

Hennepin County  
Public Health  
Assessment Team

# FACT SHEET



# Infant mortality

*Deaths of infants under one year of age*

## Why is this indicator important?

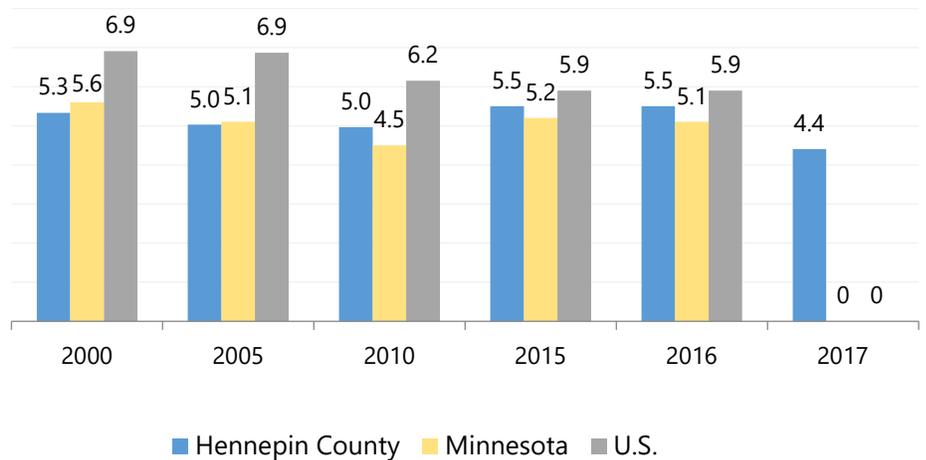
The infant mortality rate (IMR) is the number of deaths for infants under one year of age in a given year for every 1,000 live births in the same year. It is one of the key measures of the health and well-being of a community, state, or country.

The top leading causes of death among infants in this age group include: congenital abnormalities (conditions present at birth as a result of genetic, environmental influences, or unknown causes), pre-term birth, low birth weight, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and problems related to pregnancy complications.

## What is the current status?

In 2017, 72 infants in Hennepin County died before their first birthday, which is 20% decrease in the number of infant deaths from 2016 (90 infant deaths). This represents 4.4 infants per 1,000 born, which is below Healthy People 2020 target of 6.0 deaths per 1,000 infants.

**Figure 1. Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2000-2017**



2017 data for State and US infant mortality not yet available.



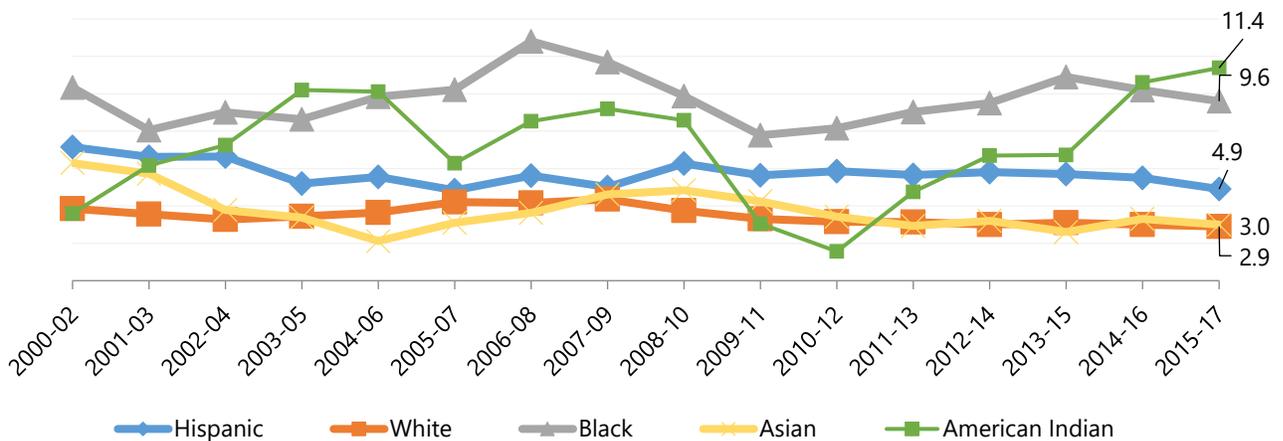
Hennepin County  
Public Health

**For more information** on the health of Hennepin County residents, visit: [www.Hennepin.us/PublicHealthData](http://www.Hennepin.us/PublicHealthData) or email: [PublicHealthData@hennepin.us](mailto:PublicHealthData@hennepin.us)

## What are the disparities?

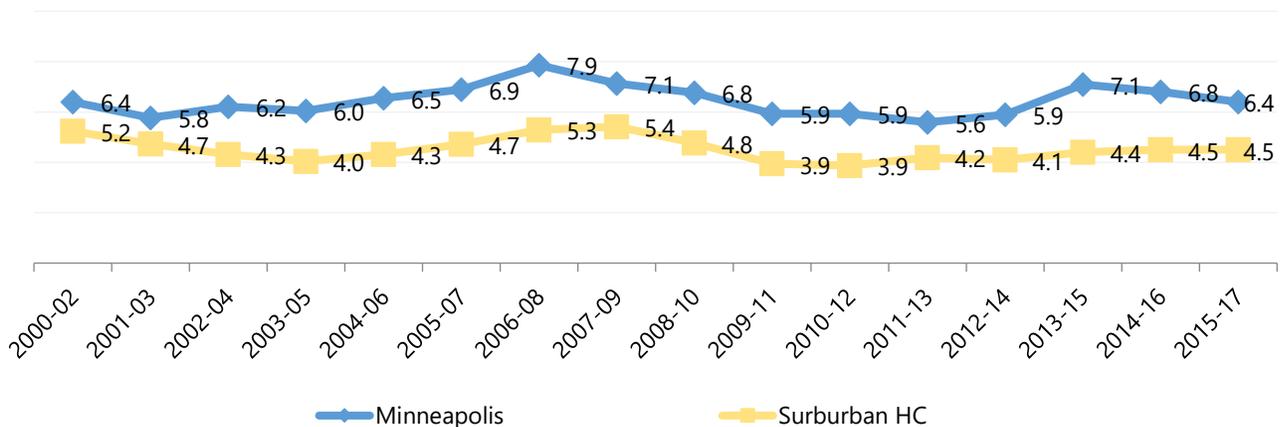
In Hennepin County, racial and ethnic disparities mirror those seen nationally, with the highest rates of infant mortality among babies born to US-born African American mothers. In addition, the infant mortality rate in Minneapolis is slightly higher than the rate in suburban Hennepin County.

**Figure 2. Hennepin County infant mortality rates by race/ethnicity, 2000-2017**



Please note: Due to small numbers, use caution when interpreting rates and rate fluctuations in American Indians. From 2015-2017, there were six infant deaths to American Indians in HC. However, their higher infant mortality rate (along with the Black infant mortality rate) is similar when compared to State and National data.

**Figure 3. Hennepin County infant mortality rates by geography, 2000-2017**



The infant mortality rate is based on data provided by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) from the annual birth and death certificate files. This data was geocoded by Hennepin County HSPHD to identify births to mothers residing in Hennepin County at the time the birth occurred, and deaths of children living in Hennepin County at the time of their death. This data includes the births and deaths that occurred in locations outside of Hennepin County in cases when the decedents' address indicated that he or she was a Hennepin County resident. The data reported here is through 2017, unless identified otherwise as trends or averages.