Disparities in Indiana
Infant Mortality 2020

Indiana Department of Health

Division of **Maternal & Child Health**

What is infant mortality?

- Infant mortality is defined as the death of a baby before his or her first birthday.
- The infant mortality rate (IMR) is the number of babies who die in the first year of life, per 1,000 live births.
- If Indiana (6.6) had the same IMR as the U.S (5.4), about 98 more babies would have survived in 2020.

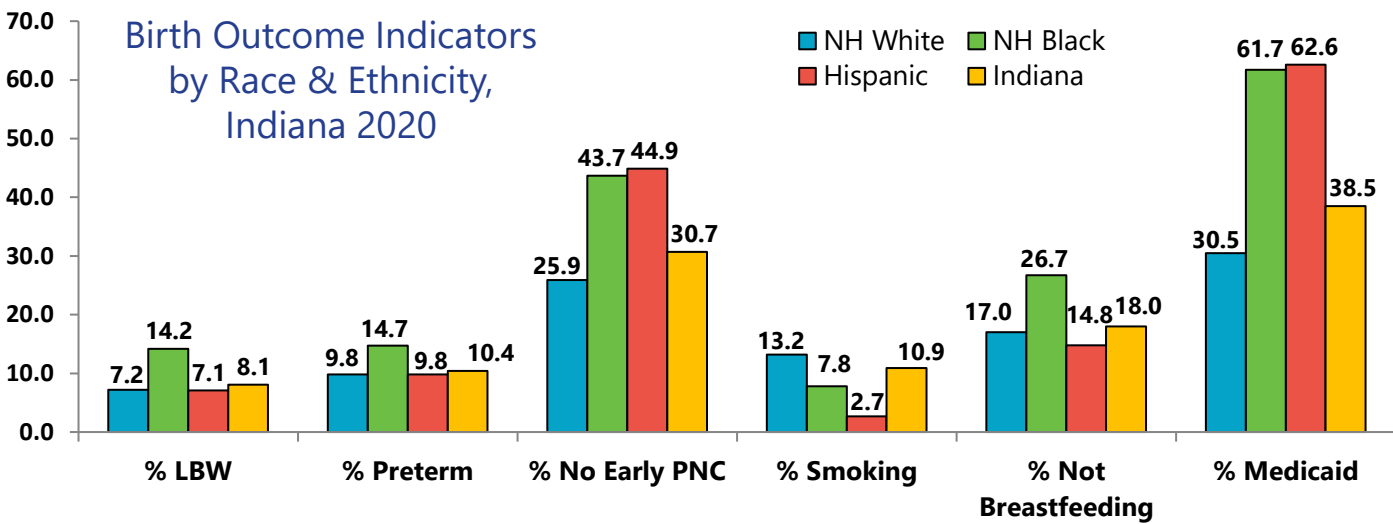| 2016 – 2020				
HOSPITAL REGION	**IMR**	**NH WHITE IMR**	**NH BLACK IMR**	**HISPANIC IMR**
CENTRAL	6.7	5.2	11.6	5.8
CENTRAL SOUTHWESTERN	8.3	8.0	9.0*	**
EASTERN	8.1	7.4	15.5	6.0*
MIDWESTERN	7.5	7.3	**	8.8*
NORTHEASTERN	6.7	5.7	15.0	8.7
NORTHERN	8.1	6.3	16.6	7.2
NORTHWESTERN	7.3	4.5	13.9	7.5
SOUTHEASTERN	6.7	7.0	19.4*	**
SOUTHERN	6.4	6.3	15.0*	8.0*
SOUTHWESTERN	6.4	5.5	17.3	7.6*
WESTERN	5.9	5.4	12.3*	6.6*
INDIANA	6.6	5.5	13.2	6.0
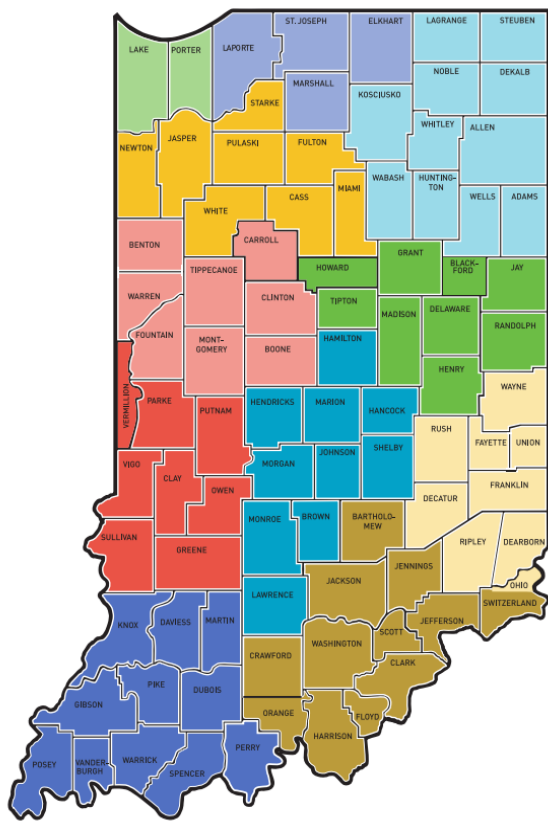
* Rates based on counts less than 20 are considered unstable and should be interpreted with caution.
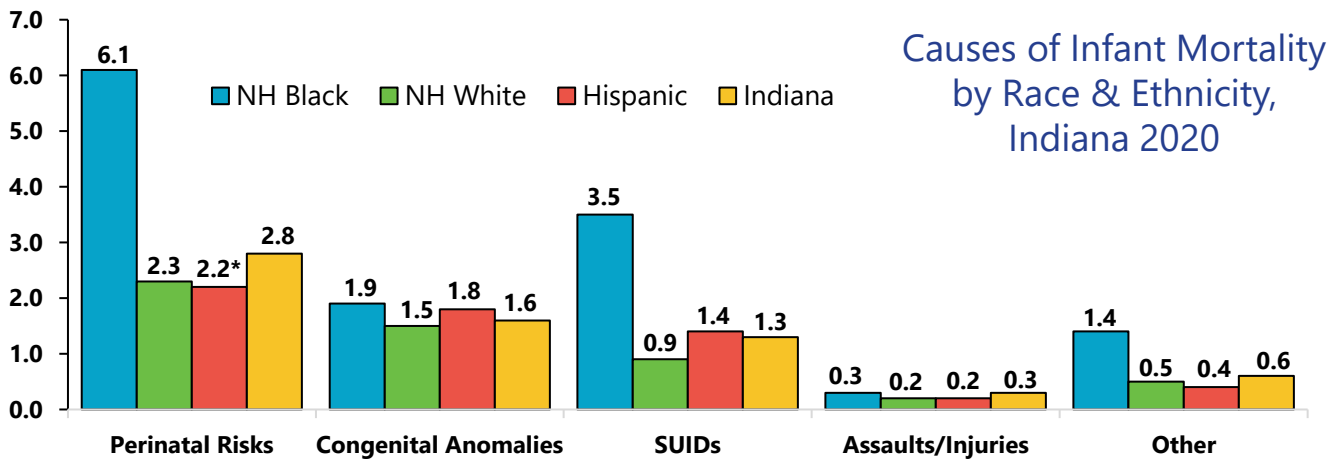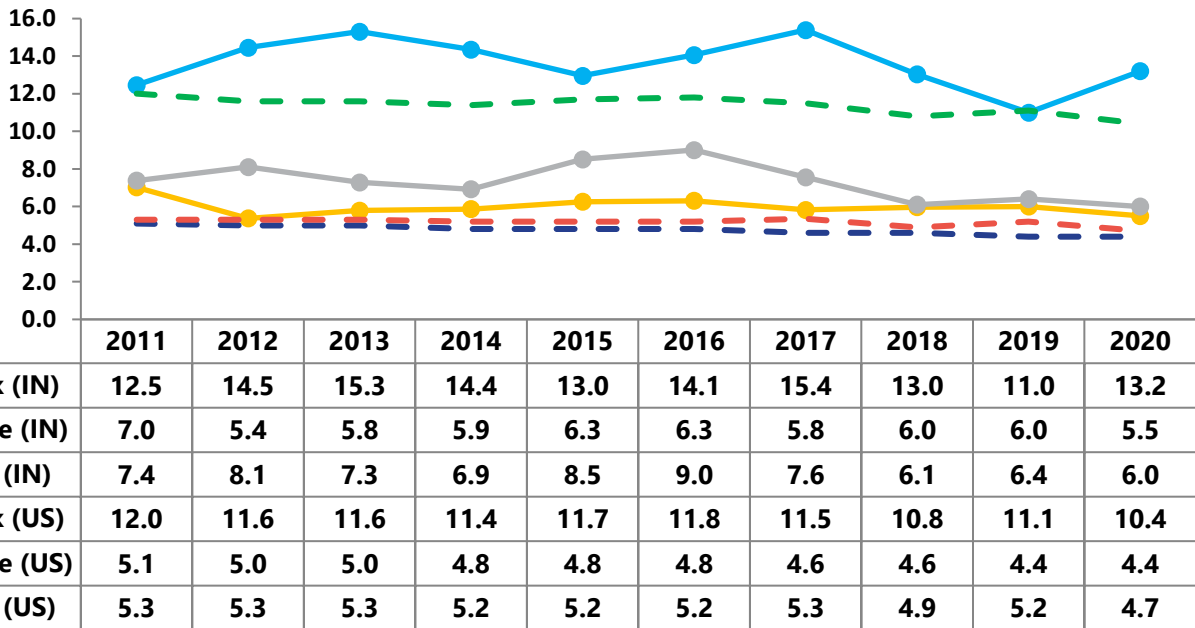** Rates based on counts less than 5 were suppressed.

Unacceptable Disparities

- There is a substantial difference in infant mortality rates by race and ethnicity. In 2020, NH Black babies in Indiana were more than twice as likely to die in the first year of life than NH White and Hispanic babies.
- In Indiana in 2020, the NH White IMR was 5.5 per 1,000 live births, the Hispanic IMR was 6.0 per 1,000 live births, and the NH Black IMR was 13.2 per 1,000 live births.
- If NH Black infants had the same IMR as NH White infants, 81 additional NH Black infants would have survived in 2020.
- This disparity has been consistent for years in Indiana.
- There is also a clear disparity at the national level. In the U.S. in 2020, the NH White IMR was 4.4, the Hispanic IMR was 4.7, and the NH Black IMR was 10.4. NH Black babies in the U.S. are more than two times likely to die before their first birthday than NH White babies.

For years, this difference has been consistent across Indiana and the nation. Eliminating this disparity is a goal at the national, state and local levels.

Birth Outcome Indicators by Race & Ethnicity, Indiana 2020

Legend: NH White, NH Black, Hispanic, Indiana

Indicator	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	Indiana
% LBW	7.2	14.2	7.1	8.1
% Preterm	9.8	14.7	9.8	10.4
% No Early PNC	25.9	43.7	44.9	30.7
% Smoking	13.2	7.8	2.7	10.9
% Not Breastfeeding	17.0	26.7	14.8	18.0
% Medicaid	30.5	61.7	62.6	38.5

Infant Mortality Rates by Race & Ethnicity, 2011-2020

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
NH Black (IN)	12.5	14.5	15.3	14.4	13.0	14.1	15.4	13.0	11.0	13.2
NH White (IN)	7.0	5.4	5.8	5.9	6.3	6.3	5.8	6.0	6.0	5.5
Hispanic (IN)	7.4	8.1	7.3	6.9	8.5	9.0	7.6	6.1	6.4	6.0
NH Black (US)	12.0	11.6	11.6	11.4	11.7	11.8	11.5	10.8	11.1	10.4
NH White (US)	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.4
Hispanic (US)	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	4.9	5.2	4.7

Causes of Infant Mortality by Race & Ethnicity, Indiana 2020

Legend: NH Black, NH White, Hispanic, Indiana

Cause	NH Black	NH White	Hispanic	Indiana
Perinatal Risks	6.1	2.3	2.2*	2.8
Congenital Anomalies	1.9	1.5	1.8	1.6
SUIDs	3.5	0.9	1.4	1.3
Assaults/Injuries	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Other	1.4	0.5	0.4	0.6

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