

Virginia Department of Health



*Serving
Virginia for
100 Years*

1908 - 2008



Infant Mortality – The Problem

Comparative Deaths - Virginia 2007* (preliminary data)



Infant Mortality – The Last Sixty Years

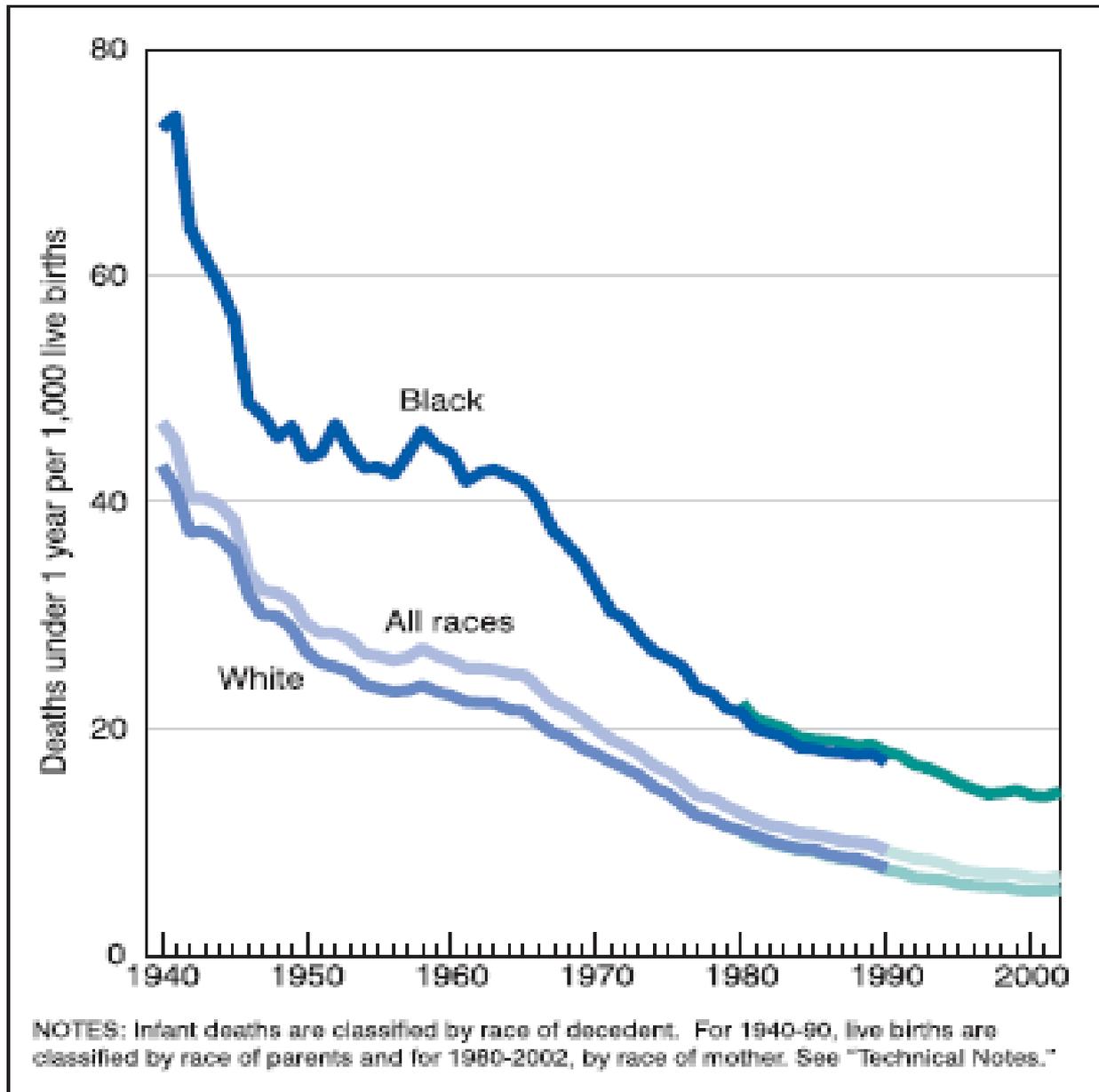
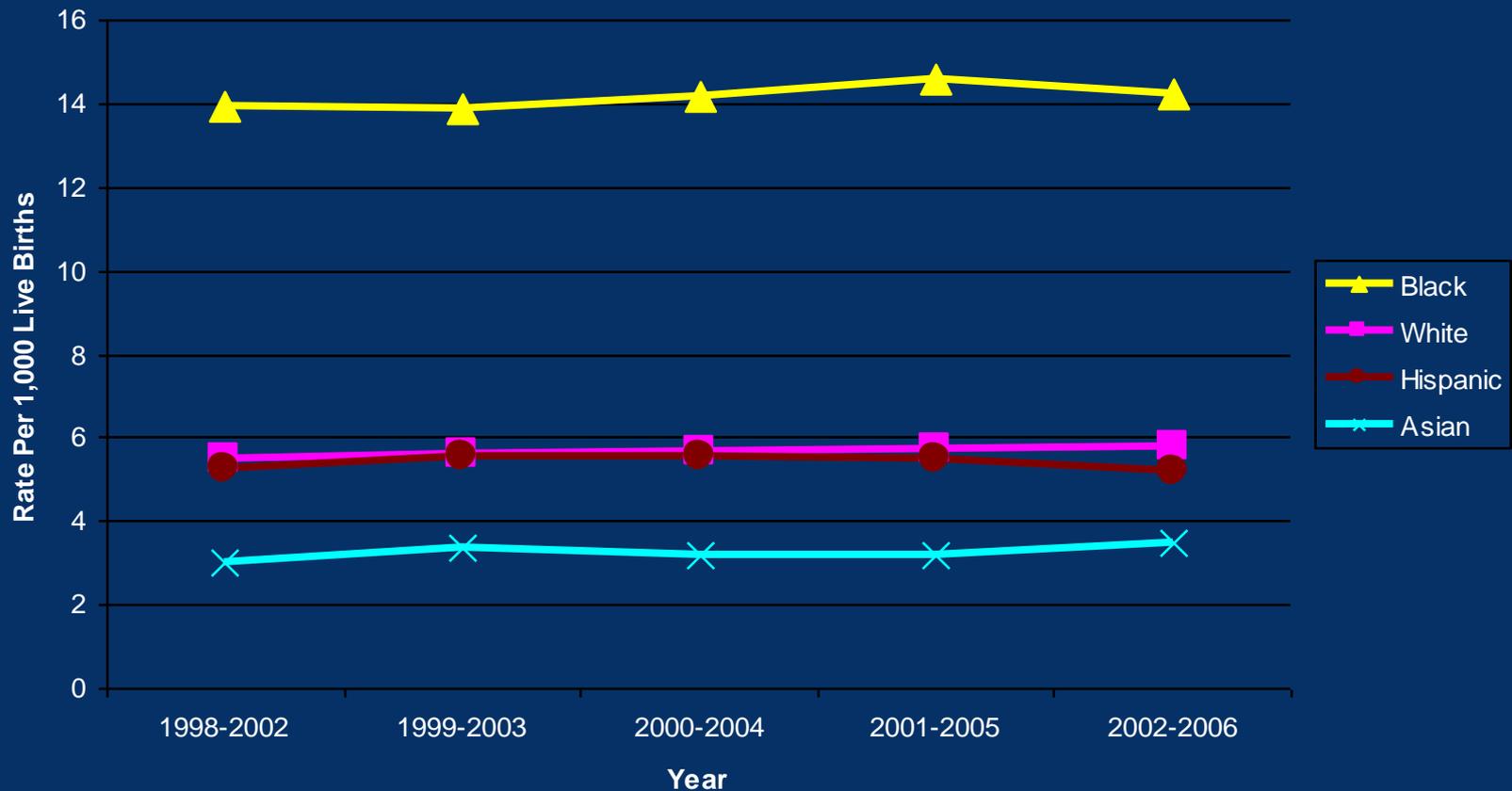


Figure 6. Infant mortality rates by race: United States, 1940–2002

Infant Mortality - Recent History

Resident Five-Year Infant Death Rates By Race/Ethnicity Virginia, 1998-2006



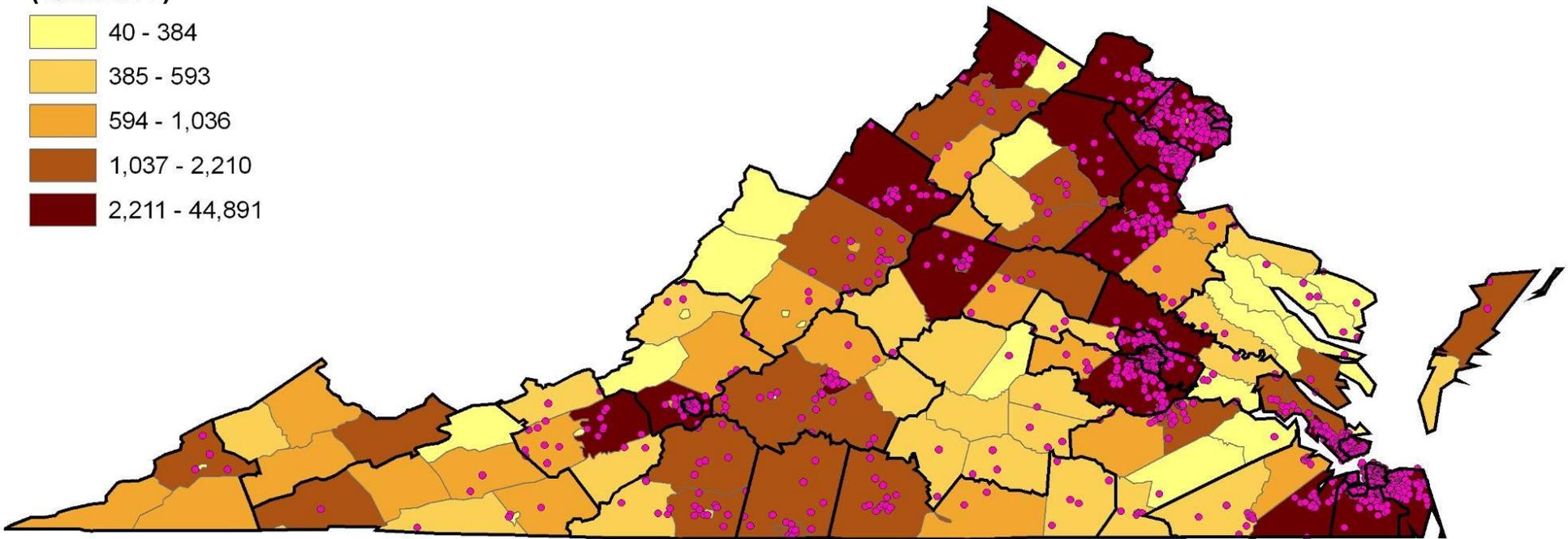
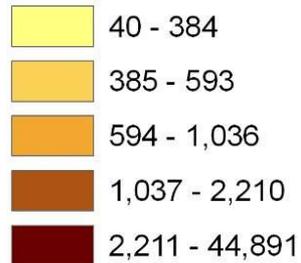
Infant Mortality - Geography

Infant Deaths 2003-05, Virginia Residents, by Number of Live Births

• 1 Dot = 1 Infant Death

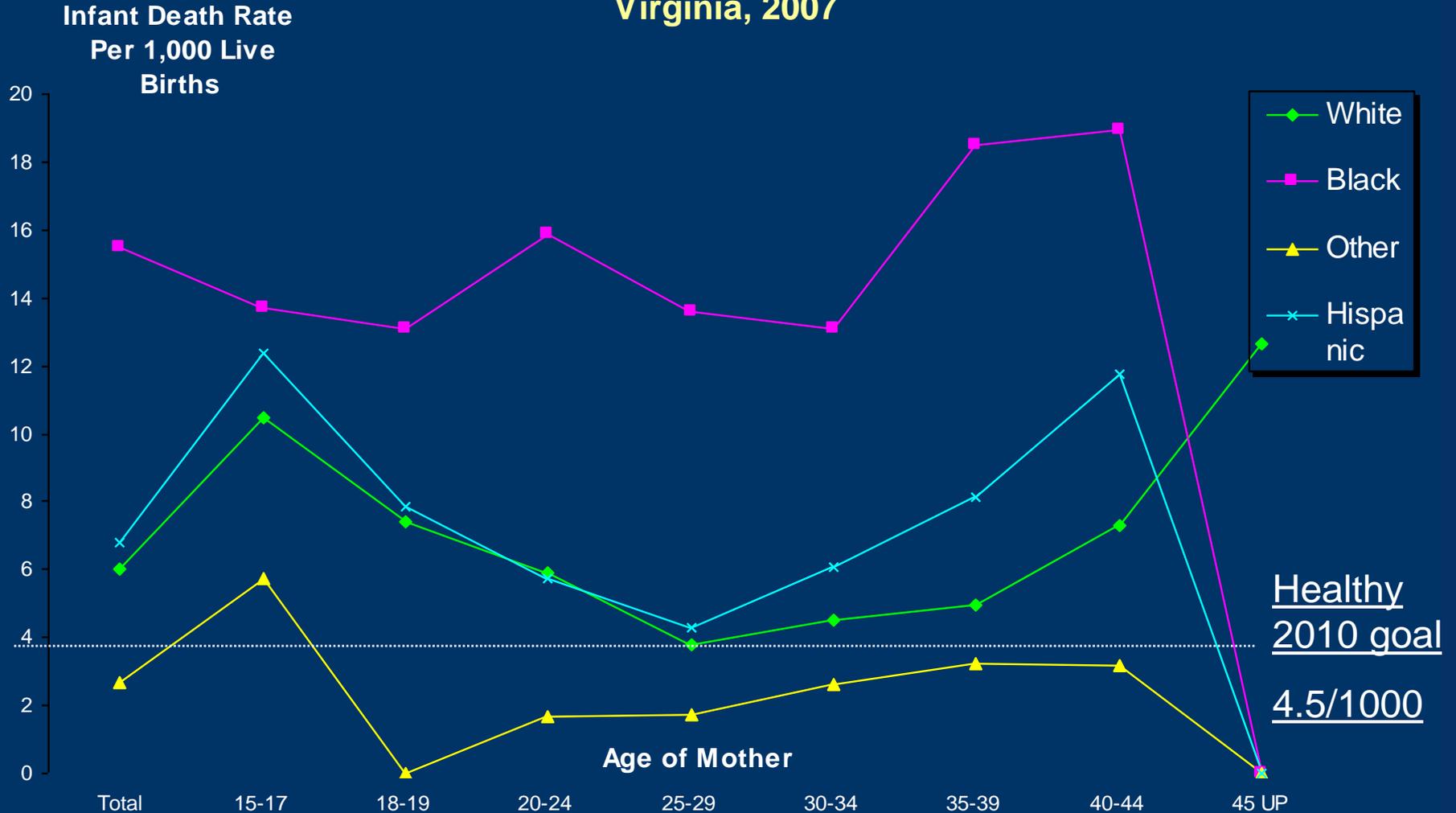
Live Births 2003-05 by City/County

(Quintiles)



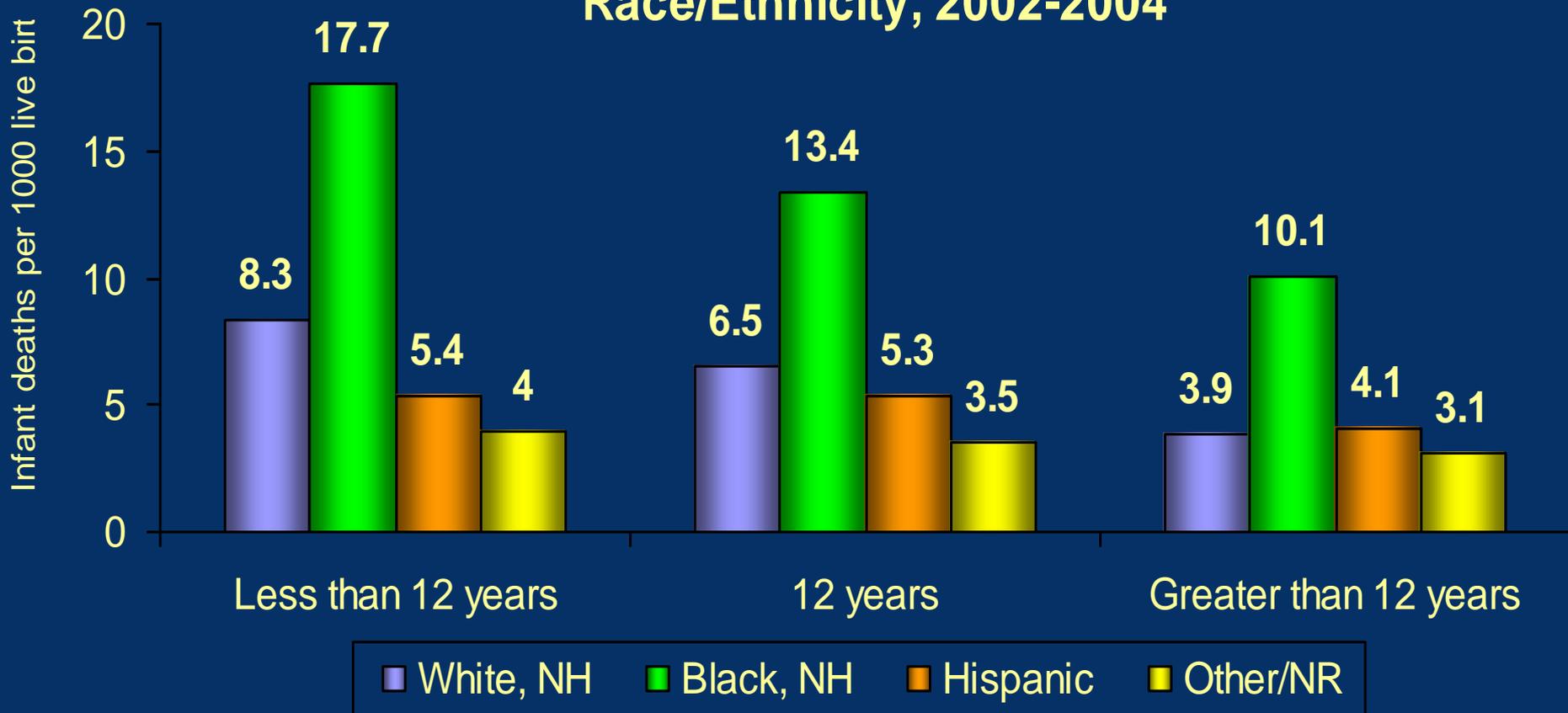
Infant Mortality- Maternal Age

Infant Death by Age of Mother at Birth Per 1,000 Live Births Virginia, 2007



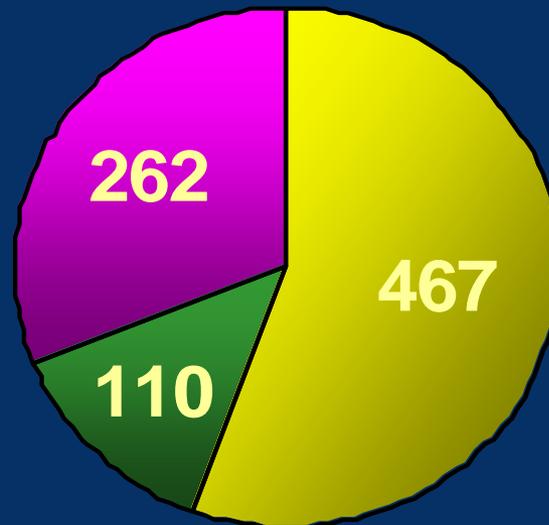
Infant Mortality – The Problem

Infant Mortality in Virginia by Education and Race/Ethnicity, 2002-2004



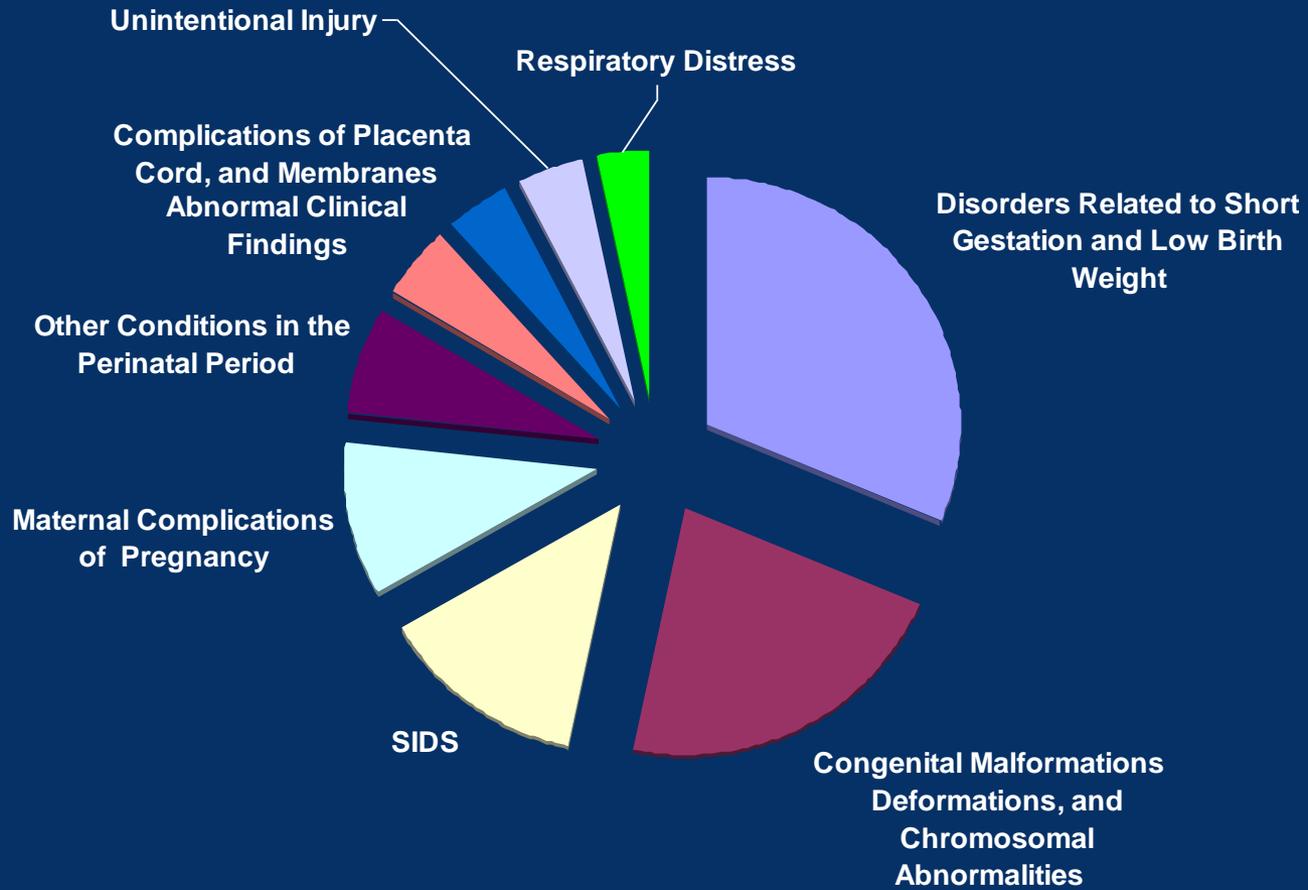
Infant Mortality – The Problem

Infant Mortality by Age at Death Virginia 2007
(preliminary data)

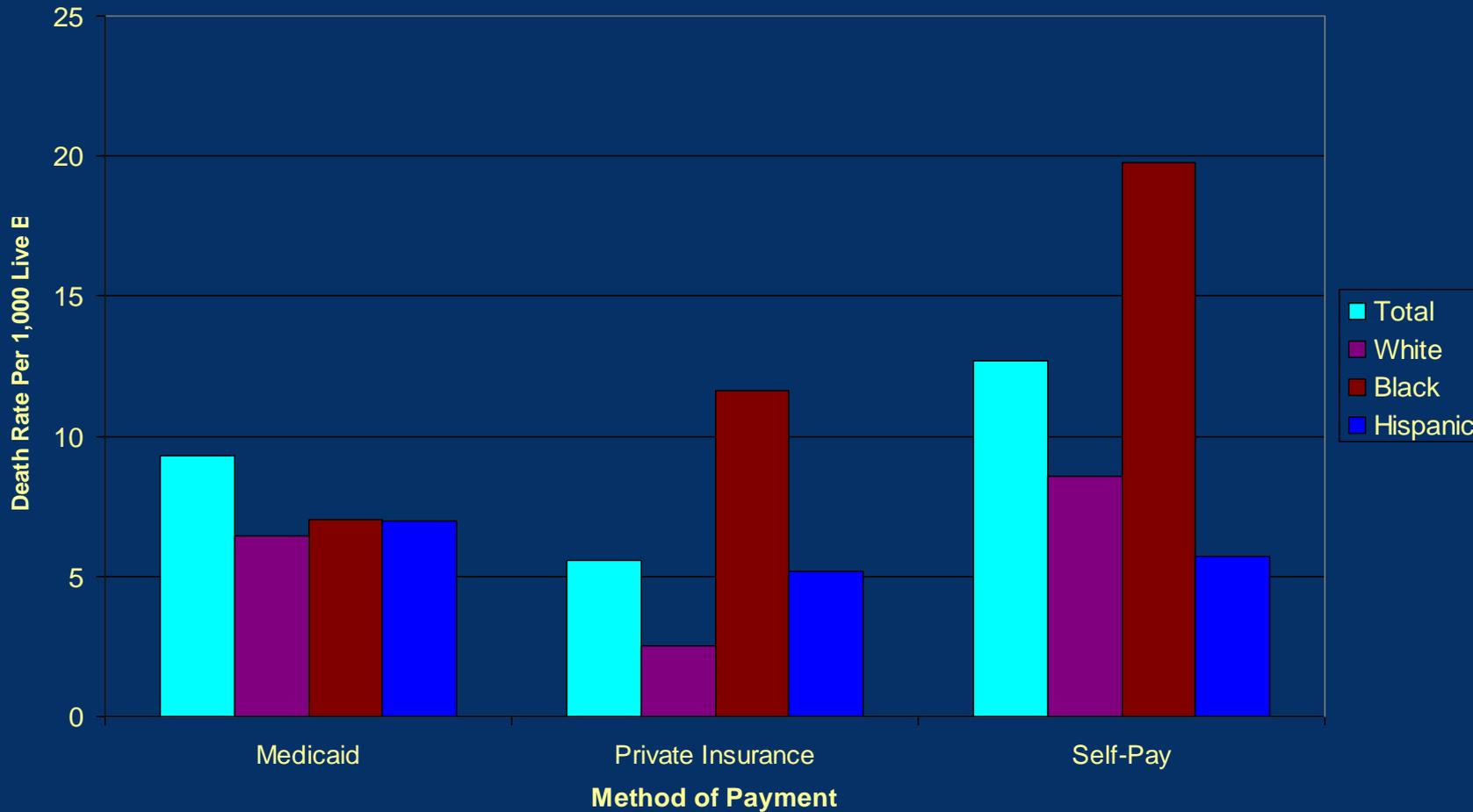


■ Under 7 Days ■ 7- 28 Days ■ Over 27 Days

Top 9 Causes of Infant Death Virginia, 2007



Resident Infant Death Rates by Method of Payment By Race/Ethnicity Virginia, 2007

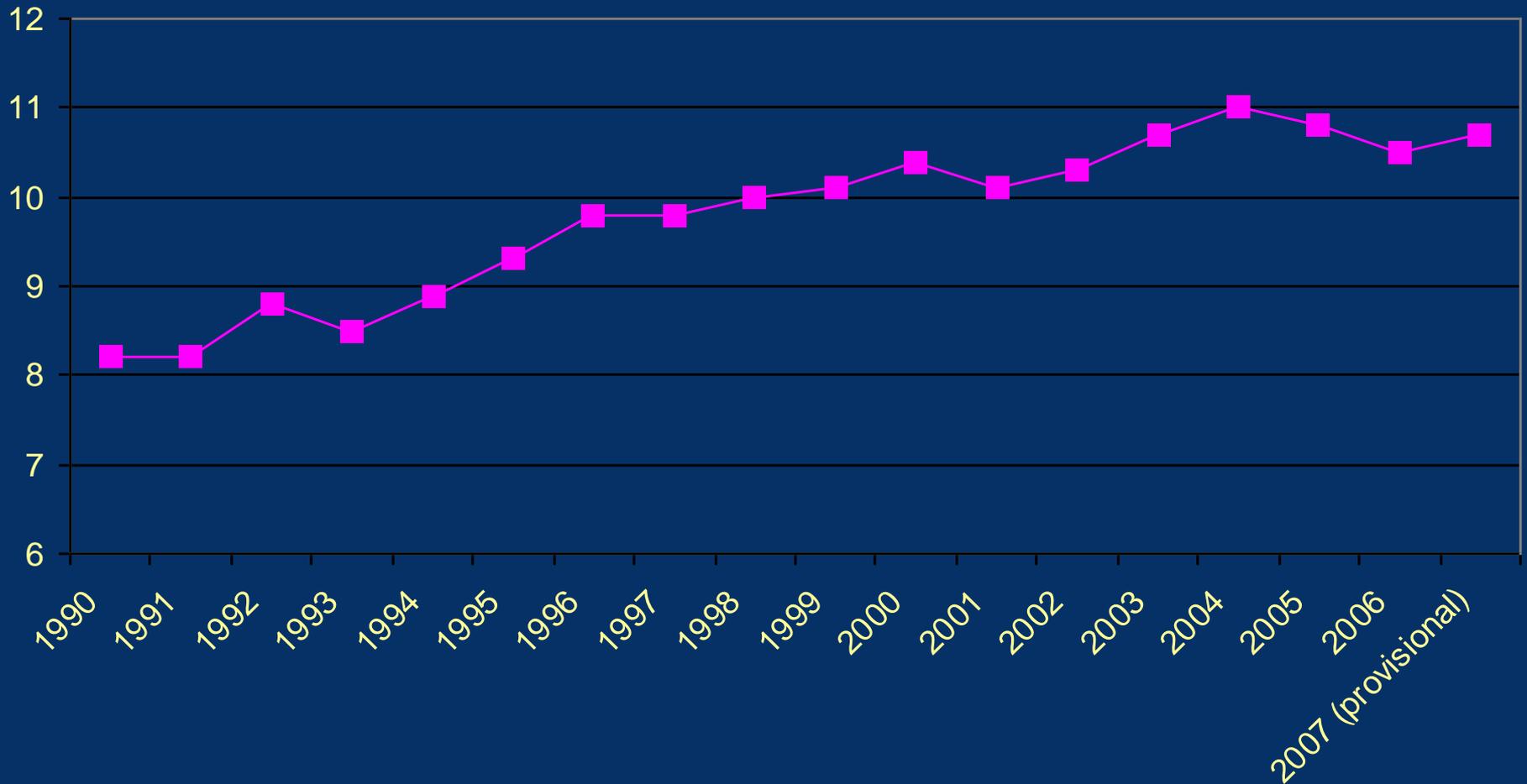


Infant Mortality - Just the Tip of the Iceberg...



Prematurity - the Problem

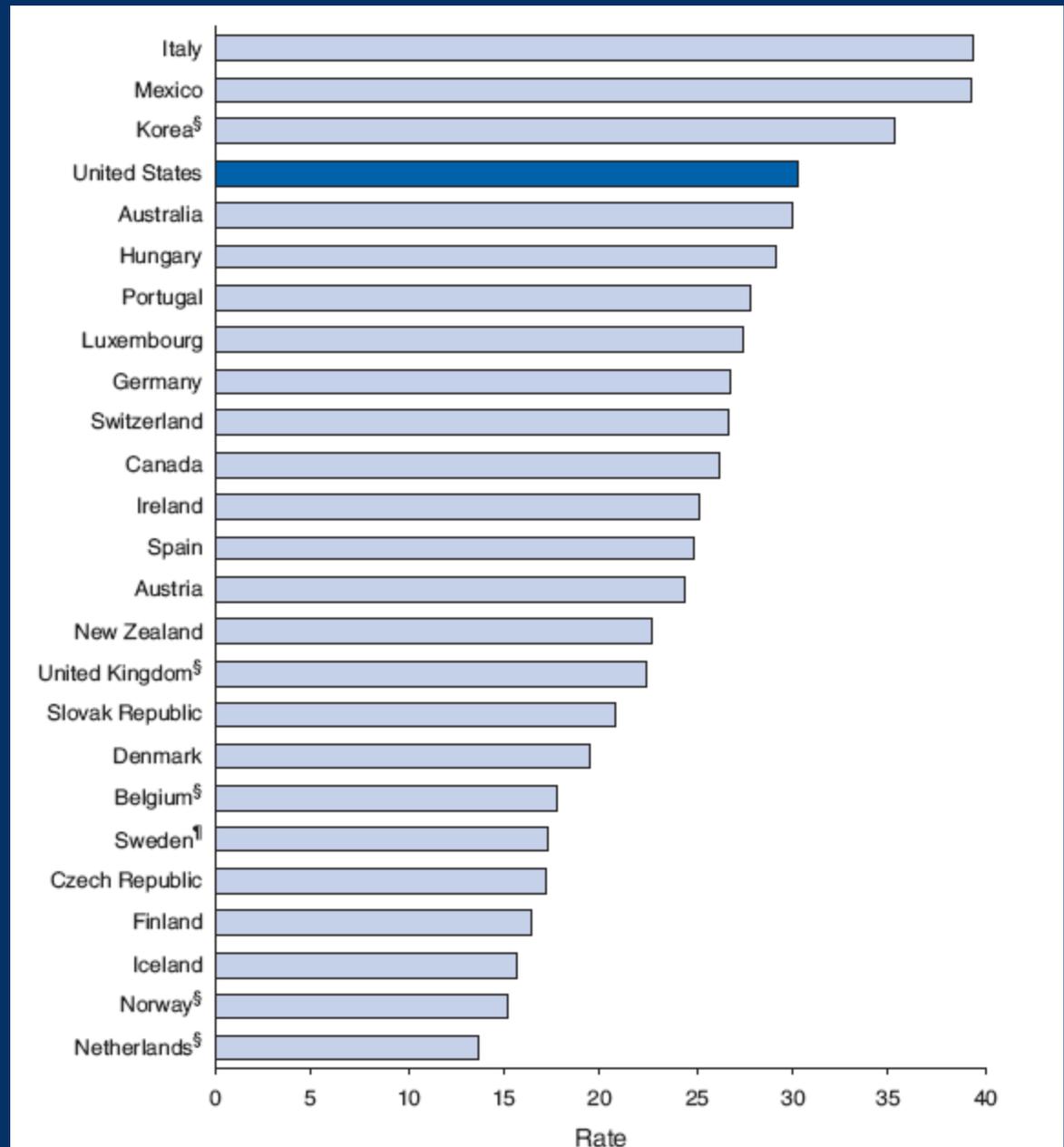
Preterm Births In Virginia as Percent of Total Births



Cesarean Section Rates* - Selected Countries 2005

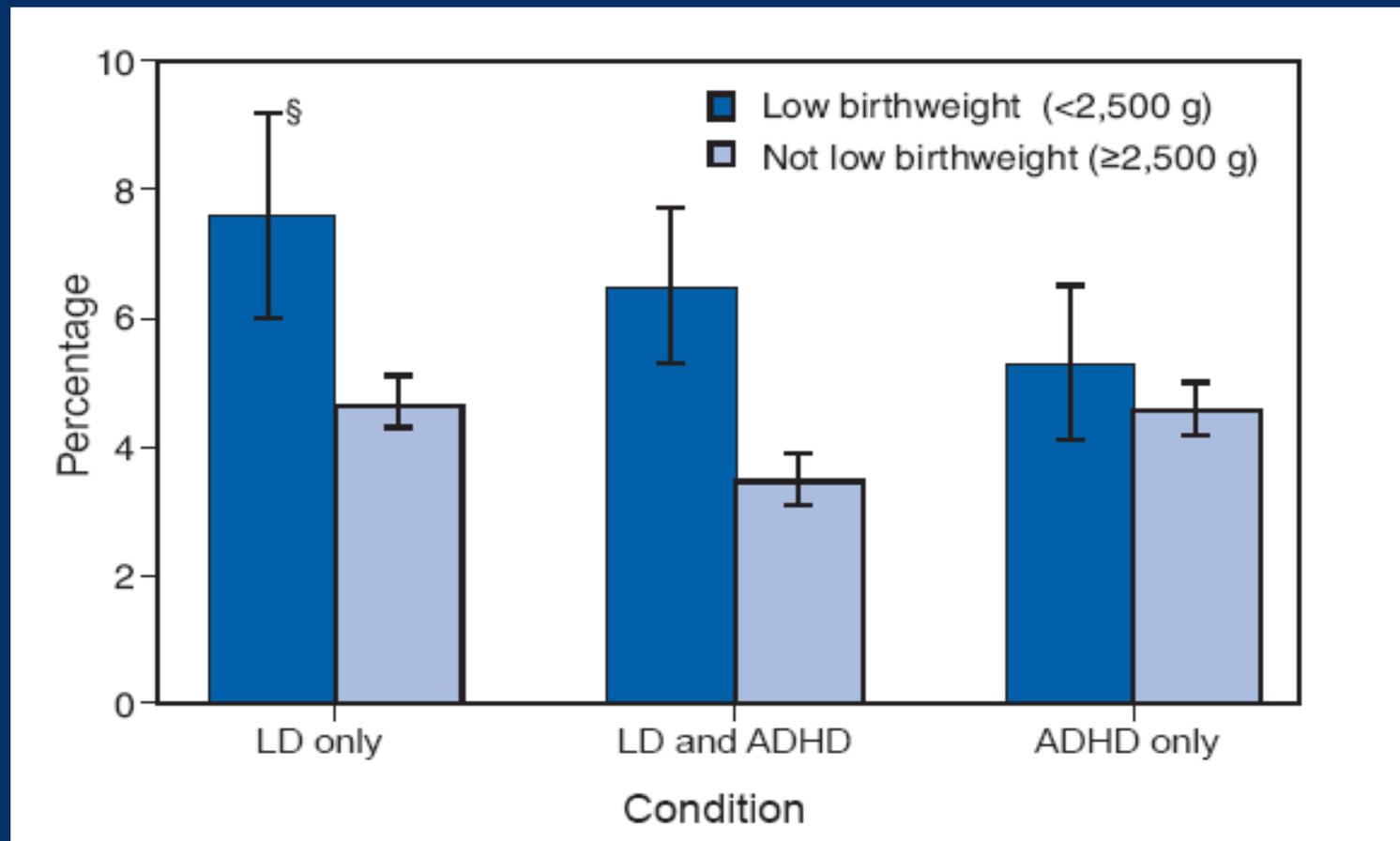
*Per 100 live births

Data source: Organization
For Economic Co-operation
And Development



Prematurity - the Problem

Percentage of Children Aged 6--17 Years with Learning Disability (LD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), by Birthweight* --- National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2004--2006†



Infant Mortality

Causes

- Prematurity
- Low Birth Weight
- Congenital Defects
- Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Syndrome (SUIDS)
- Intrauterine Infections
- Infections in early infancy
- Child Abuse- Shaken babies

Solutions

- Opportunities for interventions:
 - Good prenatal nutrition, including folate
 - Maternal health behaviors/effects
Tobacco/alcohol/substance use; stress; obesity; racism, etc.
 - Planned pregnancy with early entry into quality prenatal care
 - Prevention of preterm & low birth weight births
 - Infant sleep position and environment
 - Family/caretaker violence & safe home
 - Home visiting nurses
 - Immunization of child, family and community

“Saving Babies” Initiative

Saving Babies Initiative

- Awarded Request for Results Grants
- Targeted 10 localities with the highest number of infant deaths from 2001 - 2005
- Identify specific areas and populations in a locality at special risk for infant mortality
- Collaboration with other stakeholders

Results

- Saving Babies Successes Across the Board
 - Determining which women are at highest risk
 - Increasing awareness of the signs and symptoms of premature labor
 - Promoting education about sleep position and safe sleeping
 - Improving coordination of efforts among private and public providers
 - Enhancing outcomes through folic acid, insurance coverage, and transportation to prenatal care

Next Steps

- Educate all providers to importance of safe sleep, back to sleep and brain growth in utero
- Increase access - Virginia Share, increase awareness of Medicaid coverage
- Determine when/where pregnancy diagnosed and use as first “prenatal visit”
- Re-evaluate current approaches - collaboration with additional community resources- churches, sororities, etc.
- And many new options...

What else can you do?

- Multivitamins with folic acid for all women of childbearing age
- Educate all women of the need for early prenatal care
- Pertussis vaccine UTD - can receive immediately after delivery if not, father too
- Teach grandparents, babysitters importance of “back to sleep”
- Recommend dental care, cribs...



Celebrating 100 years of service to the people of Virginia

1908 - 2008

