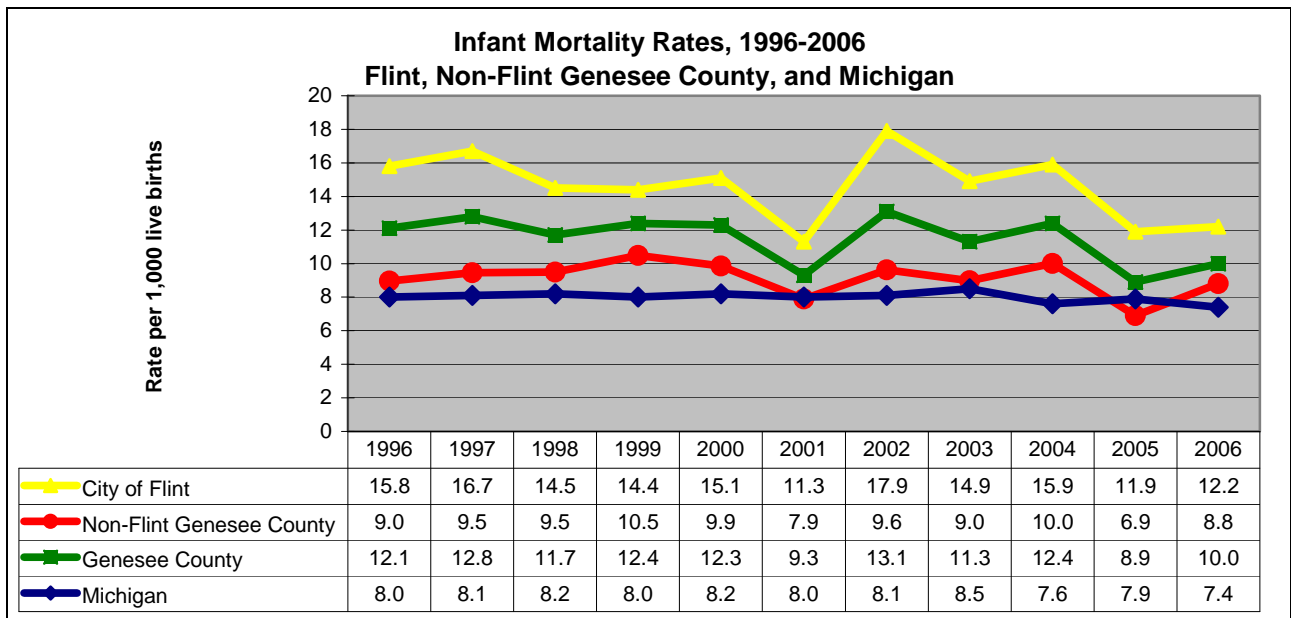


Fact Sheet 2.5 Infant Mortality

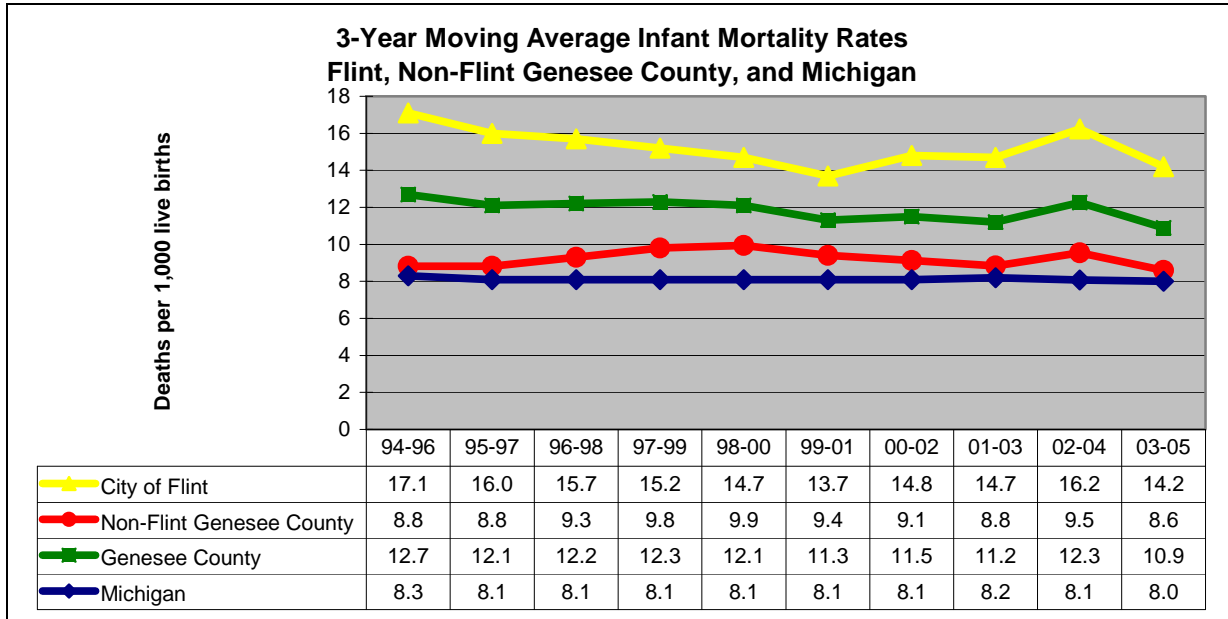
The rate of infant mortality in a community provides one indicator of the quality of life in that community and of women's access to comprehensive health and social services. Although several programs and services exist in Genesee County to reduce infant deaths, significant numbers of women and infants remain unserved or underserved by these programs.



- Flint's infant mortality rate remains consistently higher than that of either non-Flint Genesee County or the state as a whole.
- In 2005, the infant mortality rates for both Flint and non-Flint Genesee County sharply decreased.
- The infant mortality rate for Michigan declined slightly at the beginning of the last decade and remained fairly constant since then.
- After a sharp decrease in 2005, the infant mortality rate increased slightly in 2006

Continued...

Fact Sheet 2.5: Infant Mortality continued...



- In Flint, the 3-year average mortality rate for white infants fell sharply until 2000, when it started to rise again.
- The year 2006 is not calculated in the data for three year moving averages.

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

This information is a call to continue efforts to promote the utilization of adequate, accessible pre-natal care. The infant mortality rate is connected to sleeping conditions, low birthweight and premature births. Risk factors associated with premature births may include smoking, poor health and sexually transmitted diseases.

EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTION EFFORTS

- **Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)** - Multi disciplinary committee reviews infant deaths with the aim of prevention.
- **Programs to Reduce Infant Deaths Effectively (PRIDE)** - Coordinated by the Health Department, the Medical Services Committee, comprised of representatives from the health care systems, recommends changes to improve outcomes.
- **Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH US)** - Coordinated by the Health Department, REACH partners work to reduce African American infant deaths.
- **Safe Sleep Coalition through the Department of Human Services** - Promotes safe sleep practices for infants to reduce positional asphyxiation.
- **Newborn Screening (NBS)** - NBS tests infants for twenty-nine disorders, as recommended by the American College of Medical Genetics. Information is available through the March of Dimes.
- **Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit Family Support (NICU Family Support)** - NICU Family Support will be introduced in fifty locations by the year 2007. Information is available through the March of Dimes.
- **Greater Flint Safe Kids Coalition** - Coalition focuses on proper use of car seats.
- **Healthy Start** - Coordinated by the Health Department, Healthy Start serves mothers and children 0-2 in the 48503, 48504, and 48458 zip codes. The providers assist with housing, food and nutrition, baby clothes, making and keeping doctor appointments, advice on infant bonding, and health care concerns.

Definitions: Infant Deaths include deaths of infants up to one year of age.

Data Source: Michigan Department of Community Health, Vital Records and Health Data Development Section, and the Genesee County Health Department

Note: These data are single year or based on three-year averages. Births by county are based on the mother's county of residence; births by city are based on the mother's city of residence. Race is determined based upon the mother's self-identification.

Revised: 11/26/2007

<http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/chi/InDx/frame.html>



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