



Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department
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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 babies, sudden infant death syndrome, and accidents.

At a Glance

2014 IMR

- Hamilton: 5.6
- TN: 6.9
- U.S. (2013): 6.0

Healthy People 2020

Goal: 6.0

Sources:

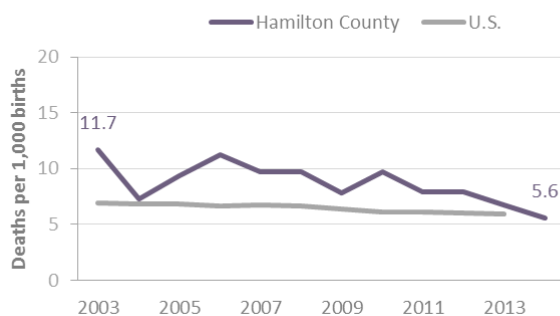
Tennessee Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

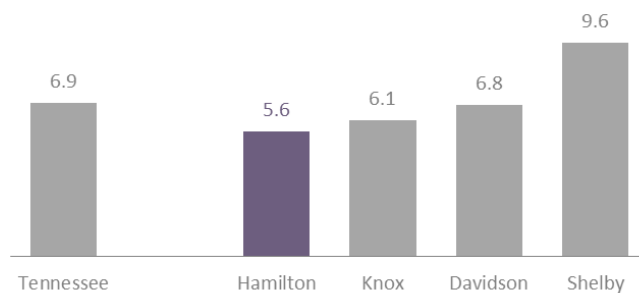
Infant Mortality Trends and Comparisons in Hamilton County

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 2nd highest IMR (11.2 per 1,000) compared to other metropolitan areas and had the highest African American IMR (23.7 per 1,000).

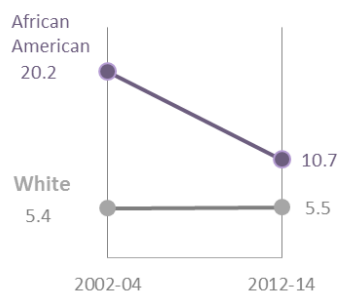
Infant mortality rates in **Hamilton County** have **declined** significantly over the past years and now approach the national rate.



In 2014, the infant mortality rate in **Hamilton County** was **lower** than the Tennessee rate, and lowest among the four largest counties in the state.



In Hamilton County, infant mortality rates among **African Americans have fallen by almost half**, narrowing the gap markedly.



In 2007, the Core Leadership Group (now the IRIS Umbrella Project) was established to investigate and implement evidence-based strategies to reduce infant mortality in Hamilton County. Since that time, the Project and its community partner organizations have launched a variety of programs aimed at improving infant health.

By 2014, Hamilton County's infant mortality rate dropped to 5.6 per 1,000 births, which represents an all-time low and is half the rate of 11.7 in 2003. In addition, the 2014 IMR is below rates for the U.S., Tennessee, and the 3 largest counties in the state.

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.