



BEPHI Data Brief

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

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Infant Mortality

Each year, approximately 285 Kansas babies die before their first birthday. This represents an infant mortality rate of slightly less than 7 deaths for every 1,000 live births.

For the last two decades, Kansas infant mortality rates have remained higher than national rates; black infant mortality rates have remained higher in most years. Both in Kansas and nationally, in the same twenty years, black infant mortality rates have remained twice that of the white infant mortality rates in most years.

Kansas Highlights

- The 2011 infant mortality rate was 6.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, a slight decrease from 6.3 in 2010.¹
- The number of infant deaths to Kansas residents dropped from 253 in 2010 to 247 in 2011. The number of infant deaths is the lowest in Kansas since record keeping began in 1912.
- White non-Hispanic, black non-Hispanic, and Hispanic infant mortality rates have dropped from 2002 to 2011, but the decrease is not statistically significant.
- In the last decade, the black non-Hispanic infant mortality rate has consistently been more than double the white non-Hispanic rate.
- High rates were observed in Wyandotte, Sedgwick, and Shawnee Counties.

State and National Comparisons

In the most recent year with national final data (2010)^{2, 3}

- Kansas' overall infant mortality rate was 6.3/1,000 live births, while the U.S. rate was 6.1.
- Kansas' black non-Hispanic infant mortality rate was 11.9/1,000 live births compared to 12.0 for the U.S.

Highlights Based on 2007-2011 Kansas Data

- The death rate for infants born to unmarried mothers was 73% higher than for infants born to married mothers.⁴
- The death rate for infants born to mothers aged 25 and over who did not graduate from high school was 46% higher than those born to moms with a high school education or greater.

More Kansas Health Statistics and Publications

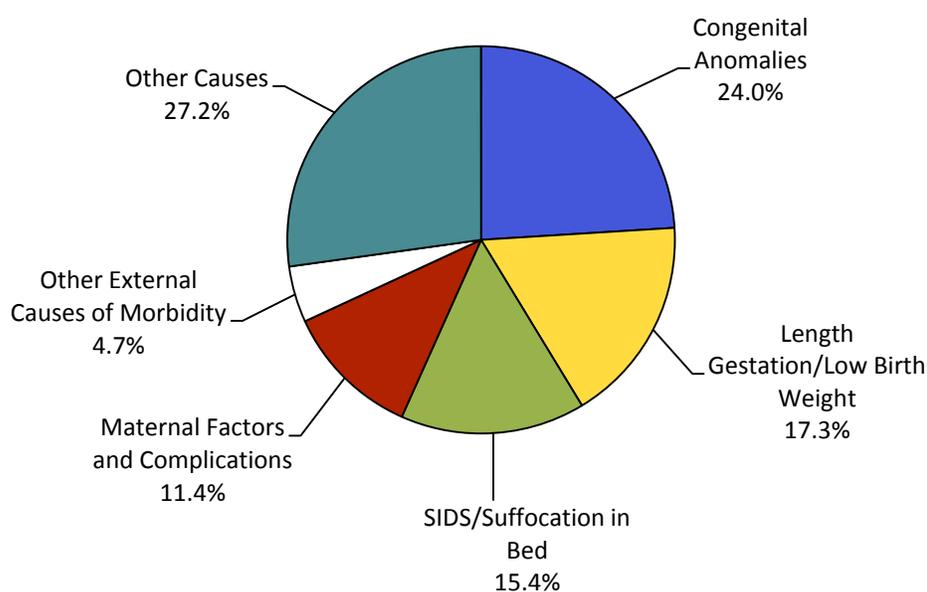
- For a list of all publications issued by KDHE go to http://www.kdheks.gov/data_reports_stats.htm.
- Visit Kansas Information for Communities (KIC) the department's online data query tool at <http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/index.html>.

Community Health Needs Assessment information at <http://www.kansashealthmatters.org/>.

- Infants born to teen moms had a 57% higher mortality rate than infants born to moms aged 20 years and older.
- Babies born to mothers who received no prenatal care were eight times more likely to die before their first birthday than those born to mothers who began care in their first trimester.
- Kansas mothers who smoked anytime during pregnancy were almost two times more likely to have a baby die than mothers who did not smoke.
- Preterm infants were 20 times more likely to die before their first birthdays than full-term infants.

Leading Causes

Leading Causes Of Infant Deaths, 2007-2011



Residence Data

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Related References:

(1) Oakley D, Crawford G, Savage C. 2011 Annual Summary of Kansas Vital Statistics. Topeka, KS: Kansas Department of Health and Environment. 2012

(2) Moyer C, Savage C. Selected Special Statistics Stillbirths and Infant Deaths, Kansas, 2011. Topeka, KS: Kansas Department of Health and Environment

(3) Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Ventura SJ, Osterman MJK, Wilson EC, and Mathews TJ. Births: Final data for 2010. National vital statistics reports; vol 61 no 1. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2012. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_01.pdf

(4) Hoyert DL, Xu JQ. Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2011. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol 61 no 6. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2012. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_06.pdf