

**Infant Mortality:** The death of a baby before his or her first birthday is called infant mortality. The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths that occur for every 1,000 live births. This rate is often used as an indicator to measure the health and well-being of a nation, because factors affecting the health of entire populations can also impact the mortality rate of infants.

## Infant deaths in Sacramento County

There were 92 infant deaths in 2018 among Sacramento County residents. Hispanics comprised the highest proportion of infant deaths (29.3%), followed by Blacks (25.0%) and then Whites (23.3%) [Figure 1]. Blacks had the highest infant mortality rate among all racial/ethnic groups, with 12.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. This rate was more than four times the rate for Whites.

## Infant mortality rate trend

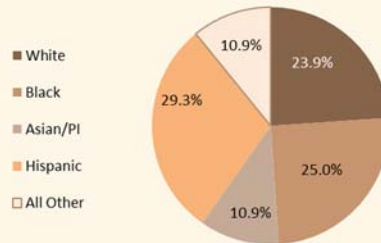
The infant mortality rate in the County decreased 15.8% from 5.7 in 2009 to 4.8 per 1,000 live birth in 2018 [Figure 2]. The overall infant mortality rate was consistently lower than the Healthy People 2020 (HP2020) Objective of no more than six infant deaths per 1,000 live births during the ten-year period from 2009 to 2018.

## Infant mortality trends by race/ethnicity

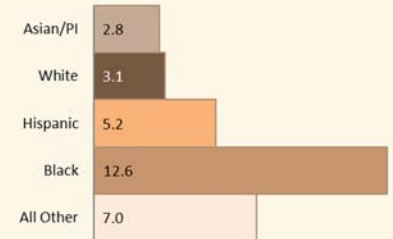
Blacks consistently had the highest infant mortality rates of all racial/ethnic groups from 2009-2018 [Figure 3]. Blacks and American Indian/Alaskan Natives (AI/AN) had infant mortality rates above the HP2020 Objective whereas Asian/Pis, Whites, and Hispanics were all below the Healthy People 2020 Objective. AI/AN data are not shown due to small numbers.

Figure 1. Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality Rate, Sacramento County, 2018 (N=92)

Infant Deaths % by Selected Race/Ethnicity



Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births



Asian/PI\*\*: Asian/Pacific Islander

Figure 2. Infant Mortality Rate by Year, Sacramento County, 2009-2018

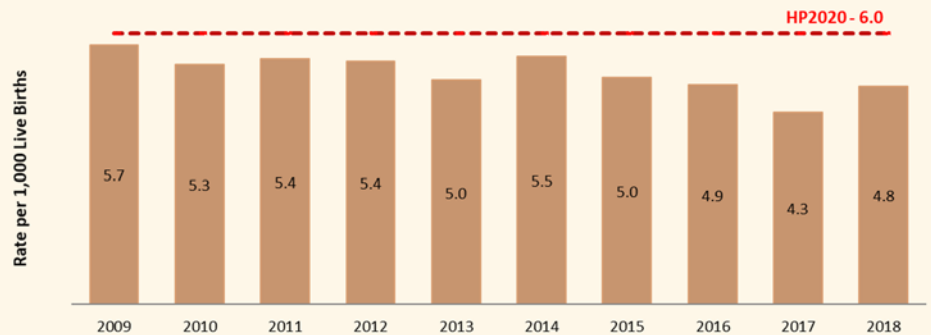
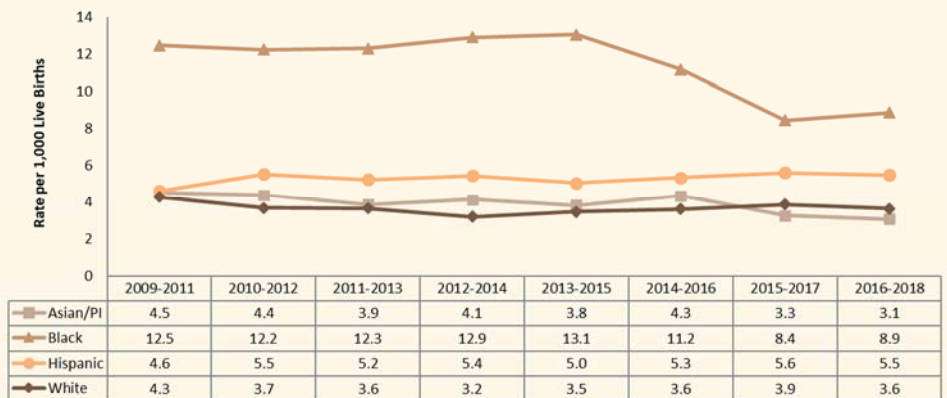


Figure 3. Infant Mortality Rate (three-year rolling average) by Select Race/Ethnicity, Sacramento County, 2009-2018



## Leading death of infant

Birth defects (congenital malformations) were the leading cause of infant death in the County in 2018, accounting for 22.8% of the 92 total deaths [Figure 4]. PTB and LBW were the second leading cause in the County in 2018 (20.7%). Thirteen deaths (14.1%) were due to sudden unexplained infant death (SUID), which includes all infant deaths (age <1) attributed to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), accidental suffocation or strangulation in bed (ASSB) or unknown cause.

## Risk factors for infant mortality

Conditions related to PTB and LBW are a leading cause of infant death nationwide. Infants born to Black mothers had an LBW rate of 12.1%, which was 55.0% higher than the HP2020 objective of no more than 7.8% [Figure 5]. Infants born to Black mothers also had a PTB rate of 17.0%, 49.2% higher than the HP2020 objective of no more than 11.4%.

Tobacco use during pregnancy is associated with low birth weight, preterm birth, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and birth defects of the mouth and lip. Tobacco use during pregnancy decreased 38.8% from 2009 to 2018 in the County. Whites and Blacks had the highest proportion of women who smoked during pregnancy, but the proportion for both groups decreased by more than 40% over the ten-year period [Figure 6].

Figure 4. Leading Cause of Infant Death 2018, Sacramento County

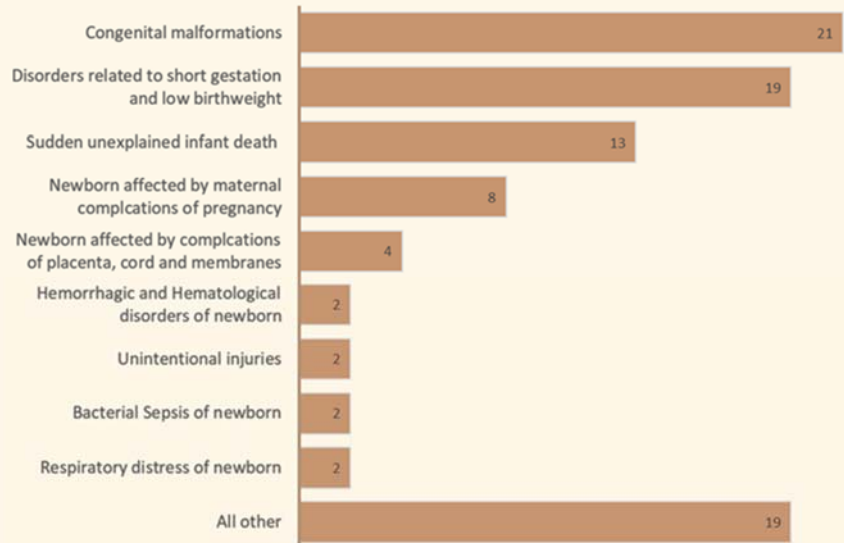


Figure 5. Low Birth Weight and Preterm Births by Select Race/Ethnicity, 2018

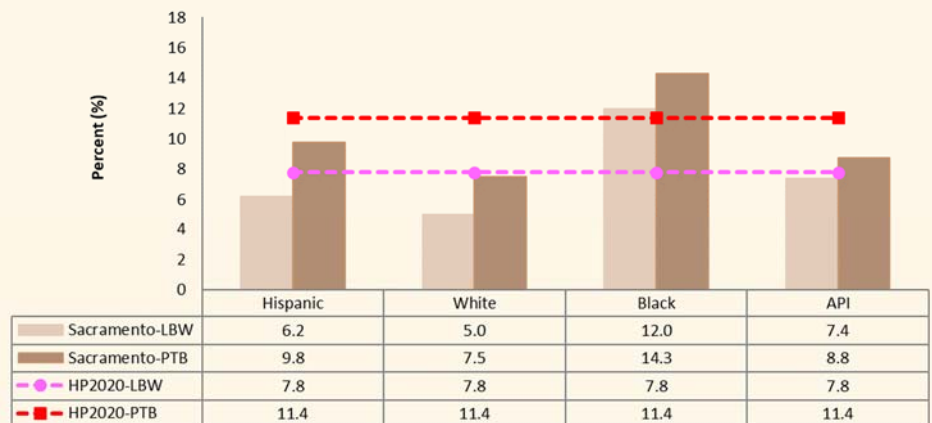


Figure 6. Tobacco Use during Pregnancy by Select Race/Ethnicity, 2009-2018

