

FRANKLIN COUNTY HEALTH INDICATOR BRIEF  
TRENDS 1990-2010

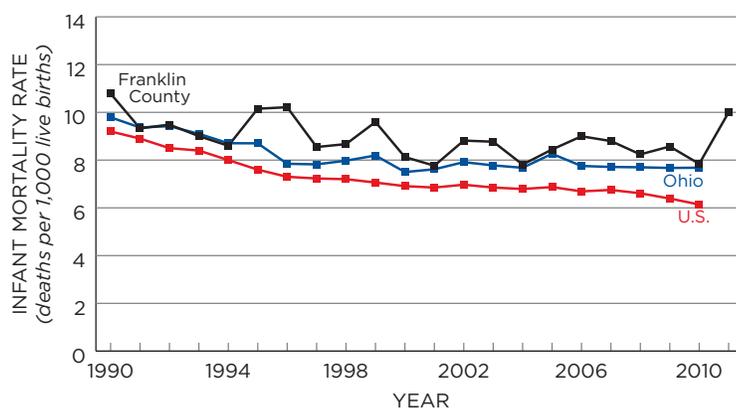
# INFANT MORTALITY

The infant mortality rate (IMR), the rate at which babies die before reaching one year of age, is used to compare the health and well-being of populations across and within countries. In the United States, the IMR has continued to decline over the past several decades. Ohio's rate has remained relatively stable since 1997.

This brief presents key points on IMR trends and preterm births (the leading cause of death among our babies). Differences between rates of non-Hispanic Blacks (NHB) with rates of non-Hispanic Whites (NHW) are also examined.

**In Franklin County, Ohio, nearly 150 infants die each year. The 2008-2010 IMR was 8.2 deaths for every 1,000 live births.**

## INFANT MORTALITY RATES: FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO AND THE U.S., 1990-2011



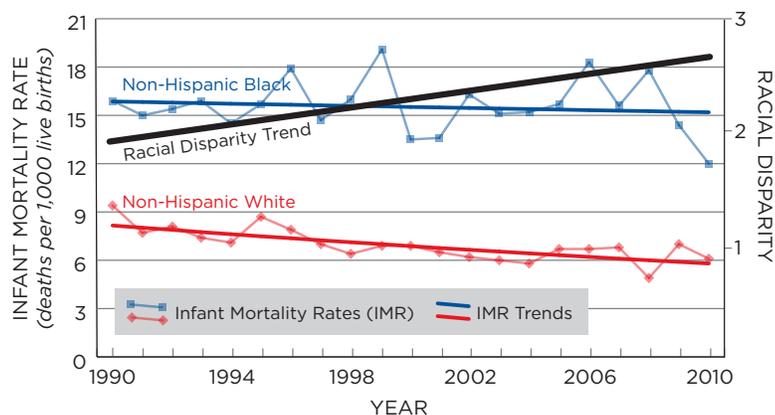
\*NOTE: Preliminary data are shown for 2010 U.S. and 2011 Franklin County rates

## TRENDS IN INFANT MORTALITY

- The Franklin County IMR has declined less than 1% each year from 1990 - 2010.
- The NHW rate has declined 1.7% each year from 1990 to 2010.
- The NHB rate is essentially unchanged during this same time period.
- This leads to increasing disparity in the movement of the rates during the time period. On average, every year the NHW IMR decreases 1.5% more than the corresponding NHB IMR.

**Since 1995, the NHB IMR has been at least twice as high as the NHW IMR.**

## TRENDS IN INFANT MORTALITY RATES BY RACE: FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO, 1990-2010



RACIAL DISPARITY TREND is the ratio of NHB rate over NHW rate. A ratio of 1 indicates similar rates. If above 1, the NHB rate is higher than the NHW rate. For example, a ratio of 2 indicates NHB have a rate twice as high as NHW.

## LEADING CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY IN 2008 - 2010

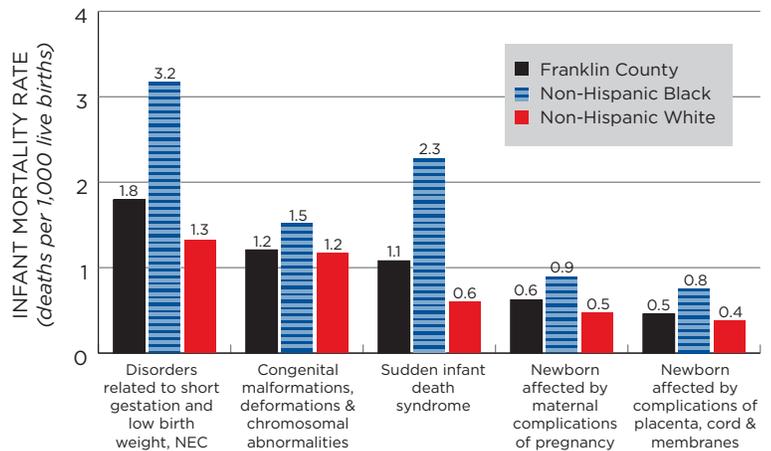
- Preterm birth/low birth weight remains the leading cause of death among all Franklin County infants.
- Causes for which the NHB rate is statistically higher than the NHW rate include preterm birth/low birth weight and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).
  - The NHB mortality rate due to preterm birth/low birth weight is 2.4 times higher than the rate for NHW infants. This gap has narrowed since 2005-2007, at which time the NHB rate was 4.5 times higher than the NHW rate.
  - The NHB SIDS rate is 3.8 times higher than the NHW rate. This gap has widened since 2005-2007, when the NHB rate was 1.5 times higher than the NHW rate.
- The rate of preterm births among NHW appears to be steadily increasing from 1990 - 2010.
- The racial disparity in the preterm birth rate has narrowed over time; however, that is mostly due to the increasing rate among NHWs.

**“...pre-term birth (PTB) and low birth weight (LBW) are the causes of first-year mortality for African American infants. Therefore, understanding and eliminating the factors that cause high rates of PTB and LBW should remain at the forefront.”**

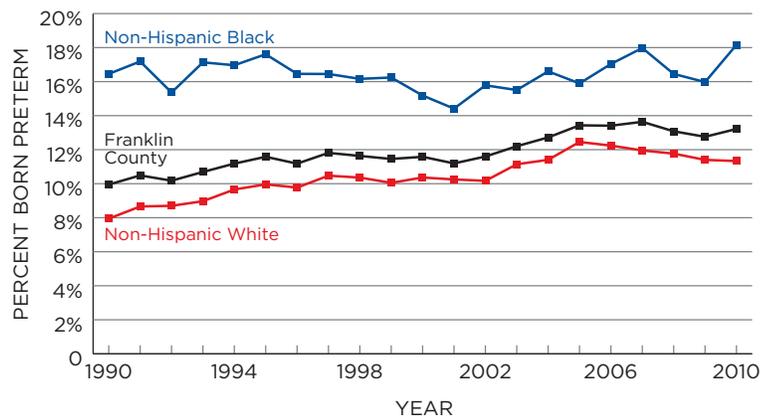
*– VK Hogan, D Rowley, T Bennett, KD Taylor. MCH Journal, 2012, Volume 16, Number 6, Pages 1143-1150*

SOURCE: Ohio Dept of Health, Vital Statistics  
ANALYSIS BY: Columbus Public Health Office of Epidemiology

## MORTALITY RATES FOR LEADING CAUSES OF INFANT DEATH: BY RACE & ETHNICITY, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OH, 2008-2010



## PERCENT OF BIRTHS BORN PRETERM: BY RACE & ETHNICITY, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OH, 1990-2010



## DISPROPORTIONALITY

26.8% of births in 2008-2010 were to non-Hispanic Black mothers, yet they represent...

