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Editorial: Encouraging moves: Leaders on all levels are acting to lower infant-mortality rates

More help is on the way to combat the sad and vexing problem of Ohio's high infant-mortality rate.

At last week's Ohio Infant Mortality Summit in Columbus, Gov. John Kasich announced two new programs aimed at reducing infant deaths, while a bill that will improve nationwide data collection on sudden infant deaths, authored by Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, passed the House on Wednesday.

Correctly calling Ohio's infant-mortality rate "unacceptable" — it is among the worst in the nation, with more than 1,000 Ohio babies dying each year before they reach their first birthday — Kasich said the Ohio Medicaid program immediately will start providing more services, such as additional preventive care along with alcohol and drug services.

The state also will spend \$900,000 to fund four "pregnancy projects," in a mix of urban and rural areas, to provide services and support for expectant mothers. Both projects will be funded with federal dollars.

Read more here: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/editorials/2014/12/11/1-encouraging-moves.html>