



MCAH 2014 Infant Mortality

Summary of the Results:

Infant Mortality is defined as the death of an infant within the first year of life. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is measured by the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births. It is a strong predictor of health and well-being and is a reflection of the overall health of a community.

Similarly with state and national trend, Fresno County continues to observe decreases in the number of births within the last several years. The trend is observed both in the overall number of births as well as among race/ethnic groups.

In 2014, 15,748 babies were born in Fresno County. Of those, 109 babies died within the first year of life, resulting in an infant mortality rate (IMR) of 6.9. This rate was among the highest in California (where the average was 4.6). The Fresno County rate was also above the Healthy People 2020 objective of 6.0.

Infant mortality affects races/ethnicities in different ways as reflected in Figure 1. Although Blacks accounted for only 5.8% of Fresno County's total births, they accounted for 17.4% of total infant deaths.

Compared to California, Fresno County had higher IMR across the three major race/ethnicity groups (Figure 2).

By location, higher rates of infant death bordered highway corridors where poverty is likely high (Figure 3). In rural areas where birth counts are relatively low, a few deaths can result in giving the area a high rate.

Figure 1. Births, Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), County of Fresno, 2014

	White	Black	AIAN	Asian	HwPI	Hispanic	Total
Births	3,195	917	116	1,870	201	9,449	15,748
Infant Deaths	17	19	0	17	5	51	109
IMR	5.3	20.7	0.0	9.1	24.9	5.4	6.9

Figure 2. Infant Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity, County of Fresno vs California, 2010-2014

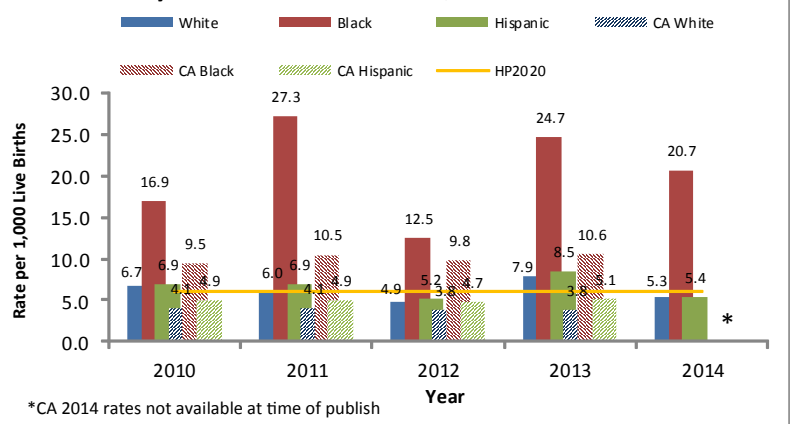
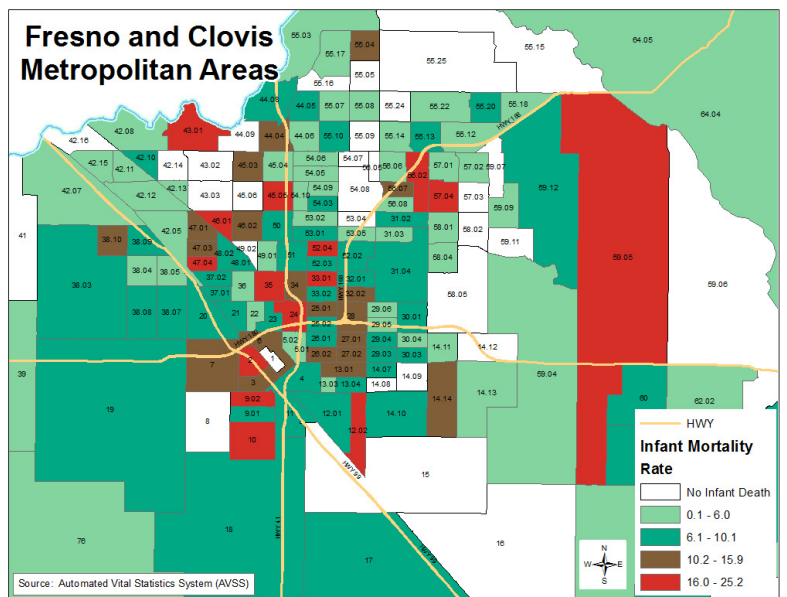


Figure 3. Infant Mortality Rate by Census Tract, 2010—2014





MCAH 2014 Preterm Births

A pregnancy usually lasts about 40 weeks. Births occurring at less than 37 weeks gestation, more than 3 weeks before the due date, are considered preterm. Preterm births often result in babies being born too small with complications that can last a lifetime. Also, being born too early can cause babies to die within their first year of life. Delivering, caring for, and raising preterm babies can be very expensive.

While prematurity used to be a major cause of infant deaths, improved technology and medical care have increased the survivability of preterm babies.

The overall preterm birth rate in Fresno County in 2014 was 10.7%. For the first time after many years, the County has met the Healthy People 2020's objective to bring the preterm birth rate below 11.4%. However, it remains to be seen whether the downward trend will continue since the five-year aggregate rate is still high (15.5%). Also, disparity still exists among race/ethnic groups in the County. Among major ethnic groups, Blacks had the highest rate (18.4%) and Whites the lowest (9.7%). The rates among American Indians/Alaska Natives and Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders appeared high (18.1% and 25.4%, respectively), but the rates are not comparatively reliable due to the small number of births among those groups within the County.

By location, the higher rates of preterm birth bordered highway corridors where the majority of residents are relatively poor.

Figure 4. Preterm Birth Rate, County of Fresno, 2010-2013

	White	Black	AIAN	Asian	HwPI	Hispanic	Total
2010	21.7	30.7	29.5	18.3	62.8	18.6	21.0
2011	14.5	23.8	21.4	16.1	30.5	16.6	16.7
2012	15.9	25.7	16.5	16.0	21.3	17.7	17.6
2013	10.8	17.9	14.2	10.2	15.8	11.2	11.5

Figure 5. Preterm Birth Rate, County of Fresno, 2014

	White	Black	AIAN	Asian	HwPI	Hispanic	Total
Births	3,195	917	116	1,870	201	9,449	15,748
Preterm	311	169	21	204	51	934	1,690
Rate	9.7	18.4	18.1	10.9	25.4	9.9	10.7

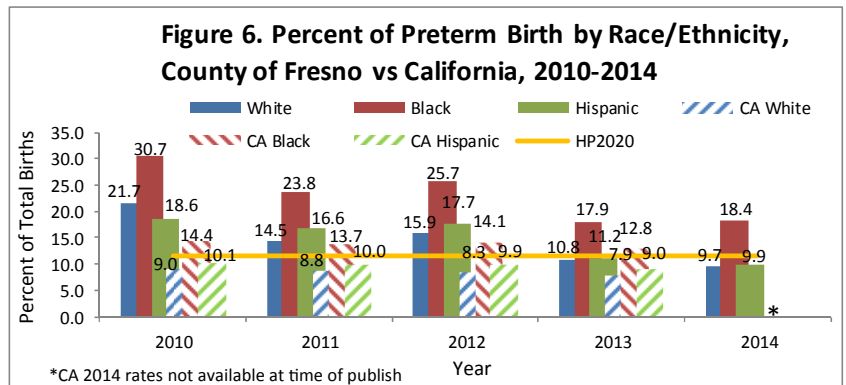


Figure 7. Preterm Birth Rate, County of Fresno, 2010-2014

