

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/>

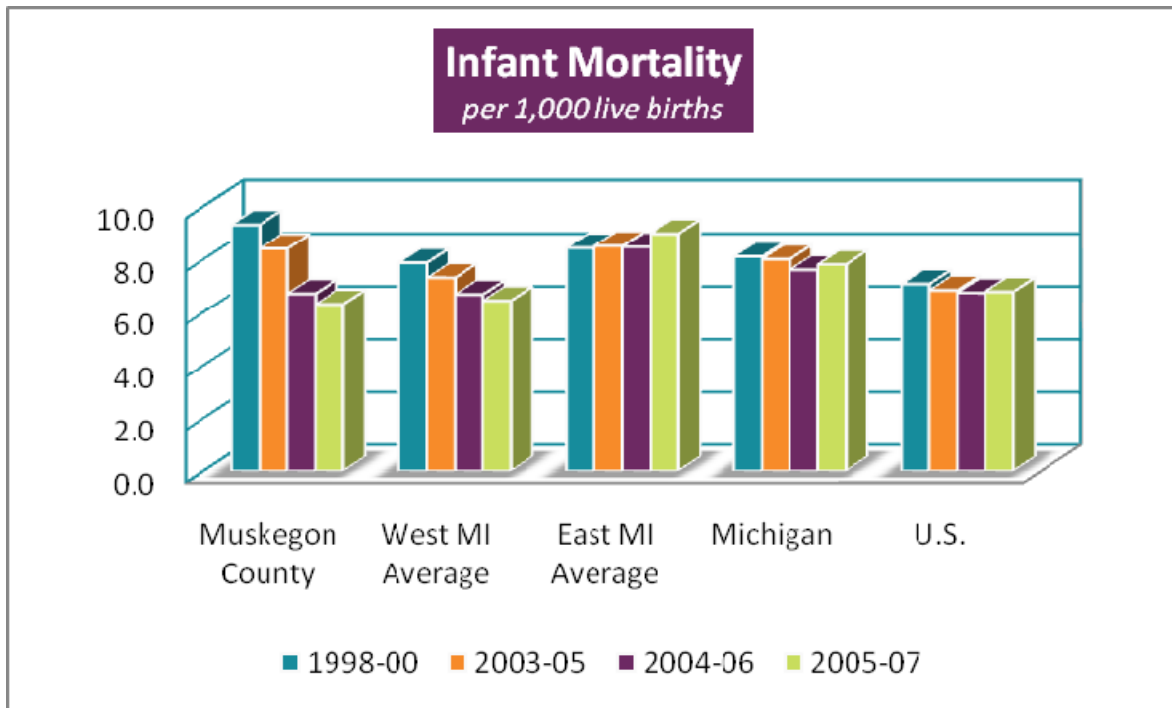
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births								
Geography	1998-00		2003-05		2004-06		2005-07	
	Rate	Index Score	Rate	Index Score	Rate	Index Score	Rate	Index Score
Muskegon County	9.3	2.4	8.4	2.8	6.7	3.7	6.3	3.9
Kent County	7.7	3.2	8.2	2.9	8.0	3.0	7.7	3.2
Ottawa County	6.6	3.7	5.3	4.4	5.3	4.4	5.3	4.4
West MI Average	7.9	3.1	7.3	3.4	6.7	3.7	6.4	3.8
Bay County	4.6	4.7	5.4	4.3	6.4	3.8	8.0	3.0
Genesee County	12.1	0.0	10.9	1.6	10.5	1.8	9.5	2.3
Saginaw County	8.6	2.7	9.2	2.4	8.5	2.8	9.4	2.3
East MI Average	8.4	2.8	8.5	2.8	8.5	2.8	9.0	2.5
Michigan	8.1	3.0	8.0	3.0	7.6	3.2	7.8	3.1
U.S.	7.1	3.5	6.8	3.6	6.7	3.7	6.8	3.6

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 index score for Infant Mortality in Muskegon County is higher (better) than scores for Michigan and the U.S.*
- *The infant mortality rate in Ottawa County has been lowest among the West Michigan Counties each year .*
- *The index scores for Infant Mortality improved since 2000 for all geographies but the East Michigan Counties.*
- *Between 2006 and 2007, the single year infant mortality rate for African-Americans increased from 14.8 to 16.5.*
- *At 16.5, the African-American infant mortality rate in 2007 was nearly three times higher than the reported rate of 5.8 for whites.*