

Infant Mortality

Data from the National Vital Statistics System

In 2014, infant mortality rates for the United States reached new lows for Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Asian or Pacific Islander.

From 2005 through 2014, declines in infant mortality rates were observed for all race and ethnic groups.

Infant mortality is considered a basic measure of public health for countries around the world (1–3). Over the past decade, the overall infant mortality rate in the United States has improved, declining 15% from 6.86 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2005—a recent high—to 5.82 in 2014. Over the years, infant mortality rates have declined for all race and ethnic groups. This report examines the 2014 linked birth/infant death data from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) to describe trends in infant mortality in the United States by race and Hispanic origin, state, and leading causes of infant deaths from 2005 through 2014.

Keywords: infant death • births • infant health • National Vital Statistics System

Infant mortality rates have declined over the past decade.

" From 2013 to 2014, only infants of non-Hispanic white women had a decline in the infant mortality rate (3%). Declines among other race and Hispanic-origin groups were not

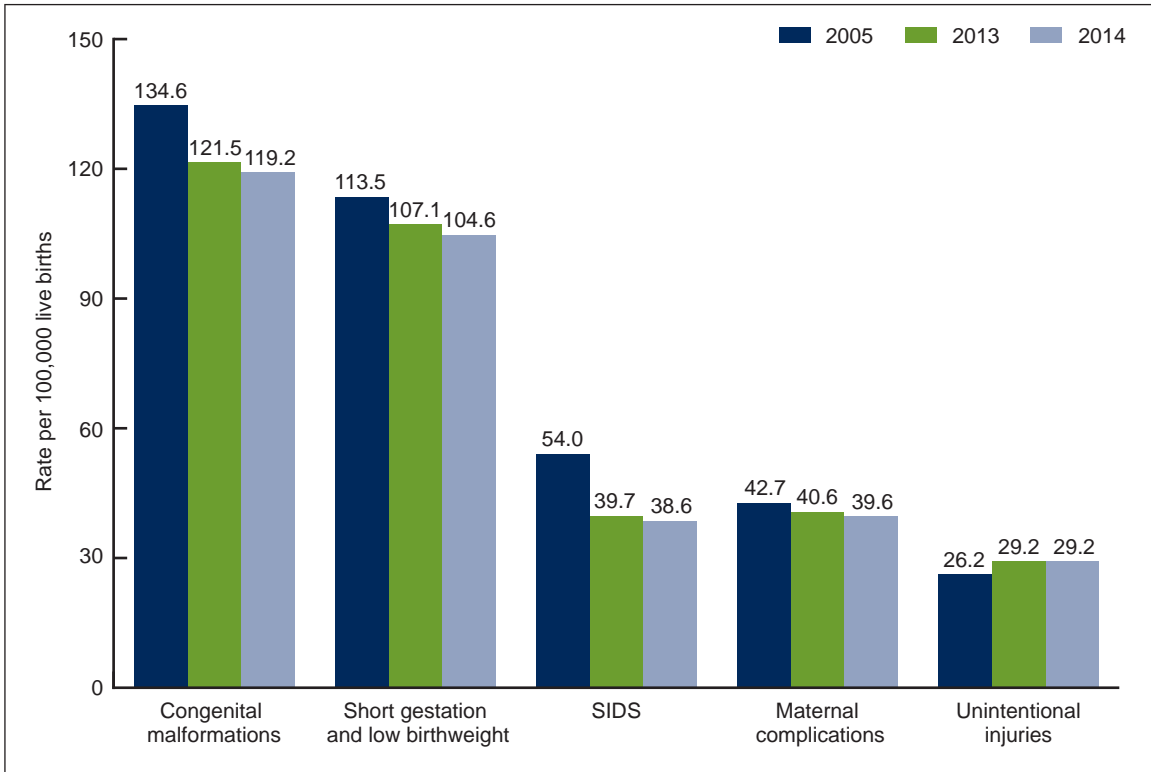
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” From 2005–2007 to 2012–2014, the infant mortality rate declined 9% for infants of Mexican

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- ” Congenital malformations was the leading cause of infant death in both 2005 and 2014. The infant mortality rate for congenital malformations declined 11% during this time (from 134.6 to 119.2 per 100,000) (Figure 4).
 - ” The second leading cause of infant death (infant deaths due to short gestation and low birthweight) declined 8%, from 113.5 in 2005 to 104.6 in 2014.
 - ” The infant mortality rate for sudden infant death syndrome had the largest decline of 29%, from 54.0 in 2005 to 38.6 in 2014.
 - ” The rate for maternal complications declined 7%, from 42.7 in 2005 to 39.6 in 2014.
 - ” The rate for unintentional injuries increased 11%, from 26.2 in 2005 to 29.2 in 2014.
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Figure 4. Infant mortality rates for the five leading causes of infant death: United States, 2005, 2013, and 2014



NOTES: SIDS is sudden infant death syndrome. For each cause of death, the change in the rate from 2005 to 2014 is statistically significant ($p < 0.05$), but the change from 2013 to 2014 is not statistically significant. Access data table for Figure 4 at: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db279_table.pdf#4.
 SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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From 2005 through 2014, infant mortality declined for all major racial and ethnic groups except DPRQJ LQIDQWV RI \$, \$1 ZRPHQ \$FURVV DOO RI WKHVH \HDUV subgroups. For 2005–2014, the highest infant mortality rates were observed among infants of non-Hispanic black women, and the lowest rates were observed among infants of API women. Among infants of Hispanic women, infants of Puerto Rican women had the highest infant mortality rates. Declines in infant mortality rates were observed in two-thirds of all U.S. states DQG ' &)URP WKURXJK LQIDQW PRUWDOLW\ UDWHV GH FDXVHV RI GHDWK EXW WKHUH ZHUH QR VLJQL¿FDQW FKDQJHV year.

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Infant mortality rate Number of infant (aged under 1 year) deaths per 1,000 live births.

Leading cause of infant death Ranked according to the number of infant deaths assigned to rankable cause(s).

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This report contains data from the period linked birth/infant death data set, which is part of NVSS (7

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ISSN 1941-4927 Print ed.
ISSN 1941-4935 Online ed.
DHHS Publication No. 2017-1209
CS274647