

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.

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

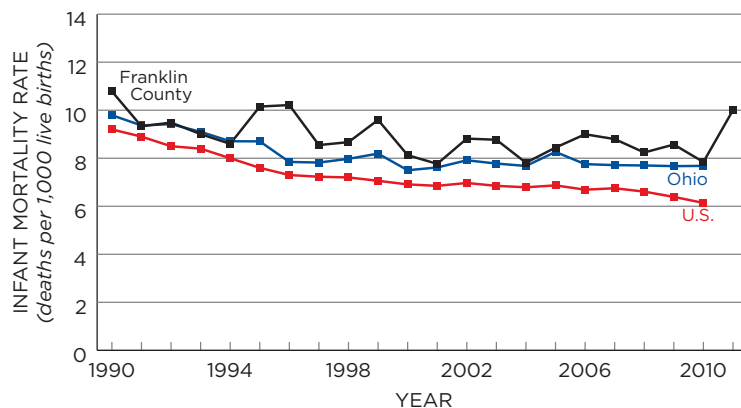
This brief presents key points on IMR trends and preterm births (the leading cause of death among our babies). Differences between rates of non-Hispanic Blacks (NHB) with rates of non-Hispanic Whites (NHW) are also examined.

## 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.

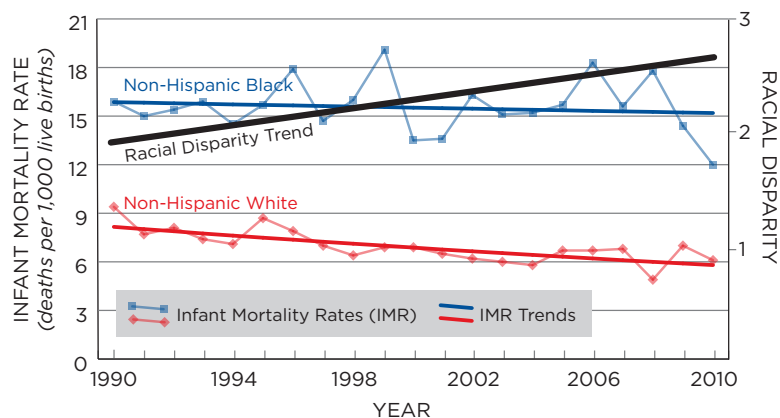
**Since 1995, the NHB IMR has been at least twice as high as the NHW IMR.**

## 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 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

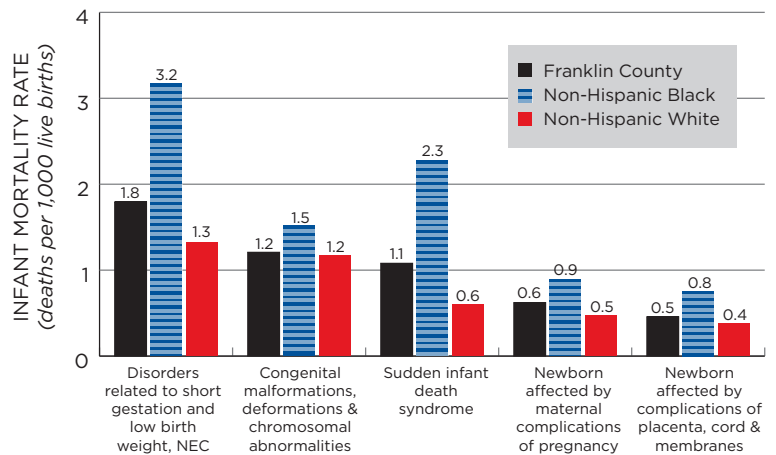
- Preterm birth/low birth weight remains the leading cause of death among all Franklin County infants.
- Causes for which the NHB rate is statistically higher than the NHW rate include preterm birth/low birth weight and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).
  - The NHB mortality rate due to preterm birth/low 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.”**

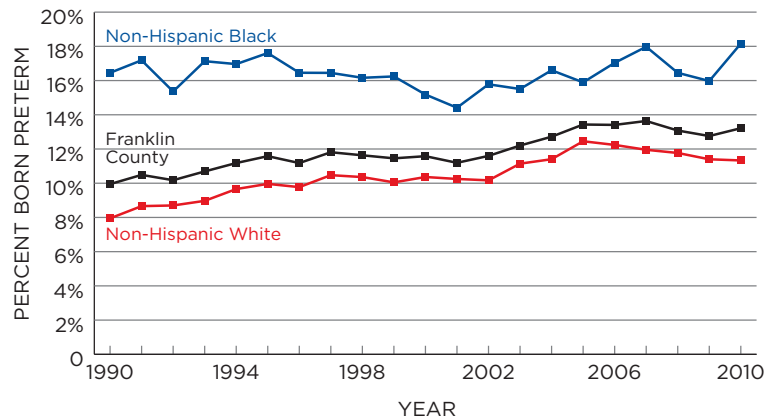
*– VK Hogan, D Rowley, T Bennett, KD Taylor. MCH Journal, 2012, Volume 16, Number 6, Pages 1143-1150*

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...

