Trends in Infant Mortality in North Carolina

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Percent of Births that are Low Birthweight (< 5 lbs 8 ozs): 1999-2018, US vs NC

1999-2018:
NC rate increased 4%
US rate increased 9%

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics & National Center for Health Statistics
Percent of Births that are Premature (<37 weeks gestation): 2009-2018, US vs NC

2009-2018:
NC rate declined 2%
US rate declined <1%

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Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics & National Center for Health Statistics
NC Resident Births by Race/Ethnicity: 2016-2018

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics

1999-2017:
NC rate decreased 22%
US rate decreased 18%

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics & National Center for Health Statistics
### NC Resident Infant Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity: 1999-2018

**Source:** NC State Center for Health Statistics & National Center for Health Statistics

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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NC Resident Infant Mortality Disparity Ratio*: 1999-2018

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics

* Ratio of Non-Hispanic Black to Non-Hispanic White Infant Mortality Rates
Most infant deaths occur during the neonatal period (within the first 28 days after birth).

NC Resident Infant Deaths by Age: 2018

- Neonatal: 64%
- Postneonatal: 36%

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics
Leading Causes of Infant Death, NC Residents 2018: Number of Infant Deaths by Cause

- Prematurity & Low Birthweight: 140
- Birth Defects: 140
- Other Ill-Defined and unknown causes of death: 116
- Other conditions originating in the perinatal period: 93
- Newborn affected by maternal factors/complications: 84
- Respiratory Distress & other Respiratory conditions: 56
- Infections & Parasitic Diseases: 52
- All Other Causes of Death (Residual): 49
- Diseases of the circulatory system: 22
- Unintentional Injuries/Accidents: 18
- Diseases of the respiratory system: 14
- Accidental Suffocation and Strangulation in Bed: 10
- Homicide/Assault: 9
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome: 3

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics
Geographic Patterns in Infant Mortality
North Carolina
Infant Mortality Rates by County
2014 - 2018

Rates Per 1,000 Live Births
- 4.4 - 7.0
- 7.1 - 9.4
- 9.5 - 12.0
- 12.1 - 17.5
- Suppressed*

* Rates based on less than 10 deaths are unreliable and have been suppressed.
North Carolina
Infant Death Rates by Perinatal Care Regions (PCR)
2014 - 2018

Rate Per 1,000 Live Births
- 6.2
- 6.3
- 6.4 - 7.9
- 8.0 - 8.2
- County Boundary

STATE CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS
North Carolina
African American Non-Hispanic Infant Mortality Rates by Perinatal Care Regions (PCR), 2014 - 2018

Rate Per 1,000 African American Live Births
- 10.7
- 10.8 - 12.2
- 12.3 - 13.2
- 13.3 - 13.8

County Boundary
North Carolina Infant Mortality Racial Disparities Between White (Non-Hispanics) and African-American (Non-Hispanics) by Perinatal Care Regions (PCR) 2014 - 2018

Disparity Ratio
- 2.1
- 2.2 - 2.4
- 2.5 - 2.7
- 2.8 - 3.2
- County Boundary
North Carolina
2017 Estimated Percent Population Below Poverty by Perinatal Care Regions (PCR)

Percent
13.4 - 13.7
13.8 - 15.5
15.6 - 17.0
17.1 - 19.8
County Boundary


STATE CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS
NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
North Carolina
2017 Estimated Percent of Population Who Are Uninsured by Perinatal Care Regions (PCR)

Infant Mortality Rates
United States, 2017

United States  5.8
North Carolina  7.1

Source: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Wonder
https://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html
Summary: Infant Deaths

- NC achieved historic low infant mortality rate in 2018

- Despite significant reductions, NC’s infant mortality rate continues to rank among the worst in the US

- Disparities in infant mortality persist

- Prematurity/low birth weight and birth defects are the leading causes of infant deaths in North Carolina in 2018, accounting for approximately 35% of deaths

- The Southeastern region of the state has the highest infant mortality rates during 2014-2018

- The Northeastern region had low overall infant mortality, poverty, & uninsured rates, but the highest infant mortality disparity ratio
Questions?

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• Email: kathleen.jones-vessey@dhhs.nc.gov