

A breakdown of infant mortality rates in Oklahoma by maternal race reveals the consistent disparities between infant mortality rates of the African-American and White populations. The average African-American infant mortality rate of 16.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births during the period 2002 to 2006 is more than twice the White rate of 7.1. The average Native American infant mortality rate during this same period is 8.4 deaths per 1,000 live births, slightly higher than the State average. Asian-Americans had the lowest average infant mortality rate of 5.0. Because there are fewer infant deaths to minorities each year compared with the White population, infant mortality rates among minorities are more variable from year to year.