



MCAH 2022 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 in the overall number of births as well as among the various race/ethnicity groups.

In 2022, 13,946 babies were born in Fresno County. Of those, 67 babies died within the first year of life, resulting in an infant mortality rate (IMR) of 4.8. This rate ranked among the highest in California where the IMR was 4.1 in 2021 (2022 CA IMR not yet published). Fresno County rate was 5.2 in 2021). Fresno County's IMR is below Healthy People (HP) 2030's objective of 5.0. Among the major ethnic/racial groups, only White has exceeded HP 2030's goal. While the Asian IMR was below HP 2030's in previous years, it more than doubled to 5.3 in 2022.

Infant mortality affects races/ethnicities in different ways as reflected in Table 1. Although Black accounted for only 4.6% of Fresno County's total births, they accounted for 6.0% of total infant deaths; Asian accounted for 12.2% of the total births and 13.4% of infant deaths.

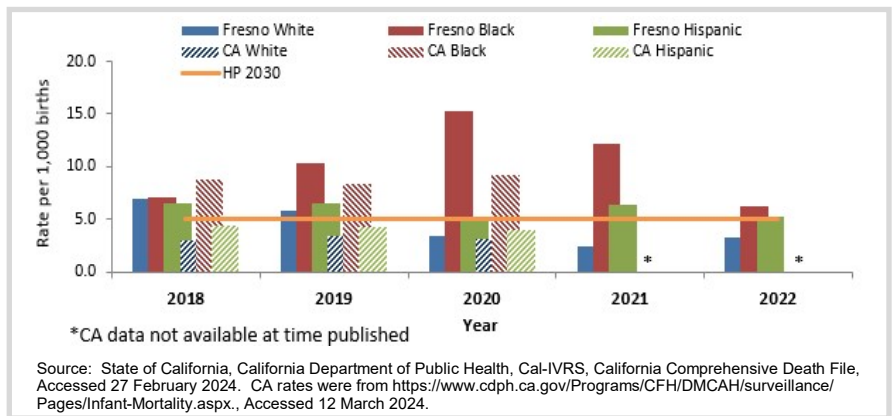
Within the metropolitan areas, infant mortality appears to be high along major corridors (Figure 2).

Table 1. Births, Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) per 1,000 Live Births, County of Fresno, 2022

	White	Black	AIAN	Asian	HwPI	Other	Hispanic	Total
Births	2,457	636	77	1,700	34	543	8,499	13,946
Deaths	8	4	0	9	0	1	45	67
IMR	3.3	6.3	0.0	5.3	0.0	1.8	5.3	4.8

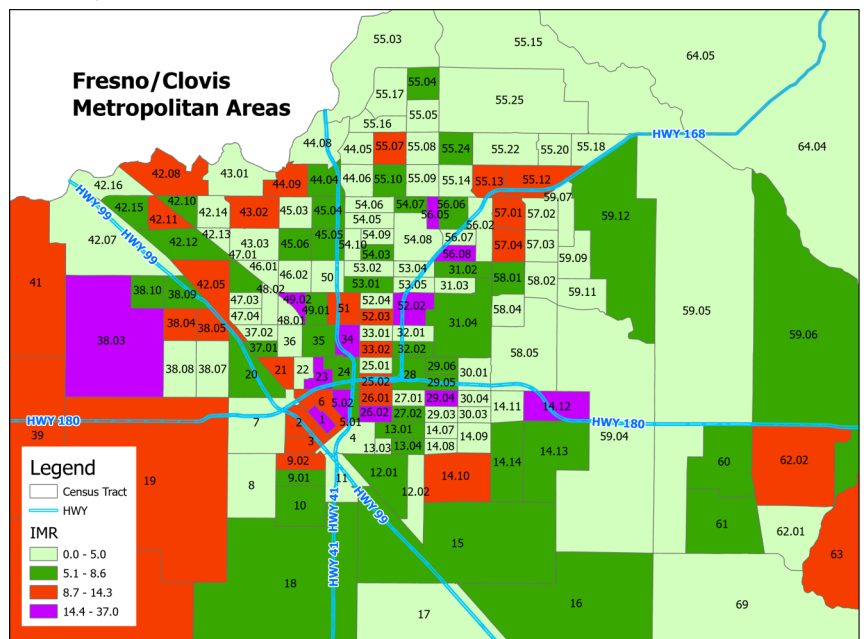
Data Source: State of California, California Department of Public Health, Cal-IVRS; California Comprehensive Birth File, Accessed 27 February 2024; California Comprehensive Death File, Accessed 27 February 2024.

Figure 1. Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births and Trend by Race/Ethnicity, County of Fresno vs California, 2018-2022



Source: State of California, California Department of Public Health, Cal-IVRS, California Comprehensive Death File, Accessed 27 February 2024. CA rates were from <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/surveillance/Pages/Infant-Mortality.aspx>, Accessed 12 March 2024.

Figure 2. Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births by Census Tract, 2018–2022



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