of Dimes, whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

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Elizabeth Meyer  
UMass Medical School Class of 2019

## Community Engagement: Worcester Health Fairs

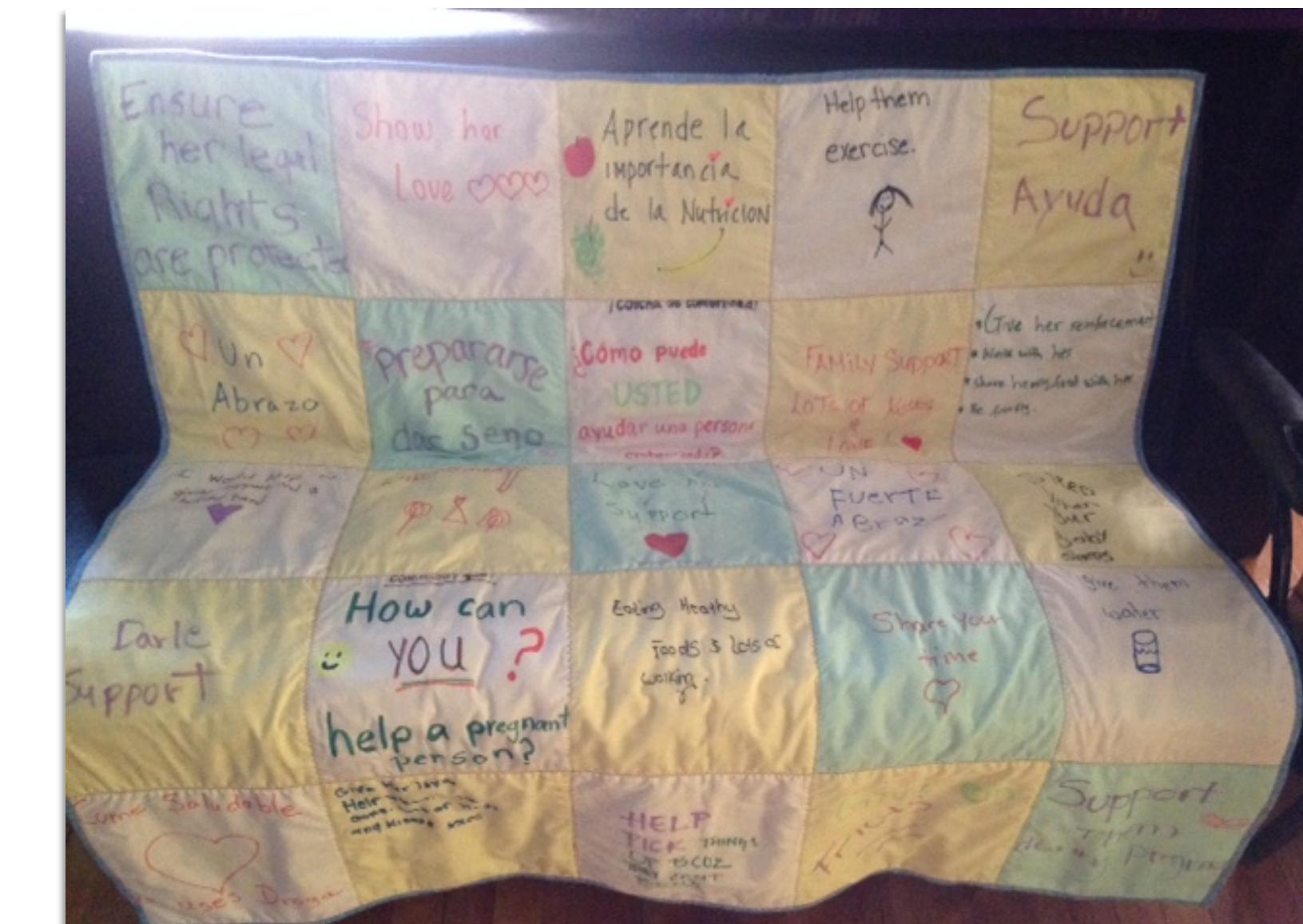
- Beginning this new direction with WHBC, summer goal to engage the Latino Population to see where our resources would be most appreciated
- Participated in **Community Health Fairs**: *Latino Business Expo (4/23), EMK Health Fair (6/4), Plumley Village Health Fair (6/22), New Life Health & Safety Fair (6/25), Juneteenth (6/25)*
- **Community Forum** (to come) in September to discuss infant health with community leaders



## Community Project: Community Quilt

**"How can YOU help a pregnant person?"**

We asked members of the community to write on quilt squares to make a community quilt, bringing people together about healthy babies



## Next Steps: Centering Pregnancy Study



- Centering Pregnancy: group prenatal care
- Family Health Center Worcester
- Future: chart review, attendance of Centering group sessions, capstone project
- Goal: learn about prenatal care & observe potential relationship between prenatal care & premature birth