



BEPHI Data Brief

Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics

January 2017, No. 27

Infant Mortality 2015

Each year, over 200 Kansas babies die before their first birthday. Nationally, about 23,000 infant deaths occur annually. The *infant mortality rate* is a measure of the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births.

During the past 20 years, Kansas infant mortality rates have been higher than national rates. In Kansas, and nationally, black infant mortality rates have remained twice those of whites in most years.

Kansas Highlights

- The 2015 infant mortality rate was 5.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, a decrease from 6.3 per 1,000 live births in 2014. The difference is not statistically significant [1].
- The number of infant deaths to Kansas residents in 2015 was 230, the lowest number ever in Kansas.
- The white non-Hispanic dropped slightly from 2014 to 2015. The black non-Hispanic and Hispanic infant mortality rates increased slightly from 2014 to 2015.
- In the last decade, the black non-Hispanic infant mortality rate has consistently been more than double the white non-Hispanic rate.
- Five-year infant mortality rates in Wyandotte and Sedgwick Counties (7.9 and 6.8, respectively) were higher than the state rate (6.2), and rates in Shawnee, Johnson and Douglas Counties (6.1, 4.6 and 4.0, respectively) were lower than the state rate.

State and National Comparisons

The most recent year with final national data was 2014.

- Final 2014 U.S. data showed a national infant mortality rate of 5.8/1,000 live births compared to Kansas' 2014 rate of 6.3 and 2015 rate of 5.9 [2].
- Kansas' black infant mortality rate in 2014 was the fourth highest in the nation.

Highlights Based on 2011-2015 Kansas Data

- While 36.6 percent of resident births occurred to unmarried women, almost half of infant deaths (49.5%) occurred to unmarried women [3].
- The period's premature infant mortality rate of 43.5 per 1,000 live births was over 17 times higher than the rate for infants born at term.

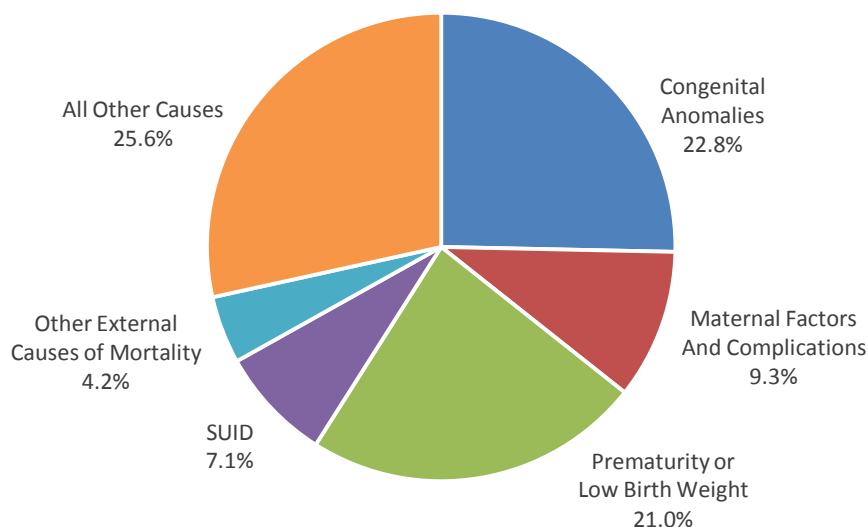
More Kansas Health Statistics and Publications

- Kansas Information for Communities (KIC) the department's online data query tool at <http://kic.kdheks.gov/>.
- KDHE reports and publications at http://www.kdheks.gov/data_reports_stats.htm.
- Community health needs assessment information at <http://www.kansashealthmatters.org/>.

- Almost two-thirds (64.7%) of the deaths involved infants whose birthweight was less than 2,500 grams.
- The highest percentage of deaths occurred to infants born to women aged 20-24 (30.4%).
- Kansas mothers who smoked anytime during pregnancy were almost two times more likely to have a baby die than mothers who did not smoke.
- Medicaid was reported as the delivery payer at birth for two out of five infant deaths.

Leading Causes

Leading Causes of Infant Deaths, Kansas 2011-2015



Residence Data

Learn More

Kansas Blue Ribbon Panel on Infant Mortality - <http://www.kansasinfantmortality.org/index.htm>.

Maternal and Child Health 5-Year Needs Assessment - http://www.datacounts.net/mch2015/documents/MCH2015_Report.pdf.

Kansas Infant Death & SIDS Network, Inc. - <http://www.kidsks.org/>.

Kansas Chapter March of Dime - <http://www.marchofdimes.org/kansas/>.

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Related References:

[1] Oakley D, Crawford G, Savage C. 2015 Annual Summary of Kansas Vital Statistics. Topeka, KS: Kansas Department of Health and Environment. 2016

[2] Kochanek KD, Murphy BS, Xu J, Tejada-Vera, B. Deaths: Final Data for 2014 [Internet]. Hyattsville (MD): National Center for Health Statistics. Vol 65 No 42, June 30, 2016. [Cited 2016 Sep 28] Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/nvsr.htm>

[3] Soap J, Crawford G. Selected Special Statistics, Stillbirths and Infant Deaths, Kansas, 2015. Topeka, KS: Kansas Department of Health and Environment