Infant Mortality

Reduce the 5-year infant mortality rate from 6.9 per 1,000 births in 2010-2014 to 6.0 by 2020

South Dakota Rate	South Dakota 2020 Target	U.S. Rate
6.9	6.0	5.8
(2011-2015)		*(2014)*

Significance:

Infant mortality is considered a gold standard for measuring the health of a population. Every year since 2000, approximately 12,000 infants were born to residents of South Dakota. Tragically, each year 50 to 100 of these babies die within their first year of life.
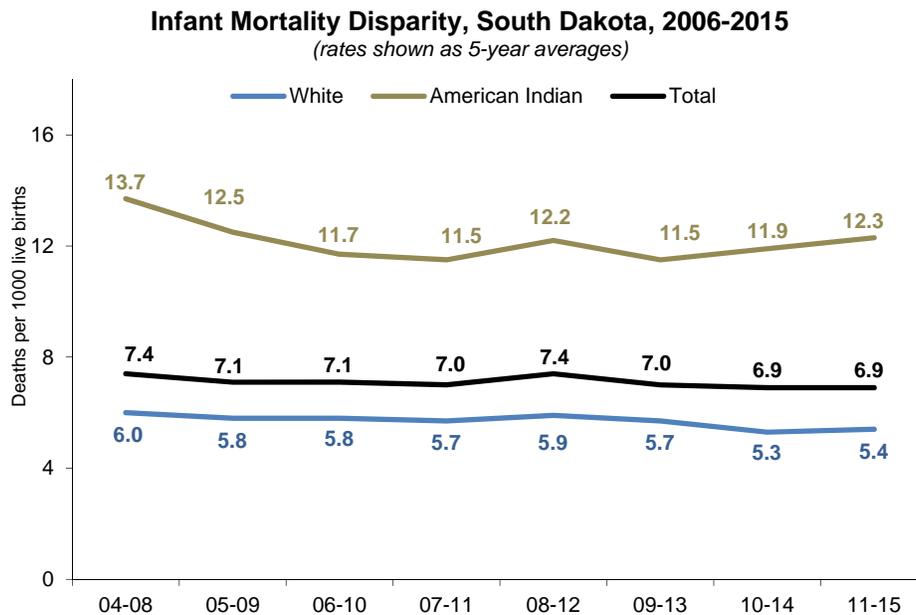
The infant mortality rate among American Indians in South Dakota is twice as high as the white infant mortality rate. Low levels of early prenatal care correlate directly with high infant mortality rates. There are 7 counties in South Dakota that have less than 50% of pregnant women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester. Six of these same counties also have higher infant mortality rates than the state rate. The rate of adult pregnant women smoking in South Dakota in 2015 was 14.0%. Parental smoking is a risk factor for SIDS, complications from prematurity and low birth weight, and other pregnancy problems.

The causes of infant mortality vary widely from case to case and can be attributed to many things including the health of the mother before and during pregnancy, how early the pregnancy was identified, the amount and quality of prenatal care received, the home environment, and the type of care the baby receives at home. For 2011-2015, the leading causes of infant mortality were: (1) congenital anomalies; (2) short gestation/low birth weight; (3) accidents; and (4) SIDS. Many of these deaths are preventable which means we can make a difference by recognizing the early signs of pregnancy, starting prenatal care as soon as possible, using safe sleep practices, and if using tobacco, quit.
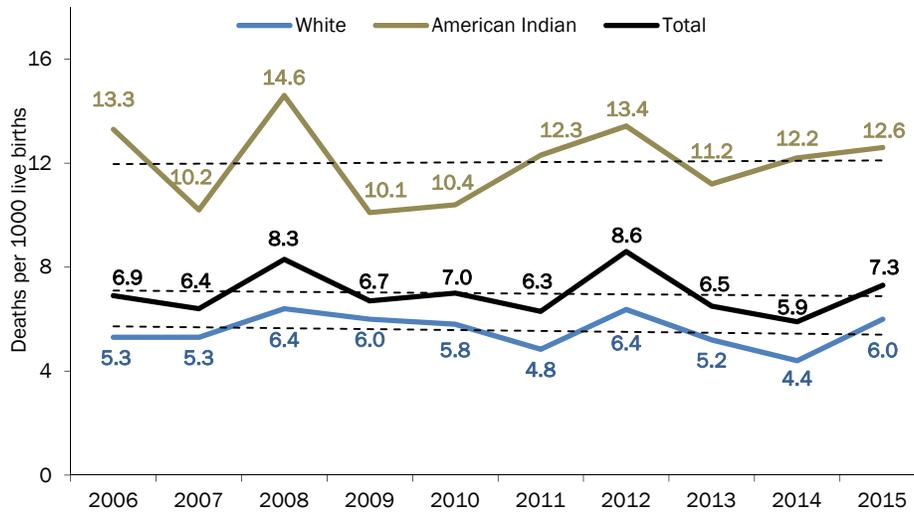
Definition: Infant deaths per 1,000 live births

Data Source: South Dakota Vital Statistics Data

Statistical Trends:

Infant Mortality Disparity, South Dakota, 2006-2015
(rates shown as 5-year averages)

Infant Mortality Disparity, South Dakota, 2006-2015

Deaths per 1000 live births

Legend: White — American Indian — Total

Year	White	American Indian	Total
2006	5.3	13.3	6.9
2007	5.3	10.2	6.4
2008	6.4	14.6	8.3
2009	6.0	10.1	6.7
2010	5.8	10.4	7.0
2011	4.8	12.3	6.3
2012	6.4	13.4	8.6
2013	5.2	11.2	6.5
2014	4.4	12.2	5.9
2015	6.0	12.6	7.3

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