




Infant Mortality in California

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Learning Objectives

- Describe the importance of measuring the infant mortality rate (IMR)
- Describe the current status of the IMR in California
- List MCAH/CDPH efforts that address infant mortality reduction




California Infant Mortality Data



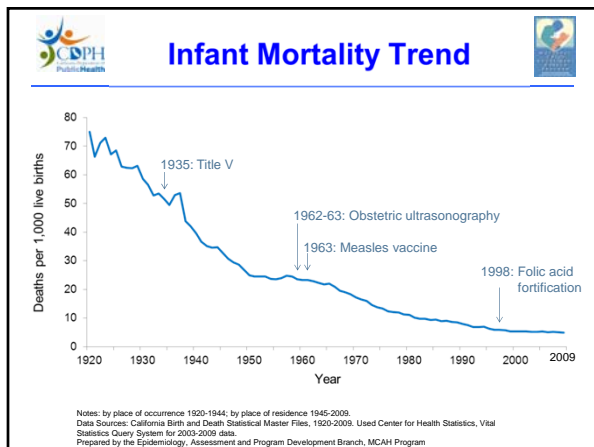


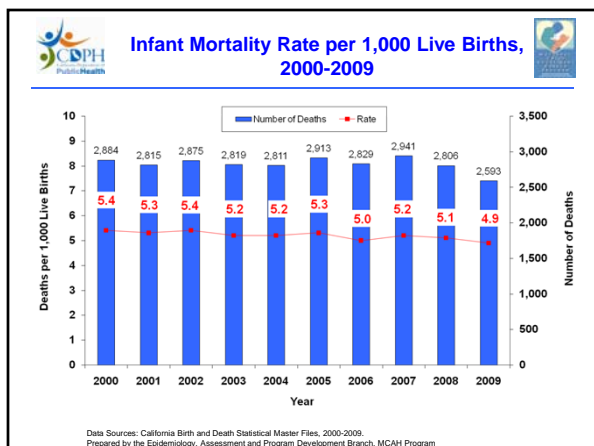
Infant Mortality Rate

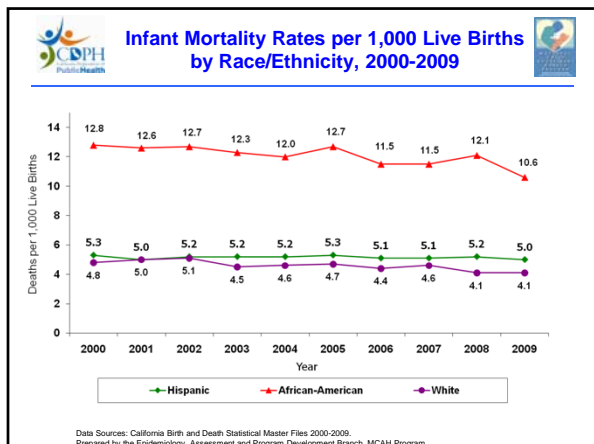


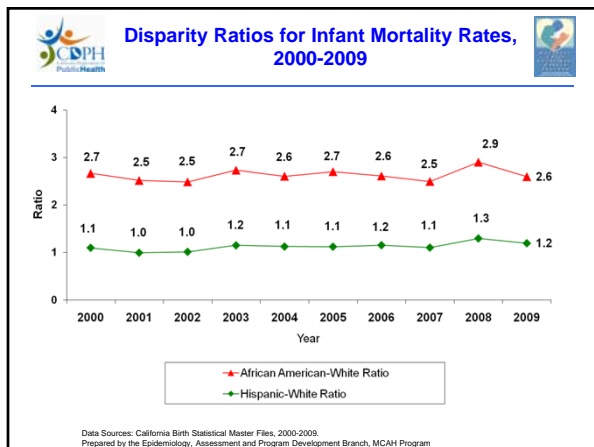
- Defined as the number of deaths in infants per 1000 live births
- One of the most important indicators of the health of a nation, as it is associated with a variety of factors such as:
 - **maternal health**
 - **quality and access to medical care**
 - **socioeconomic conditions**
 - **public health practices**
- Infant mortality rate correlates very strongly with a government's failure, or ability, to provide public services.^[1]

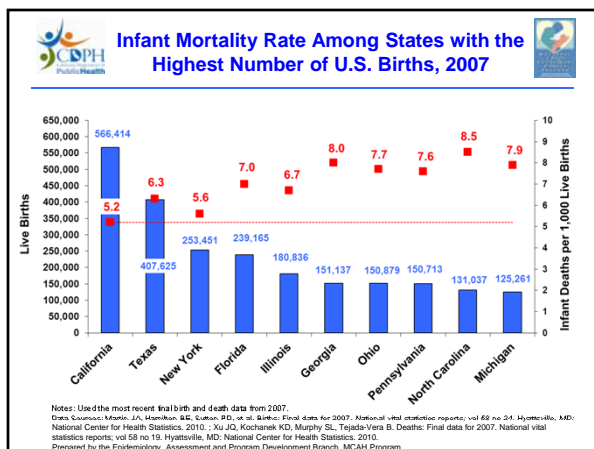
[1] King, G. Zeng, L. Improving Forecasts of State Failure. The Global Burden of Disease 2000 in Aging Populations. Research Paper No. 01.5. Harvard Burden of Disease Unit, Center for Population and Development Studies.

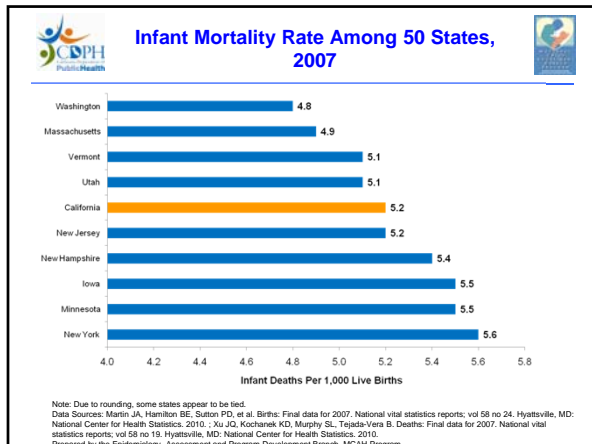


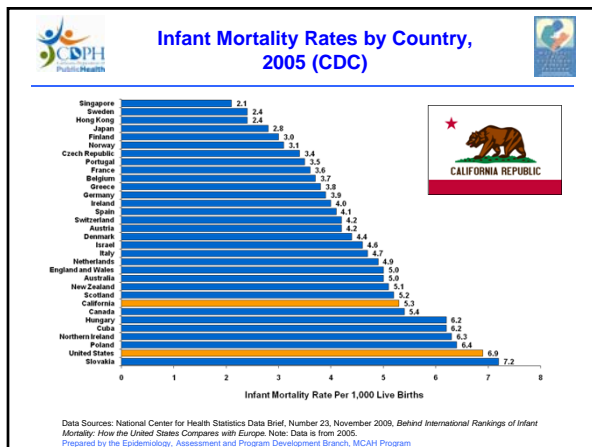













Efforts to Reduce Infant Mortality



Improving Birth Outcomes: A Comprehensive Approach




- **Direct services** for at-risk populations
- **Public health approaches** to support improvements in nutrition, physical activity, breastfeeding, and preconception health
- **Quality improvement strategies** for neonatal and maternity care practices
- **Mortality reviews** and **birth defects surveillance**
- **Provision of funding and technical assistance** to Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs)




Targeting At-Risk Populations





- **Black Infant Health Program**
 - Pregnant and parenting African American women
- **Adolescent Family Life Program**
 - Pregnant and parenting teens
- **Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program**
 - Medi-Cal pregnant women
- **California Diabetes and Pregnancy Program**
 - High-risk pregnant women with diabetes





Promoting Health through Public Health Strategies





- **Healthy eating, physical activity, breastfeeding promotion**
 - Integrated and coordinated within MCAH and its LHJs
- **Preconception Health and Health Care Initiative**
 - Preconception Health Council of CA
 - Every Woman California website
 - Social media campaigns

 **Supporting Improvement in Quality of Care** 

- **CA Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative**
 - Supports a system of benchmarking and performance improvement activities for perinatal care
- **CA Maternal Quality Care Collaborative**
 - Aims to advance maternity care through data-driven QI
 - Both collaboratives develop QI Toolkits on a variety of clinical topics
- **Regional Perinatal Programs of California**
 - Promote access to risk-appropriate perinatal care for pregnant women and their infants through regional QI activities
- **Birth and Beyond California Project**
 - Uses QI methods to implement evidence-based policies and practices that support breastfeeding in the maternity care setting



 **Using Data to Drive Interventions** 

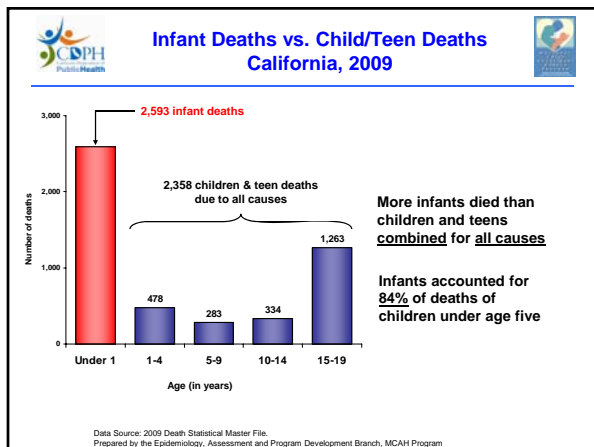
- **Mortality reviews**
 - Fetal Infant Mortality Review
 - Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review
 - Sudden Infant Death Syndrome review
- **Birth Defects Surveillance**
 - CA Birth Defects Monitoring Program

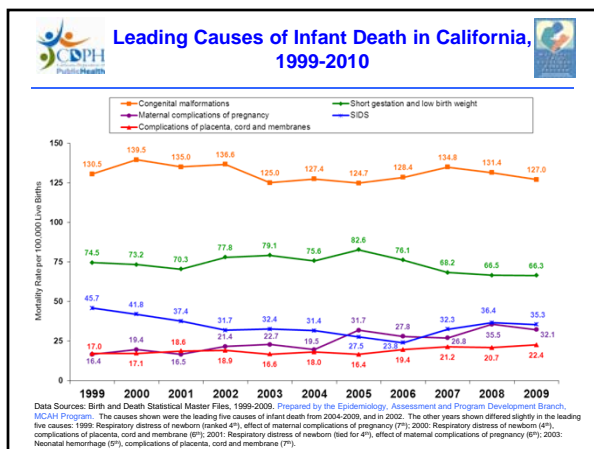
 **Partnering with Other CDPH Programs** 

- **Women, Infants and Children Nutrition (WIC) Program**
- **Genetic Disease Screening Program**
- **Office of Family Planning**
- **Immunization Branch**
- **CA Children's Services Program**

Moving Forward





Despite California's low infant mortality rate, our work continues!