Timeline Tuesday
Data Snapshot: Infant Mortality

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Data Overview

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25 YEARS OF COUNTING DELAWARE KIDS

INFANT MORTALITY TIMELINE

RANKING
Delaware ranks LAST in nation for infant mortality in the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT Data Book; Governor breaks Data Book’s press embargo to lay out a plan for addressing infant mortality in Delaware, including the creation of an Infant Mortality Task Force.

RATE
Delaware's infant mortality rate begins to increase while the national trend is decreasing.

TASK FORCE
Infant Mortality Task Force issues a 3-year plan with 20 recommendations.

BUDGET
Delaware’s state budget includes $1 million in new funding to support key task force recommendations; legislation passes to create Healthy Mothers and Infants Consortium as successor to the task force; legislation passes to generate funding for a comprehensive Fetal Infant Death Review Board.

TREND
Delaware’s infant mortality rate trend line decreases for first time since work began.

GOALS
Reduce health disparities – infant mortality specifically – by addressing social determinants of health.

1990  2004  2005  2006  2009  next
Why consider infant mortality?

Infant mortality rate definition:

# of deaths of infants before their 1st birthday (0-364 days old)
1,000 live births

- Important indicator of the overall well-being of a society
- Related to the underlying health of the mother, public health practices, socioeconomic conditions and accessibility of appropriate health care for infants and pregnant women
## Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: 2016 data shown for Japan

Source: KFF analysis of OECD data • Get the data • PNG

Peterson-Kaiser: Health System Tracker
Infant mortality rate by state, 2018

INFANT MORTALITY
Delaware, Counties and Wilmington

Deaths of Infants Less than 1 Year Old per 1,000 Live Births

Wilmington: 14.5
New Castle: 7.8
Kent: 6.4
Delaware: 7.3
Sussex: 6.5

Five-Year Periods

Note: Infant Mortality Rate – number of deaths occurring in the first year of life per 1,000 live births
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center
INFANT MORTALITY
Delaware by Race/Ethnicity

Deaths of Infants Less than 1 Year Old per 1,000 Live Births

Non-Hispanic Black 12.2
Hispanic* 8.4
Non-Hispanic White 4.5
Delaware: 7.3

Five-Year Periods

* Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Hispanic rates prior to 1996–2000 do not meet standard of reliability or precision; based on fewer than 20 deaths in the numerator.

Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center
Preterm births < 37 weeks make up 13% of live births but account for 73% of infant deaths.
**Preterm Birth Rate**

10.7%

**Race/Ethnicity**

- **Asian/Pacific Islander**: 7.5%
- **Black**: 13.1%
- **White**: 8.8%
- **Hispanic**: 9.0%

In Delaware, the preterm birth rate among Black women is 51% higher than the rate among all other women.

**Disparity Ratio:**

1.38

**Change from Baseline:**

No Improvement
Prevention strategies

- Identify women at risk for preterm birth
- Provide access to progesterone
- Ensure access to health care before and between pregnancies
- Educate on birth spacing
- Provide access to family planning
Causes of infant death by race/ethnicity, 2014-2018

- **Related to short gestation & low birthweight**: 25%
- **Maternal complications of pregnancy**: 20%
- **Complications of placenta, cord & membranes**: 15%
- **Birth defects**: 10%
- **SIDS**: 5%
- **Accidents**: 0%

Source: Delaware Dept of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Delaware Health Statistics Center
Mother’s Health

• Age
• Chronic illness
• Nutrition
• Infection
• Chronic stress
• Smoking and drug use
• Prenatal care

Infant’s Health

• Gestational age
• Birthweight
• Multiple births
• Birth defects
• Pediatric care
• Home environment
Neonatal mortality rate (0-28 days) by race, 2000-2018

Source: Delaware Dept of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Delaware Health Statistics Center
Postneonatal mortality rate (29-364 days) by race, 2000-2018

Source: Delaware Dept of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Delaware Health Statistics Center
Mortality rates (deaths per 1,000 live births) for the five leading causes of neonatal and postneonatal death, 2017

- **Short gestation and low birth weight**: 0.95
- **Congenital malformations**: 0.87
- **Maternal complications**: 0.37
- **Placenta, cord, and membrane complications**: 0.22
- **Bacterial sepsis**: 0.15
- **Congenital malformations**: 0.32
- **Sudden infant death syndrome**: 0.32
- **Accidents (unintentional injuries)**: 0.31
- **Diseases of the circulatory system**: 0.09
- **Assault (homicide)**: 0.0

Source: KFF analysis of CDC WONDER data
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