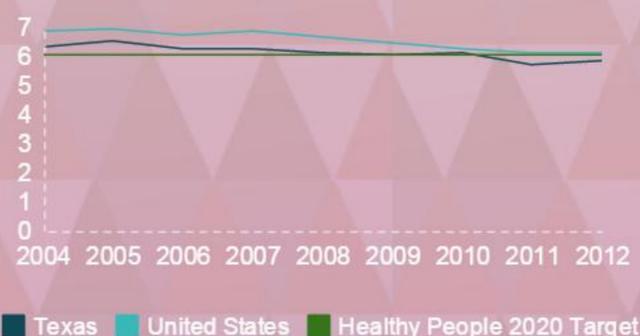


Health Disparities in Texas Infant Mortality Rates

The infant mortality rate (IMR) is the number of deaths of infants less than one year of age per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate has historically been used as an important indicator of the overall health of the community, and serves as a proxy indicator of the quality of, and access to, medical care for pregnant women and infants.

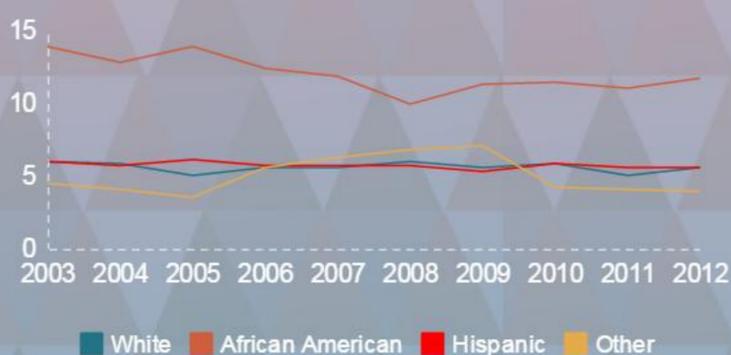


2004-2012 Infant Mortality Rates for Texas and the US^[1]

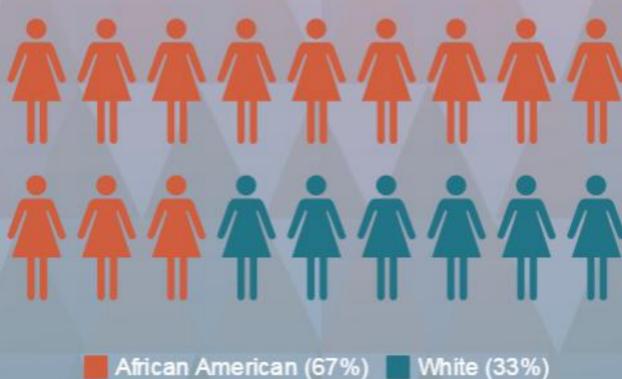


In 2011, the IMR declined in Texas allowing the state to appear to have hit the Healthy People 2020* target. However, the IMR in Texas for African American mothers was two times higher than that of white mothers in 2012.[1]

2003- 2012 Infant Mortality Rates in Texas by Race/Ethnicity^[1]



2012 Infant Mortality Rates in Texas: African American v. White^[1]



The leading causes of infant mortality in the U.S. and Texas are birth defects, disorders related to preterm birth and low birth weight, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

In 2012, 17% of African American mothers experienced pre-term birth compared to just 11% of white mothers.[1]

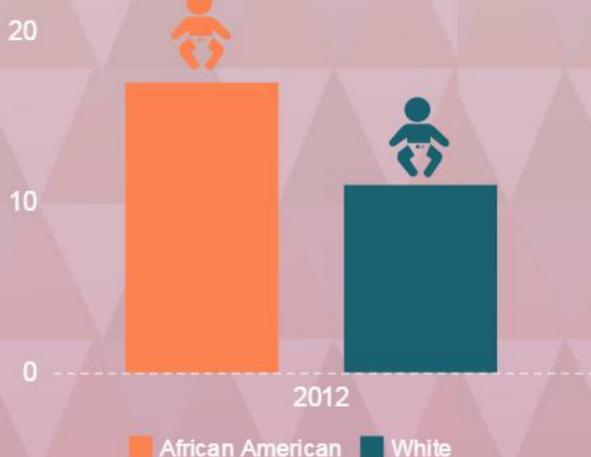
Pre-Term Birth: An infant born at or below 36 weeks of gestation.

Low Birth Weight: An infant weighing less than 2500 grams or 5.5 pounds.

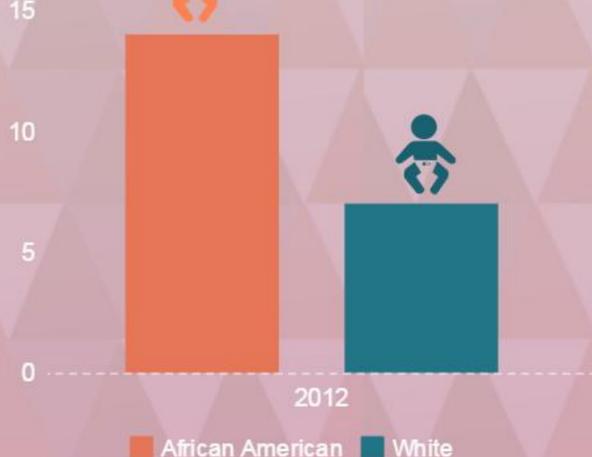
In 2012, 14% of live births among African American infants had low birth weight compared to only 7% of white infants.[1]



Pre-Term Births



Low Birth Weight



While traditional risk factors for infant mortality include no prenatal care, maternal smoking and/or alcohol use, and inadequate weight gain during pregnancy, research suggests the amount of stress a woman experiences over the course of a lifetime, can significantly impact her birth outcomes.

Risk Factors:

- African American
- Low Birth Weight
- Pre-Term Birth



According to the Life Course Perspective*, healthy birth outcomes can be affected by the social determinants of health. This suggests that protective factors and risk factors can significantly impact Infant Mortality Rates. [2]

*To Learn more about the work of Dr. Michael Lu and the Life Course Perspective, please visit aucd.org/lifecourse

Sources:
 [1] Healthy Texas Babies Data Book, Department of State Health Services (2014)
 [2] Aucd.org/lifecourse (2015)