The Healthy People 2020 Objective is to reduce the infant mortality rate to no more than 6.0 per 1,000 live births.

The infant mortality rate for Los Angeles County has remained stable around 4.3 to 5.4 with an average of 4.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births between 2003 and 2013.

In 2013, African Americans comprised 7.3% (9,319) of all 128,526 live births in Los Angeles County and 16.8% (96) of all 570 infant deaths.

The infant mortality rate for African American babies in Los Angeles County is twice as high as the overall Los Angeles County rate and three times that of White babies. However, it is important to note the African American infant mortality rate has steadily decreased since the early 2000’s.

Almost 13% of African American babies in Los Angeles County were born preterm compared to 7.4% of Asian/Pacific Islander babies which has the lowest rate of preterm births in 2013.

Service Planning Areas\(^1\) 1 and 6 in Los Angeles County have the highest rate of preterm births both at 11.0% compared to 9.1% of countywide.

The low birth weight rate in Los Angeles County has remained stable in the past decade from 7.1% in 2004 to 7.0% in 2013.

When comparing the four major races/ethnicities, African American babies in 2013 have the highest rate of low birth weight births at 12.1% compared to 6.5% of Hispanic and White babies.

Los Angeles County is divided into eight “Service Planning Areas” (SPA’s) for health care planning purposes. Each SPA has an Area Health Office that is responsible for planning public health and clinical services according to the health needs of local communities.

\(^*\)Infant Mortality Rate: Infant deaths occurring at less than 365 days per 1,000 live births.

\(^*\)Preterm Live Birth Rate: Live births occurring at less than 37 weeks of gestation and greater than or equal to 17 weeks per 100 live births.
Maternal, Child, & Adolescent Health
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
September 2016

Note: Racial/ethnic categorization has been revised in this report; data from previous year reports may not be comparable.
Records that cannot be assigned to any Service Planning Area are classified as "Unknown".
Numbers fewer than 5 are shown as "<5". Rates are not calculated (N/C) if number is fewer than five.