



MCAH 2021 Infant Mortality

Summary of Results:

Infant Mortality is the death of an infant within the first year of life. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is measured by the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births. It is a strong predictor of health and well-being and reflects the overall health of a community.

Similar to the state and national trend, Fresno County continues to observe decreases in the number of births within the last several years. The trend is observed both in the overall number of births as well as among race/ethnicity groups.

In 2021, 13,972 babies were born in Fresno County. Of those, 73 babies died within the first year of life, resulting in an infant mortality rate (IMR) of 5.2. This rate ranked among the highest in California where the IMR was 4.0 in 2020 (the Fresno County rate was 5.0 in 2020). Fresno County's rate is slightly above Healthy People (HP) 2030's objective to bring the infant mortality rate to below 5.0. Among the major ethnic/racial groups, White and Asian have exceeded HP 2030's goal. What is concerning is the IMR in 2021 appears to inch up from 5.0 in 2020, after dropping from 2019's IMR of 6.1.

Infant mortality affects races/ethnicities in different ways as reflected in Table 1. Although Blacks accounted for only 5.3% of Fresno County's total births, they accounted for 12.3% of total infant deaths.

Within the metropolitan areas, infant mortality appears to be high along major corridors (Figure 2).

Table 1. Births, Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) per 1,000 Live Births, County of Fresno, 2021

	White	Black	AIAN	Asian	HwPI	Other	Hispanic	Total
Births	2,465	739	73	1,620	25	561	8,489	13,972
Deaths	6	9	0	4	0	0	54	73
IMR	2.4	12.2	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	6.4	5.2

Data Source: State of California, California Department of Public Health, Cal_IVRS; California Comprehensive Birth File, Accessed 10 July 2023; California Comprehensive Death File, Accessed 10 July 2023

Figure 1. Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births and Trend by Race/Ethnicity, County of Fresno vs California, 2017-2021

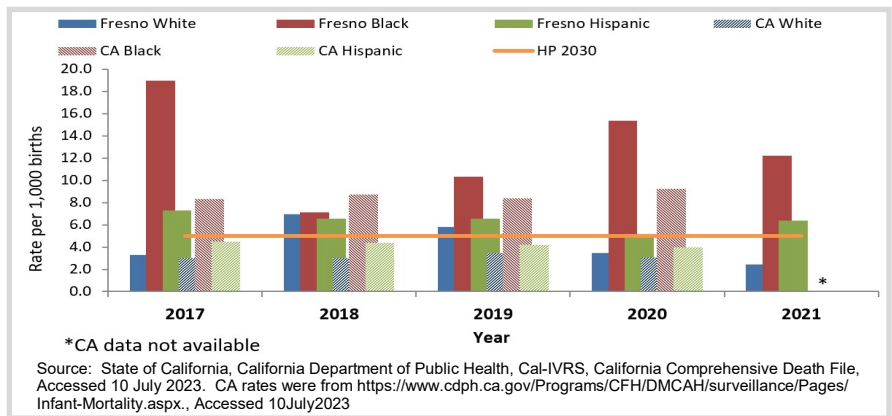
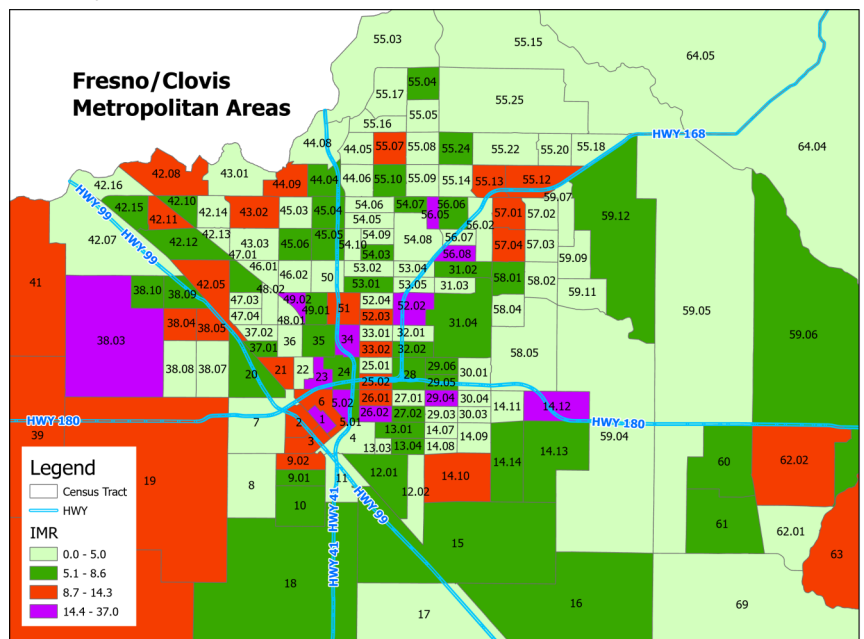


Figure 2. Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births by Census Tract, 2017–2021



¹AIAN: American Indian/Alaska Native ²HwPI: Hawaiian/Pacific Islander