

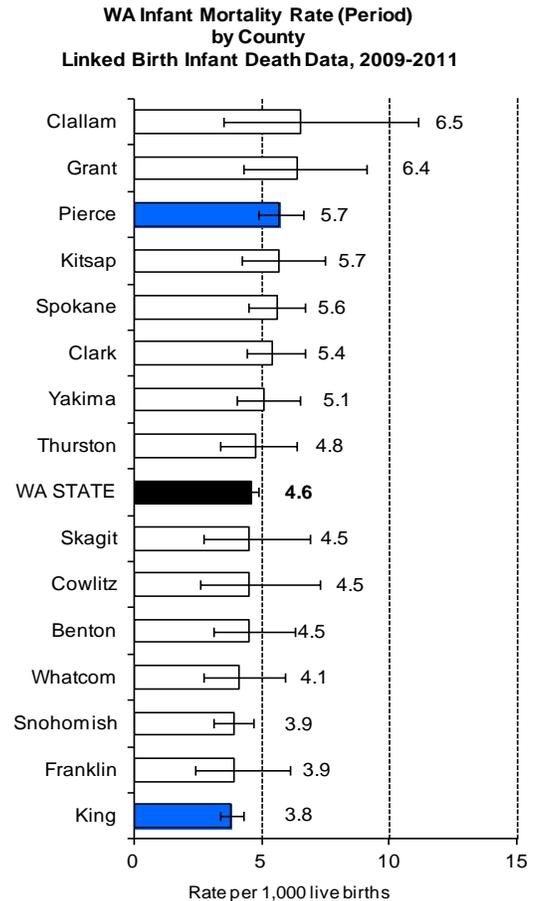
# Infant Mortality

## Key Findings:

- In 2011, 387 Washington State infants died in their first year of life. The infant mortality rate for 2011 was 4.5 per 1,000 live births, compared to the 2009 national rate of 6.3 per 1,000 live births.<sup>1,2,4</sup>
- Washington's infant mortality rate declined sharply through the 1990s. In the past ten years, the decline has slowed as it has for the US overall.<sup>1,2</sup>
- The three leading causes of infant death in Washington State in 2011 were birth defects (21 percent), Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) (13 percent), and Short Gestation/Low Birth Weight (9 percent).<sup>1</sup>
- Most (63 percent) infant deaths for 2009-2011 occurred in the first month of life.
- Infants whose mothers were American Indian/Alaska Native have over twice the mortality of infants whose mothers were White. Infants of Black mothers also have higher mortality compared to White.<sup>d</sup>
- High infant mortality rates are also seen among teen mothers, male infants, and infants whose mothers received Medicaid coverage (except for undocumented mothers).<sup>1,5</sup>
- Infant mortality increases dramatically as infant birthweight decreases. In 2009-2011, the infant mortality rate of babies born at >2,500g was 2.0 per 1,000 live births, between 1500-2499g was 13.1 per 1,000 and those <1,500g 188.5 per 1,000.
- The Healthy People 2020 objective is to reduce the infant mortality rate to no more than 6.0 per 1,000 live births. Washington has met this objective.<sup>3</sup>

**Definition:** Infant mortality is the death of a child under one year of age. These deaths are often divided into two groups: *Neonatal* mortality (death of an infant within the first 27 days of life) and *Postneonatal* mortality (death of an infant 28-364 days of age).

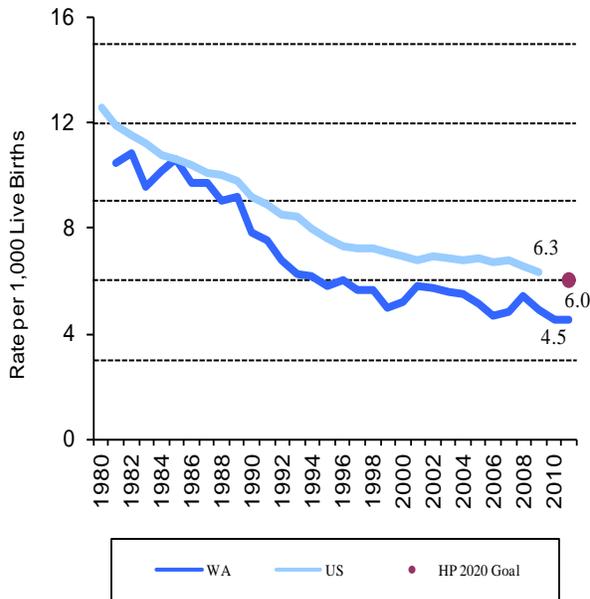
## County<sup>1,2,a</sup>



County rates were not calculated for Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, San Juan, Skamania, Stevens, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla and Whitman counties. These counties had a relative standard error of the rate  $\geq 30\%$ .

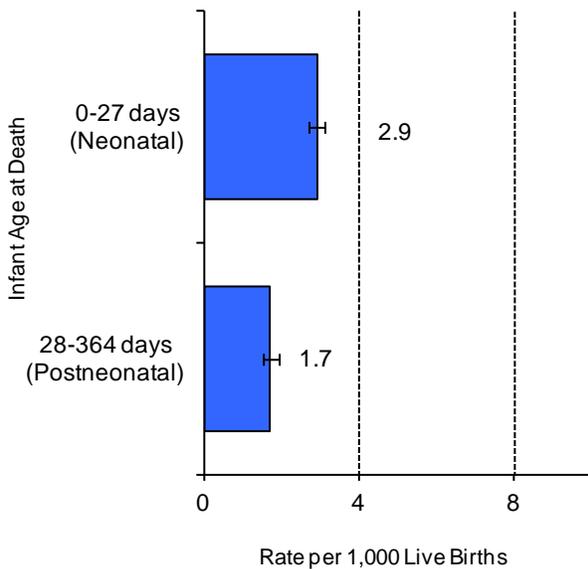
 Significantly different from state based on significance testing

**Infant Mortality Rates (Period)  
 WA and US, 1980-2011**



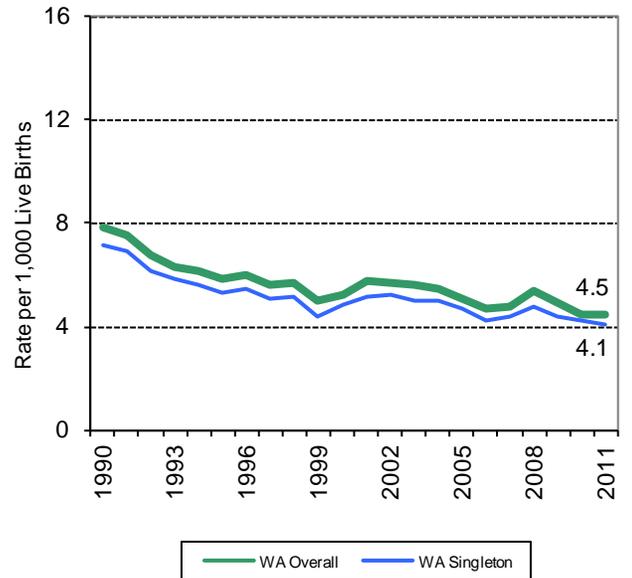
**Age** <sup>1,2,a</sup>

**WA Infant Mortality Rate (Period)  
 by Infant Age  
 Linked Birth Infant Death Data, 2009-2011**



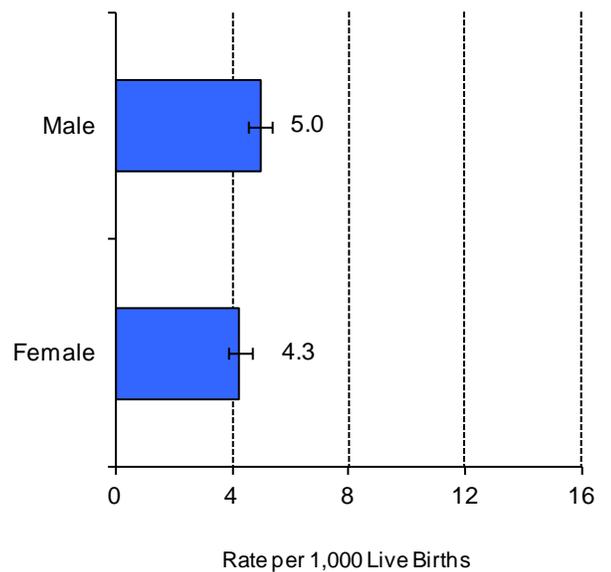
**Singleton Infant Mortality** <sup>1,2,a</sup>

**Infant Mortality Rates (Period)  
 Overall and Singleton  
 WA Linked Birth Infant Death Data  
 2009-2011**

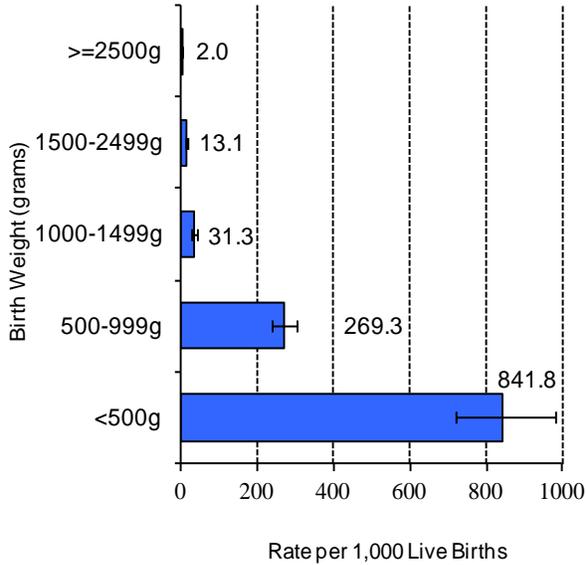


**Infant Gender** <sup>1,2,a</sup>

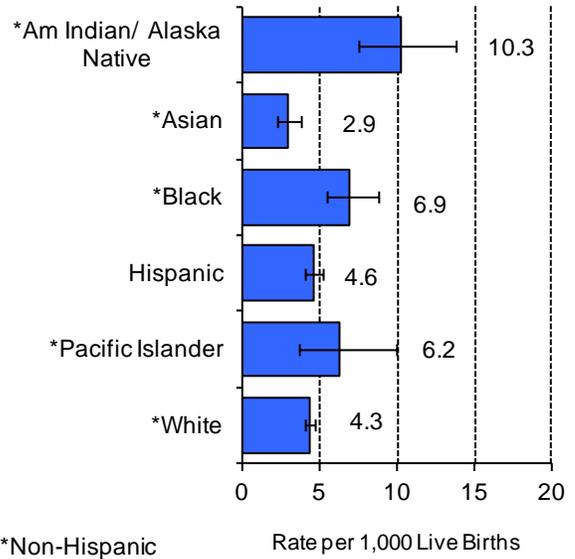
**WA Infant Mortality Rate (Period)  
 By Infant Gender  
 Linked Birth Infant Death Data, 2009-2011**



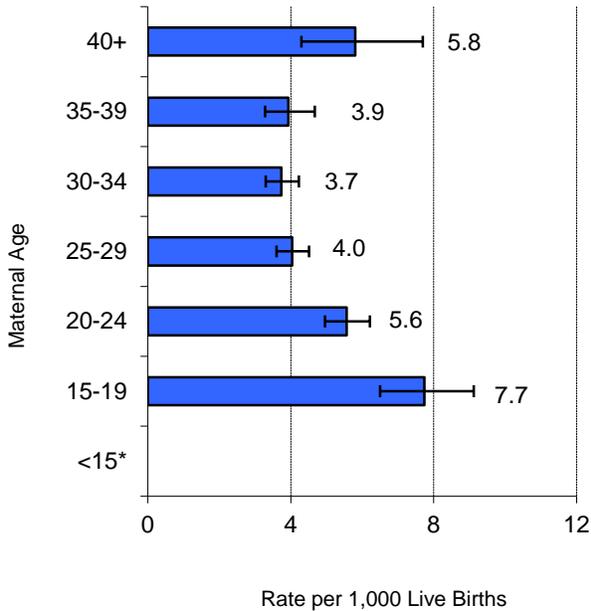
**WA Infant Mortality Rate (Period)  
 by Birth Weight**  
 Linked Birth Infant Death Data, 2009-2011



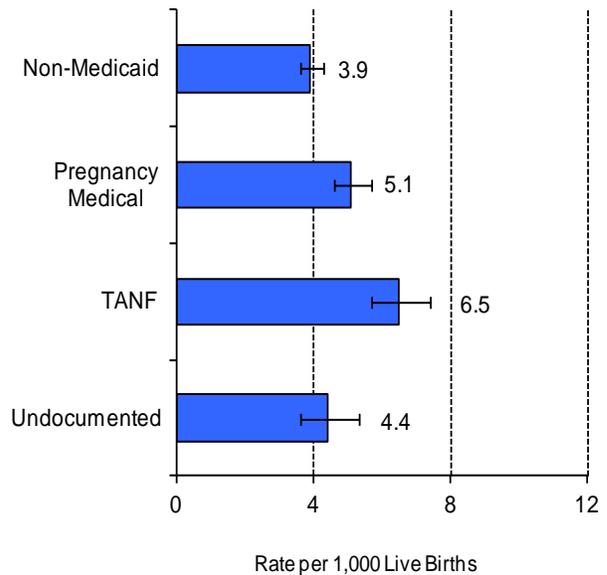
**WA Infant Mortality Rate (Period)  
 by Maternal Race and Ethnicity,**  
 Linked Birth Infant Death Data, 2009-2011



**WA Infant Mortality Rate (Period)  
 by Maternal Age**  
 Linked Birth Infant Death Data, 2009-2011



**Infant Mortality Rate (Cohort)  
 by Medicaid Program**  
 WA First Steps Database, 2008-2010



\*Data not shown, RSE > .30

### **Data Sources**

1. *Washington State Death Certificate Data, Linked Infant Death-Birth File Vital Registration System Annual Statistical Files, Deaths 1980-2011 [Data File]* (2012) Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health.
2. *Washington State Birth Certificate Data, Vital Registration System Annual Statistical Files, Births 1980-2011 [Data file]*(2012). Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health.
3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2010). *Healthy People 2020 Summary of Objectives. Maternal, Infant and Child Health..* <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/pdfs/MaternalChildHealth.pdf>. Accessed 2/11/2011.
4. Mathews TJ, MacDorman MF. Infant Mortality statistics from the 2009 period linked birth/infant death data set. National Vital Statistics Report, Vol . 61, No. 8 Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2013.
5. First Steps Database. Selected Measures by Medicaid Status for Live Births, Research and Data Analysis Division, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, 11/21/2012.

### **Endnotes**

- a. Period Infant Mortality Rates use infant deaths in a given year as the numerator and infant births in the same year as the denominator.
- b. Cohort Infant Mortality Rates look at the experience of a birth cohort. The denominator includes all births in a specified year (cohort) and the numerator is the deaths that occurred to that cohort in the first year of life.
- c. Medicaid women received maternity care paid for by Medicaid. Medicaid recipients were divided into three major subgroups (from highest to lowest socioeconomic status) based on program eligibility. **Pregnancy Medical** were women eligible for the pregnancy medical assistance program. These women were U.S. citizens or legal US residents, and were eligible to receive Medicaid because they were pregnant and had incomes at or below 185% the federal poverty line; **TANF** were women enrolled in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. These women were very low income (generally < 50% the federal poverty level) and received cash assistance (TANF) in addition to Medicaid. **Undocumented** were women who were not legally admitted for permanent residence, lack temporary residence status, or were not lawfully present in the U.S. They were eligible to receive Medicaid because they were pregnant and had incomes at or below 185% the federal poverty level. Undocumented women were not eligible for TANF although their incomes were often lower than women on TANF. All three Medicaid groups had incomes below most non-Medicaid women. Note that Medicaid eligibility status for pregnant legal residents who were not US Citizens changed in Spring 2009. Prior to Spring 2009, legal residents who were not US Citizens were grouped with Undocumented women (and called Non-Citizens).
- d. Hispanic is treated as a separate racial category. American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Pacific Islander and White are all non-Hispanic.

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