

Infant Mortality 2013

Each year, about 250 Kansas babies die before their first birthday. Nationally, about 24,000 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 2013 infant mortality rate was 6.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, a slight increase from 6.3 in 2012. The increase was not statistically significant [1].
- The number of infant deaths to Kansas residents was 248 in 2013, the second lowest number ever in Kansas. However, the infant mortality rate increased because the number of births dropped by 3.7 percent in 2013.
- The white non-Hispanic and Hispanic infant mortality rates dropped slightly from 2012 to 2013. The black non-Hispanic infant mortality rate increased from 2012 to 2013.
- 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, Sedgwick, and Shawnee Counties remain higher than the state rate [2].

State and National Comparisons

The most recent year with final national data was 2013.

- Final 2013 U.S data showed a national infant mortality rate of 6.0/1,000 live births compared to Kansas' rate of 6.4 [3].
- Kansas' black infant mortality rate was the highest in the nation.

Highlights Based on 2009-2013 Kansas Data

- While 37.2 percent of resident births occurred to unmarried women, over half of infant deaths (50.7%) occurred to unmarried women [2].
- The period's premature infant mortality rate of 43.5 per 1,000 live births was over 20 times higher than the rate for infants born at term.

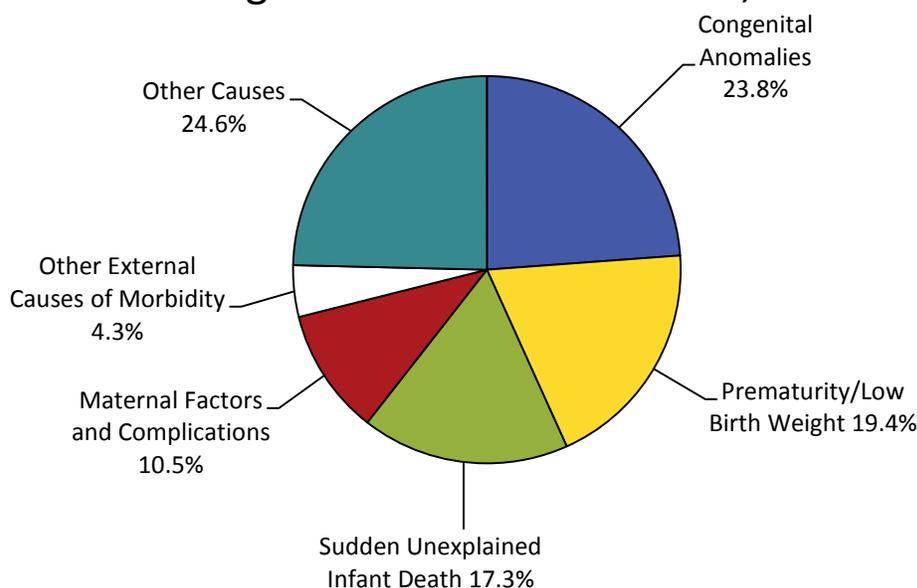
More Kansas Health Statistics and Publications

- 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 (62.9%) 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 (32.7%).
- 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, 2009-2013



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. 2013 Annual Summary of Kansas Vital Statistics. Topeka, KS: Kansas Department of Health and Environment. 2012

[2] Reis R, Moyer C, Crawford G. Selected Special Statistics, Stillbirths and Infant Deaths, Kansas, 2013. Topeka, KS: Kansas Department of Health and Environment

[3] Deaths: Final Data for 2013 [Internet]. Hyattsville (MD): National Center for Health Statistics. Vol 64 No 2. (Forthcoming) 2015. [Cited 2015 Jan 08] Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/nvsr.htm>