



Health Indicator Brief • Franklin County

INFANT MORTALITY

Infant mortality is used to compare the health and well-being of populations across and within countries. The infant mortality rate (IMR), the rate at which babies less than one year of age die, has continued to steadily decline over the past several decades for the United States.

In Franklin County, Ohio, nearly 160 infants do not reach their first birthday each year. The 2006-2008 IMR was 8.8 deaths for every 1,000 live births. This brief presents key points on trends, differences by race and ethnicity, and preterm births (currently the leading cause of death among our babies).

Trends in Infant Mortality (Figure 1)

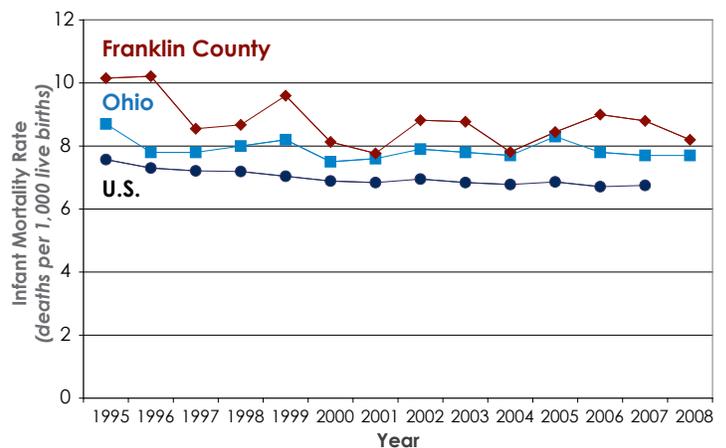
- Overall, the infant mortality rate in Franklin County has declined 19.6%, from 10.2 in 1995 to 8.2 in 2008.
- The Franklin County rate has been consistently higher than both the Ohio and U.S. rates since 1995.

Trends in Infant Mortality by Race & Ethnicity (Figure 2)

- The infant mortality rate for non-Hispanic Blacks in 2006-2008 is the highest since 1990.
- In 2006-2008 the non-Hispanic Black infant mortality rate is 2.8 times higher than the non-Hispanic White rate. This is the largest gap since 1990.
- This gap has increased 55.6% since 1990-1992.

FIGURE 1

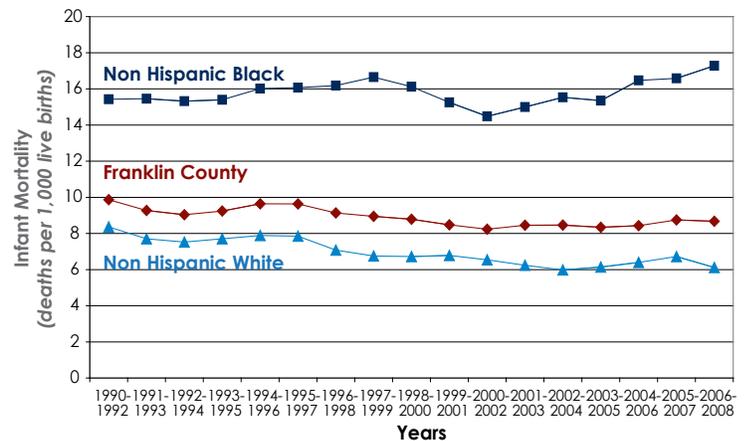
INFANT MORTALITY RATES
Franklin County, Ohio and the U.S.: 1995 - 2008



Note: 2008 data for the U.S. is not available.

FIGURE 2

INFANT MORTALITY RATES BY RACE & ETHNICITY
Three Year Running Averages, 1990 - 2008



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Leading Causes of Infant Death (Figure 3; 2006-2008)

- Preterm Birth/low birth weight is the leading cause of death in Franklin County infants.
- The death rate due to preterm birth/low birth weight is 3.3 times higher among non-Hispanic Black infants than among non-Hispanic White infants.
- Congenital defect is the leading cause of death for non-Hispanic White infants.

The fewer weeks of gestation and the lower the birth weight, the more vulnerable the infant.

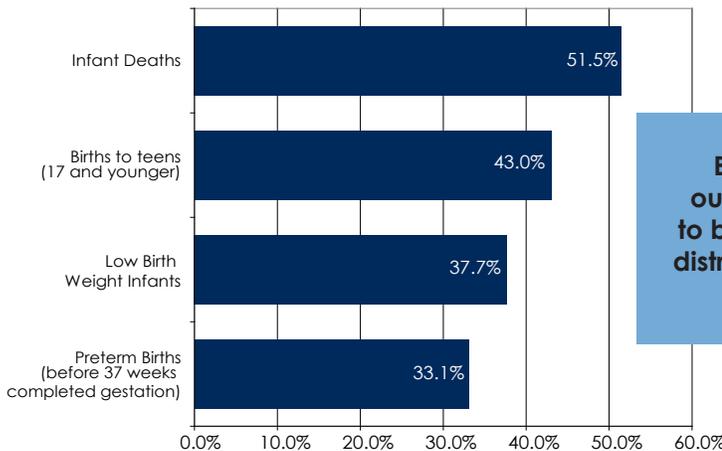
Trends in Preterm Births (Figure 4)

- The number of preterm births in Franklin County has been increasing since 1990.
- Non-Hispanic Black mothers are 40% more likely to have a preterm baby (under 37 completed weeks gestation) than non-Hispanic White mothers.
- Non-Hispanic Black mothers are 80% more likely to have a low birth weight infant (less than 2500 grams) than non-Hispanic White mothers.

FIGURE 5

DISPROPORTIONALITY

25.9% of births in 2006-2008 were to Black mothers, yet they represent...



Blacks carry an unfair burden of poor birth outcomes. For 2006-2008, 25.9% of births were to black mothers. If birth outcomes were "fairly" distributed, then blacks would make up 25.9% of each indicator. (Figure 5)

FIGURE 3

MORTALITY RATES FOR LEADING CAUSES OF INFANT DEATH By Race & Ethnicity; Franklin County: 2006 - 2008

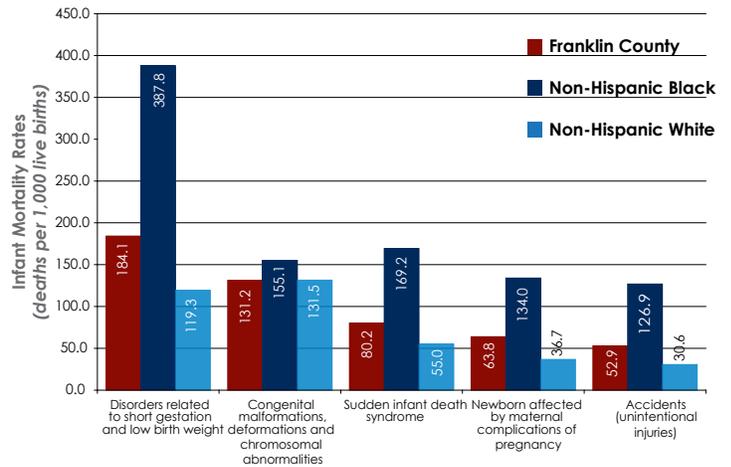
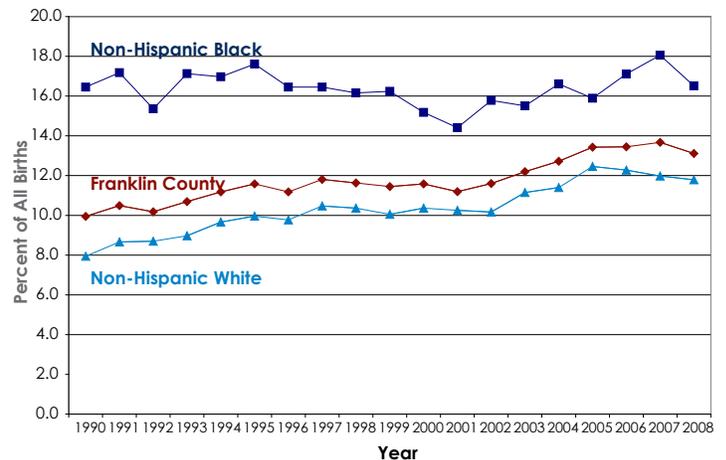


FIGURE 4

PERCENT OF ALL BIRTHS BORN PRETERM Franklin County: 1990 - 2008



Sources

Ohio Department of Health, Vital Statistics Data, Analysis by Columbus Public Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System