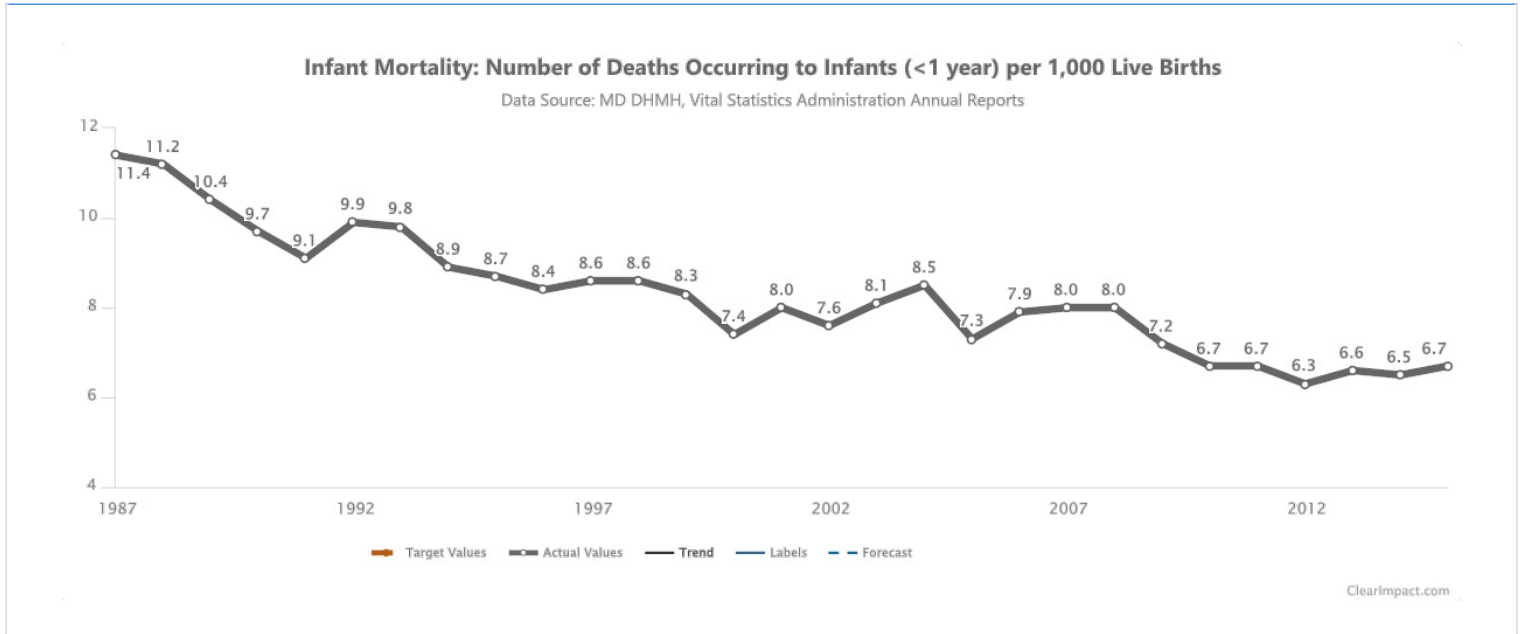


R Babies Born Healthy (Statewide)

I Infant Mortality: Number of Deaths Occurring to Infants (<1 year) per 1,000 Live Births



Story Behind the Curve

In 2015, Maryland's infant mortality (IMR) increased to 6.7 deaths per 1,000 live births; however, it still represents a significant decline from 8.0 per 1,000 live births in 2008. Infant mortality among Black infants increased for the third consecutive year from 10.6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 11.2 in 2015. Infant mortality among White infants increased from 4.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 4.3 in 2015. However, this categorization includes deaths to Hispanic mothers that identify as White. Upon further analysis, non-Hispanic (NH) White infant mortality declined from 4.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 4.0 in 2015. These changes show that the Black-to-White racial disparity in IMR is increasing in Maryland. The largest increase in infant mortality in Maryland was among Hispanic infants which increased 24% from 4.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 5.5 in 2015, although this change was not statistically significant.

What Works

The Prevention and Public Health Administration (PHPA), Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) is pursuing multiple evidence-based strategies for reducing infant mortality and the racial disparities in infant mortality. These strategies include the statewide Home Visiting Program, the

Babies Born Healthy Initiative, the Maryland Perinatal Neonatal Quality Collaborative, efforts for promoting Immediate Post-Partum Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (IPP LARC), infant safe sleep promotion, the Maryland Perinatal Support Program, smoking cessation efforts for pregnant women and new mothers, as well as more detailed reviews of mortality data through Maternal Mortality Review, Fetal and Infant Mortality Review, and Child Fatality Review.

Local Highlight

Baltimore B'More for Health Babies Project

Baltimore has seen a 38% reduction in infant mortality rates from 2010 to 2015. The B'More for Healthy Babies Project (BHB) works with a variety of community, government, business, academic and hospital partners to improve the quality of care provided by physicians, nurses, social workers and others who work with pregnant and postpartum women. BHB has several initiatives that are integrated and led by BHB that include Safe Sleep, Baby Basics, Health Literacy, Home Visiting and Smoking Cessation. BHB works to improve home visiting services for women with high-risk pregnancies. To ensure that all women with first-time or high-risk pregnancies receive the best care possible, BHB has helped all home visiting programs in Baltimore City to transition to evidence-based models of care.

For more information on the data go to: <https://magic.piktochart.com/output/19583068-2016-retrospective-provider-outreach-newsletter> or information about the project go to: <http://www.healthybabiesbaltimore.com>

Data Discussion

The number of deaths occurring to infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births, for all infants, and for infants in selected racial groups.