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## Definitions

- Infant mortality is a traditional indicator of the health and well being of a community.
- Infant Mortality Rate: Number of babies who die before their 1st birthday per 1,000 live births.
- The leading causes of infant mortality are congenital abnormalities, fatal conditions arising from preterm or low birthweight, sudden infant death syndrome, and accidents.

## At a Glance

### 2016 IMR

- Hamilton: 7.7
- TN: 7.4
- U.S. (2016): 5.9

### Healthy People

2020 Goal: 6.0

### Sources:

Tennessee Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

# Infant Mortality Trends and Comparisons in Hamilton County

In 2006, infant mortality was identified as a health priority for Hamilton County as well as the state of Tennessee. Tennessee's infant mortality rate (IMR) was the 6th highest in the country. Within Tennessee, Hamilton County had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest IMR (11.7 per 1,000) compared to other metropolitan areas and had the highest African American IMR (23.7 per 1,000).

The Hamilton County Core Leadership Group (now the IRIS Umbrella Project) was initiated in the fall of 2007 with funding by the Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination to identify and implement evidence-based approaches to reduce Hamilton County's infant mortality rate. Since that time, the CLG/IRIS Umbrella Project in partnership with other community organizations have launched a variety of programs aimed at reducing infant mortality.

The 2016 infant mortality rate in Hamilton County was 7.7 per 1,000 births, which represents a substantial decrease from the 2006 rate of 11.7. In addition, the 2016 IMR is nearing the state rate of 7.4.

Declining infant mortality among African Americans is driving the trend. While disparities remain, infant mortality rates between African American and white infants has narrowed significantly.



Infant Mortality rates in Hamilton County have declined from the rates in 2006 and 2010, nearing the state rate of 7.4 for

In Hamilton County the infant mortality rate among **African Americans** has **markedly decreased**, thus narrowing the gap.

