

Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Infant Mortality Rate

The rate of infant death is an indicator of how well the community protects the health of children. It is also a reflection of the overall state of maternal health and the availability of quality health care. The rate of infant death in the United States remains among the highest in the industrialized nations.

There is tremendous interest in information that describes the circumstances surrounding infant deaths. The death rate for infants before their first birthday is the highest for any age group until one reaches the 55 and over age group (See Figure 6 in the Mortality Section).

The infant mortality rate in California has been decreasing slightly for the past decade (Figure 8). The national objective for the year 2000 was to achieve an infant mortality rate of 7 deaths per 1,000 live births. California achieved and surpassed this goal, but Stanislaus County leveled off just above this target. There is significant work that must be done in the next decade as the national objective for infant mortality rate (HP2010) is at 4.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.

There is a significant discrepancy in the infant mortality rate when it is calculated by race/ethnicity (Figure 9). The rate of infant mortality among the African American population in Stanislaus County is more than twice as high as other groups.

The post neonatal** infant mortality rate (Figure 10) has decreased throughout the past decade and is beginning to approach the 2010 national objective (HP2010). Contrary to this trend is the neonatal* infant mortality rate, which has gradually increased recently and is more than 50% higher than the 2010 national objective (HP2010).

Figure 8: Infant Mortality Rate, Stanislaus County and California

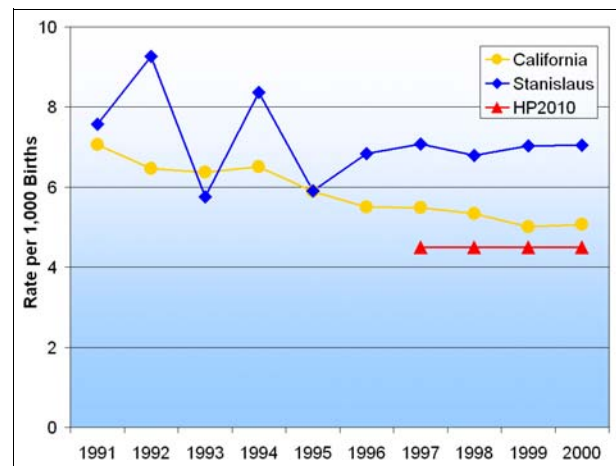


Figure 9: Infant Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity, Stanislaus County

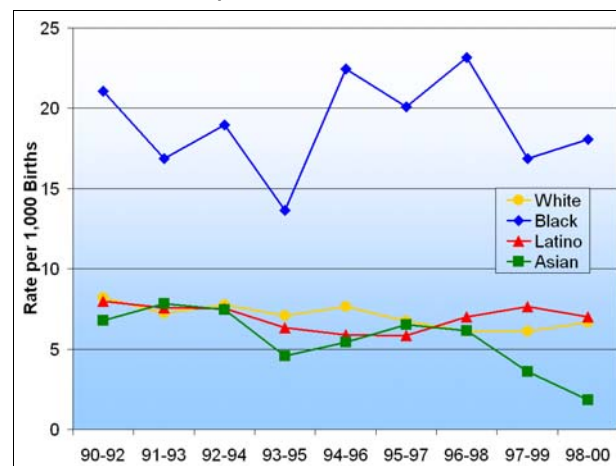
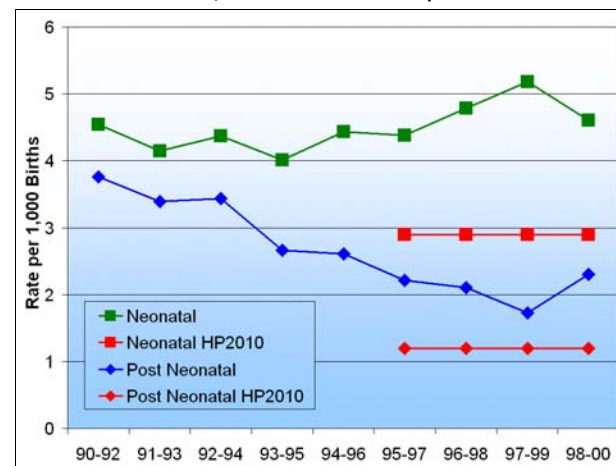


Figure 10: Infant Mortality Rate by Neonatal* and Post Neonatal**, Stanislaus County



*Neonatal Infant Mortality is deaths to infants less than 28 days.

**Post Neonatal Infant Mortality is deaths to infants between 28 days to one day less than 1 year of age.

Source: CA, DHS, Center for Health Statistics (1) & (3)