

.....Healthy Women.....Healthy Mothers.....Healthy Babies.....

The Division of Family &
Community Health Services

Birth Outcomes Improvement Initiative



OHIO LOOKS AT INFANT MORTALITY IN A NEW WAY

2007





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Healthy Women.....Healthy Mothers.....Healthy Babies



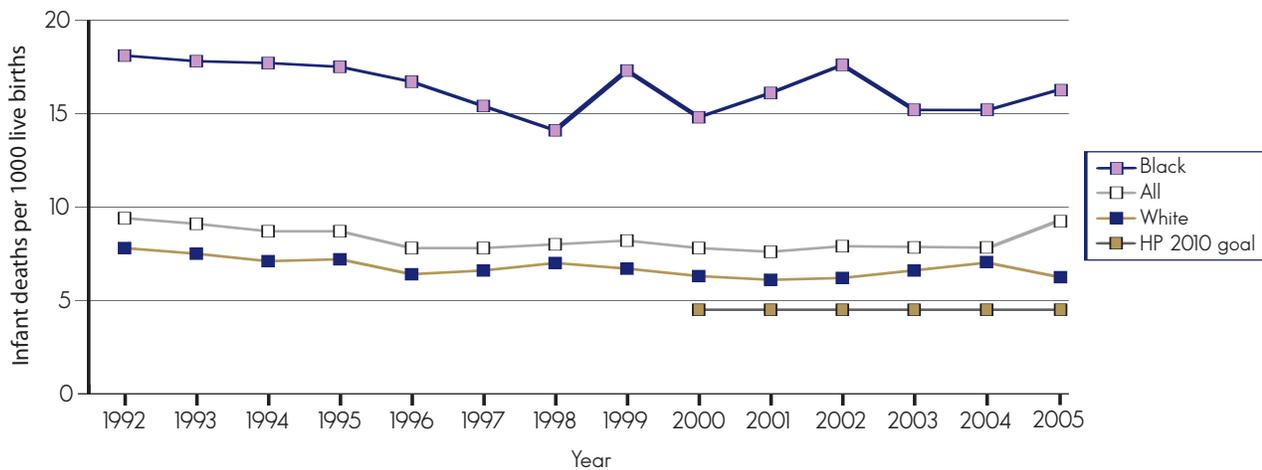


Background

Infant mortality, a measure of babies who die before their first birthday, is an important indicator of the health of a community. The overall infant mortality rate (IMR) in Ohio steadily decreased between 1992-1996 and has stayed relatively constant from 1997-2004. However, even at its lowest point in 2001 (7.6 per 1,000 live births), Ohio's IMR was higher than both the Healthy People 2010 national goal (4.5) and the overall 2004 national rate (6.8). A high proportion of these deaths include infants who have low birth weight (LBW, less than 2,500 grams), and very low birth weight (VLBW, less than 1,500 grams). The LBW babies total 8.7 percent of all babies born in 2005.

However, looking at just the overall rates disguises the disparities within Ohio. As seen in Figure 1 below, the black population continues to be disproportionately affected by high infant mortality, at a rate two to three times greater than the white population.

Figure 1 - Ohio Infant Mortality by Race, 1992-2005



During an average week in Ohio,

- 358 babies are born preterm
- 58 babies are born very preterm
- 243 babies are born LBW
- 44 babies are born VLBW

March of Dimes, March 2007



