

## Social Equity Indicator: Infant Mortality

**Why:** Infant mortality is used to compare the health and well-being of populations, and can also serve as an indicator of the quality of healthcare delivery systems within a geographic area.

**What:** Infant mortality is defined as the number of infants who are born alive, but die before one year of age. The infant mortality rates reported here are the three-year moving averages of the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births during the indicated period.

**Where:** Michigan Department of Community Health. Rates reported are for all races. State data reported as "Three-year Moving Average" for the indicated period. U.S. rate calculated as simple average from rates reported for each year in the indicated period.  
<http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/>

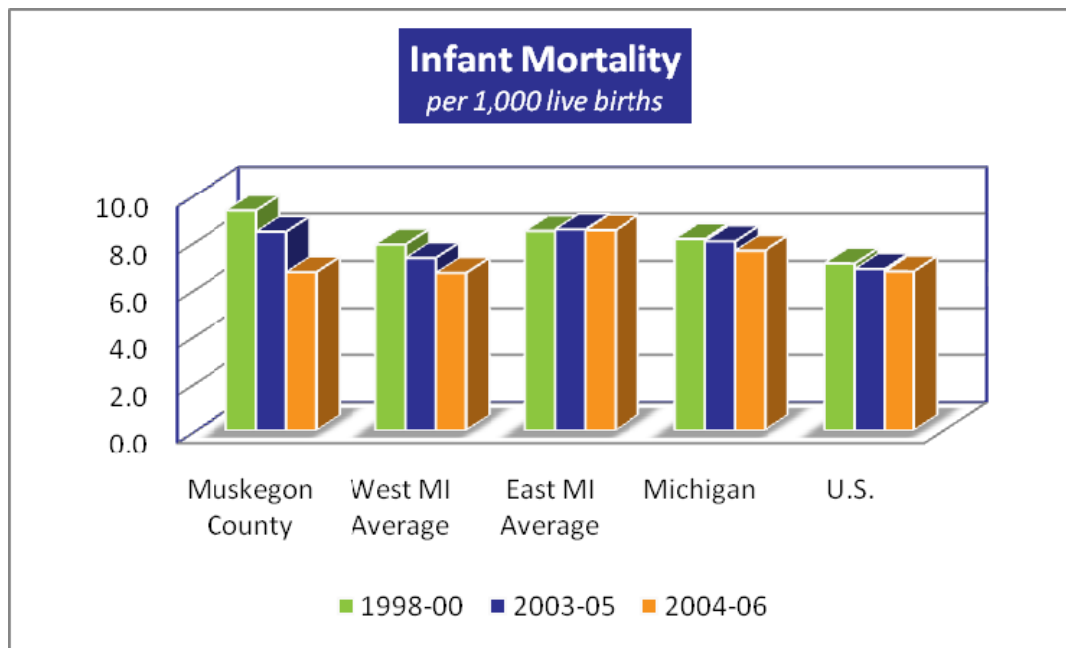
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births						
Geography	1998-00		2003-05		2004-06	
	Rate	Index Score	Rate	Index Score	Rate	Index Score
<b>Muskegon County</b>	9.3	2.4	8.4	2.8	6.7	3.7
Kent County	7.7	3.2	8.2	2.9	8.0	3.0
Ottawa County	6.6	3.7	5.3	4.4	5.3	4.4
<b>West MI Average</b>	7.9	3.1	7.3	3.4	6.7	3.7
Bay County	4.6	4.7	5.4	4.3	6.4	3.8
Genesee County	12.1	0.0	10.9	1.6	10.5	1.8
Saginaw County	8.6	2.7	9.2	2.4	8.5	2.8
<b>East MI Average</b>	8.4	2.8	8.5	2.8	8.5	2.8
Michigan	8.1	3.0	8.0	3.0	7.6	3.2
U.S.	7.1	3.5	6.8	3.6	6.7	3.7

### Index Scores

**Rubric:** The “thriving” infant mortality rate of less than 3.99 is based on the reported rates for developed countries with rates significantly lower than the U.S. average. In 2007 infant mortality for Japan was 3.2, in Germany it was 4.1, and Sweden had the lowest reported rate of 2.8.

**Scale:** A simple scale of decreasing rates of 1.99 per level.

Rubric: Infant Mortality		
Level	Index	Rate
Thriving	5	3.99 /<
Advancing	4	4.0 - 5.99
Sustainable	3	6.0 - 7.99
Needs Improvement	2	8.0 - 9.99
Failing	1	10+



- *Muskegon County has shown steady improvement in infant mortality rates since 2000.*
- *The infant mortality rate for African-American infants in Muskegon County improved from 17.6 in 2003-05 to 13.4 in 2004-06.*
- *The infant mortality rate of 13.4 for African-American infants in Muskegon County is still twice as high as the rate reported for white infants.*
- *The infant mortality rate in Ottawa County has been lowest among the West Michigan Counties each year .*
- *The infant mortality rates in the East Michigan Counties have been significantly higher than the reported rates for Michigan and the West Michigan Counties.*