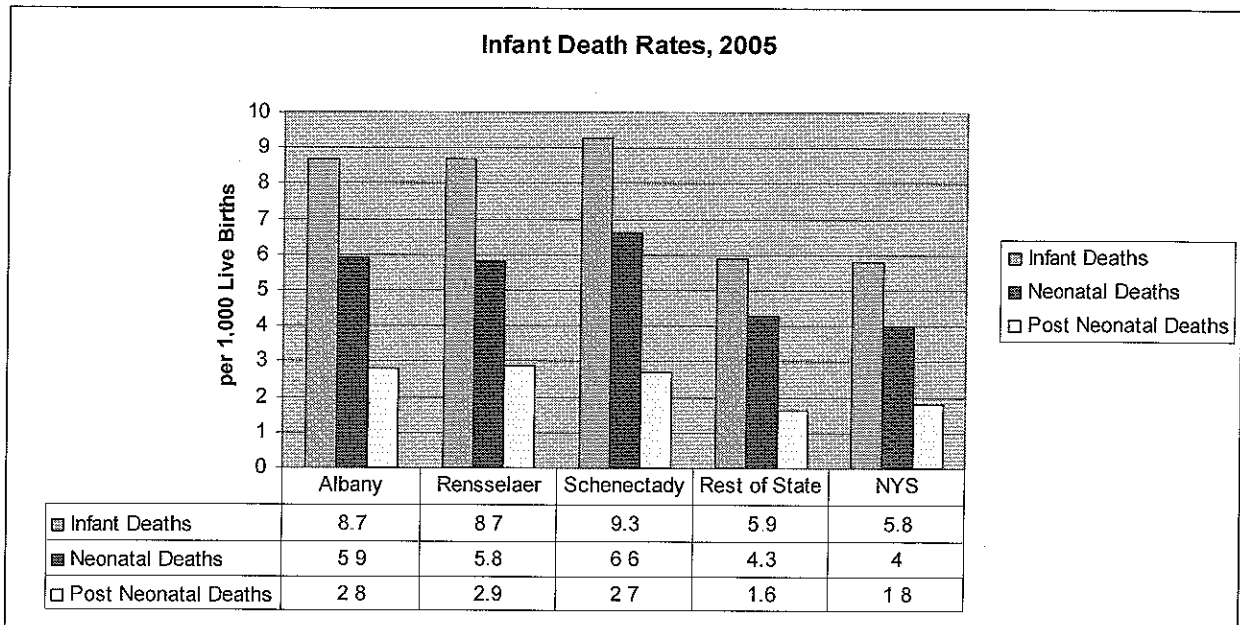


Infant Mortality

Low birth weight and short gestation are significant risk factors for infant mortality, i.e., deaths of infants under 1 year of age as reported per 1,000 live births.



The data illustrates that none of the counties are approaching the *Healthy People 2010* Target of 4.5 (Figure 24). Due to the small amount of data, caution should be taken in comparing rates across single years, whereas a three year comparison would give a better illustration. Table 8 displays the aggregate number of infant deaths and rates for each county for the period 2003-2005. The need to monitor trends in all counties is evident as there is an increase in both infant deaths and the death rate. Provisional aggregate data¹ for the 2003-2005 3-year period indicated increases in both the number and rate of infant deaths in Rensselaer County (N=40, 7.7); an increase in the rate of deaths and a dramatic increase in the number of deaths in Schenectady County (N=38, 6.9); and an increase in both the number and rate of infant deaths in Albany County (N=71, 7.5).

¹ Year 2000 data were not finalized and ready for release at the time this report went to print. Planning and actions should be reserved until these data are finalized and released.

Table 10
Aggregate Number of Infant Deaths and Rates by County, 2003-2005

| | # Infant Deaths | | | | Infant Death Rate | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2005</u> | Aggregate² '03-05 | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2005</u> | Aggregate '03-05 |
| Albany | 21 | 22 | 28 | 71 | 6.5 | 7.2 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| Rensselaer | 12 | 13 | 15 | 40 | 6.8 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 7.7 |
| Schenectady | 11 | 10 | 17 | 38 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 9.3 | 6.9 |

Typically, the majority of infant deaths occur during the neonatal period, defined as the first 28 days of life. In addition to LBW and short gestation, birth defects, respiratory illness, infection, and maternal pregnancy complications contribute to this death rate. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the leading cause of death during the postneonatal period, 29 days up to 1 year of life. Simple interventions such as putting an infant on its back have been proven to lower the risk of SIDS. The goal of *Healthy People 2010* has been to reach a goal of 70 percent of infants being put to sleep on their backs. While some socio-demographic groups have reached this goal, it is evident that there are other groups which still need to be targeted such as younger mothers, those who are unmarried, and those who are on Medicaid.

² Aggregate numbers are based on zip code data; individual year data are based on county data. These different data sources result in slight variations in the totals (i.e., aggregate county data is not the simple sum of individual yearly counts of zip code data)

Prevalence of Mothers Placing Their Babies Exclusively on their Backs to Sleep by Selected Characteristics, PRAMS, New York State Excluding New York City, 2000-2005

Table 11

| Prevalence of Mothers Placing Their Babies Exclusively on Their Backs to Sleep | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| by Selected Characteristics, PRAMS New York State Excluding New York City, 2000-2005 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maternal Characteristics | 2000 | | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | |
| | % | 95 %CI | % | 95 %CI | % | 95 %CI | % | 95 %CI | % | 95%CI | % | 95%CI |
| TOTAL | 63.4 | ± 3.5 | 65.1 | ± 3.4 | 66.0 | ± 3.5 | 69.1 | ± 3.4 | 69.3 | ± 3.6 | 66.6 | ± 3.5 |
| RACE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| white | 65.3 | ± 3.7 | 67.4 | ± 3.5 | 68.8 | ± 3.6 | 70.9 | ± 3.6 | 71.1 | ± 3.8 | 70.1 | ± 3.8 |
| black | 43.0 | ± 11.9 | 39.3 | ± 12.3 | 34.5 | ± 11.7 | 44.1 | ± 12.3 | 44.2 | ± 14.4 | 45.4 | ± 14.6 |
| other | 75.9 | ± 15.9 | 69.9 | ± 16.7 | ** | | 84.7 | ± 11.8 | 68.4 | ± 12.6 | 58.1 | ± 10.6 |
| AGE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <20 | 58.4 | ± 12.9 | 59.5 | ± 12.4 | 64.4 | ± 15.4 | 58.5 | ± 14.7 | 58.8 | ± 15.0 | 44.4 | ± 16.3 |
| 20-24 | 49.6 | ± 8.9 | 60.6 | ± 8.5 | 52.4 | ± 8.9 | 61.7 | ± 8.6 | 65.8 | ± 9.3 | 61.1 | ± 8.9 |
| 25-34 | 66.3 | ± 4.5 | 66.2 | ± 4.5 | 70.2 | ± 4.4 | 70.5 | ± 4.4 | 72.1 | ± 4.7 | 68.9 | ± 4.6 |
| >=35 | 71.6 | ± 7.2 | 68.6 | ± 7.1 | 67.5 | ± 7.5 | 75.9 | ± 6.6 | 69.3 | ± 3.9 | 72.1 | ± 7.1 |
| Education | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-11 years | 51.6 | ± 10.8 | 56.0 | ± 9.9 | 51.0 | ± 11.5 | 54.1 | ± 10.3 | 57.4 | ± 11.0 | 43.2 | ± 10.4 |
| 12 years | 55.7 | ± 6.4 | 61.0 | ± 6.5 | 63.9 | ± 6.6 | 64.7 | ± 6.9 | 62.8 | ± 7.6 | 61.7 | ± 8.0 |
| >12 years | 71.3 | ± 4.2 | 70.2 | ± 4.2 | 71.3 | ± 4.1 | 75.5 | ± 3.9 | 75.0 | ± 4.1 | 73.4 | ± 4.0 |
| Marital Status | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Married | 68.7 | ± 3.8 | 67.6 | ± 3.7 | 70.8 | ± 3.8 | 73.5 | ± 3.7 | 71.3 | ± 4.1 | 70.0 | ± 4.0 |
| Other | 51.0 | ± 7.2 | 58.3 | ± 7.2 | 52.2 | ± 7.6 | 58.8 | ± 6.9 | 64.1 | ± 7.1 | 58.3 | ± 7.2 |
| Medicaid Status | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| On Medicaid | 46.9 | ± 7.4 | 55.4 | ± 7.0 | 51.9 | ± 7.3 | 57.5 | ± 6.8 | 71.8 | ± 4.2 | 73.3 | ± 4.1 |
| Not on Medicaid | 69.7 | ± 3.8 | 68.8 | ± 3.7 | 71.7 | ± 3.8 | 74.4 | ± 3.7 | 64.1 | ± 6.7 | 55.4 | ± 6.4 |

** Number of respondents is small. Estimates based on such a small sample are imprecise and may be biased. Therefore findings in this category are not reported.

The infant mortality rate is much higher in Black infants than their White counterparts. Data shows that Black women are two to three times more likely to experience the death of an infant than White women.