

# INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW PROGRAM



## Who Are We?

The Connecticut Infant Mortality Review Program (IMRP) is a statewide program run by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). Since October 2023, **we've been working to better understand why some infants die before their first birthday. Our goal is to find ways to help prevent these deaths and keep babies safe.**

We receive support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and are part of the **Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID)** and the **Sudden Death in the Young (SDY)** Case Registry. Thanks to this support, we are able to look at trends in infant deaths, work to improve how infant deaths are investigated and use that to help prevent future deaths.<sup>3</sup>

## What Does "Infant Mortality Rate" Mean?

The infant mortality rate tells us how many babies die before their first birthday. It helps us understand the overall health of Connecticut and the U.S.

The infant mortality rate is the number of babies who die before their first birthday for every 1,000 babies born. In the U.S., the rate was 5.6—meaning almost 6 out of every 1,000 babies died before turning one year old (or one year of age).

**The infant mortality rate in Connecticut is 4.3.**<sup>1</sup>

## What Have We Learned?

SUID (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death) is when a baby under 1 year old dies suddenly and without warning, often during sleep. **Since 2020, the number of babies who have died from SUID has been going up.**<sup>4</sup>

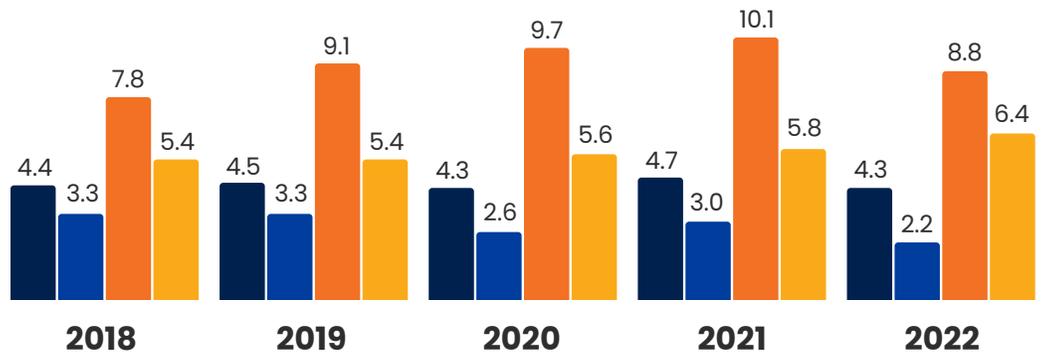
The infant mortality rate is **not** the same for different race and ethnicities.

- In the U.S., the **non-Hispanic Black infant mortality rate is 10.9** and the **American Indian/Alaska Native population is 9.1** (per 1,000 live births).<sup>2</sup>
- In Connecticut, **non-Hispanic Black infant mortality rate is 8.8.**
- In Connecticut, most of the infant deaths are **infants less than 3 months old.**



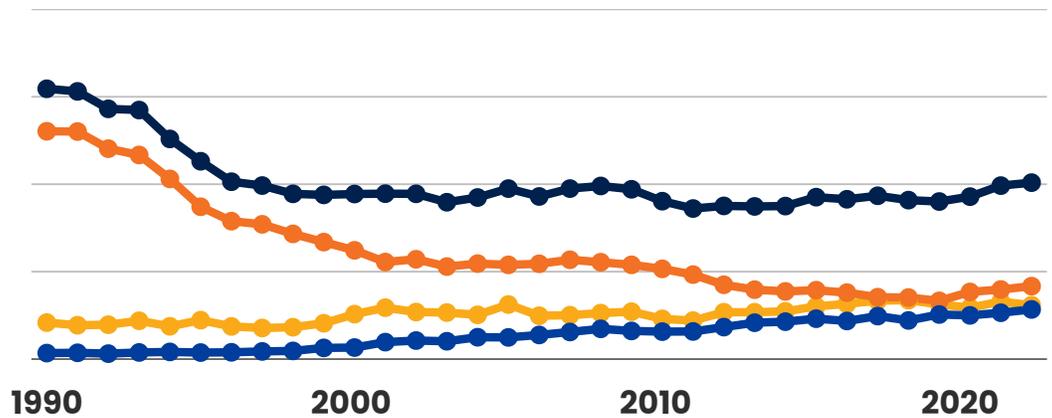
## CONNECTICUT INFANT MORTALITY RATE

- All Races
- non-Hispanic White
- non-Hispanic Black
- Hispanic



## TRENDS IN SUID RATES FROM 1990 - 2022

- Combined SUID Rate
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
- Unknown
- Accidental Suffocation/Strangulation (When a baby gets stuck or covered in bed and can't breathe)



## IMR Committee Members

Experts who review the facts about babies who passed away

- A doctor for pregnant women (*OB/GYN*)
- A licensed social worker
- A nurse who works with babies and children
- A member of the CT Hospital Association
- A member of the University of Connecticut Health Disparities Institute
- A hospital nurse for newborn babies
- A labor and delivery nurse
- A doctor who works with babies and children
- An epidemiologist (*someone who studies health patterns*)
- A community health worker
- The Deputy Chief Medical Examiner
- Child Advocate or someone of their choice
- Commissioner of Children and Families or someone of their choice
- Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood or someone of their choice
- The commissioner of Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services or someone of their choice

## Resources

For more information on The Connecticut Infant Mortality Review Program, [CLICK HERE](#).  
 For more information on the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention, [CLICK HERE](#).  
 For more information on Safe Sleep, click [CLICK HERE](#).

<sup>1</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/sudden-infant-death/php/case-registry/awardees.html>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/maternal-infant-health/infant-mortality/index.html#:~:text=In%202022%2C%20infant%20mortality%20rates,or%20other%20Pacific%20Islander%3A%208.5>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/sudden-infant-death/php/case-registry/index.html>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/sudden-infant-death/data-research/data/sids-deaths-by-cause.html>