What is Infant Mortality?

- Infant Mortality (IM) is defined as the number of babies who die before their first birthday.
- The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is expressed as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

In the United States, 6 out of 1,000 children will die before their first birthday. (AMCHP, 2015)
In 2014, the IMR in Kansas was 6.4 per 1,000 live births.

Five Year Infant Mortality Disparity Ratios by Population Groups
Sedgwick County, 2005-2014

The black, non-Hispanic infant mortality rate has remained at least twice that of the white, non-Hispanic rate for most of the last 20 years. Kansas’ black infant mortality rate was the highest in the nation.

What Causes Infant Mortality?
Infant Deaths by Cause, 2010-2014

- “Other” may include complications of the umbilical cord, placenta or membranes
- Congenital abnormalities (birth defects)
- Prematurity/low birth weight (baby is born preterm - less than 37 weeks or weighs less than 5 pounds 8 ounces) in Kansas for those infants who did not survive to their 1st birthday they were 20 times more likely to have been born premature.
- SUIDS (Sudden Unexpected/Unexplained Infant Death Syndrome) includes SIDS, suffocation/strangulation in bed as well as unknown
- Maternal complications (problems the mother may experience during pregnancy)
  - Almost 2/3 of the deaths were involving infants who were less than 2,500 grams (5.5 lbs)
  - SIDS - Sudden death of a child less than 1 whose death cannot be explained after a complete investigation including at the scene and autopsy.
  - SUIDs - Includes SIDS, suffocation/strangulation in bed or sleeping position as well as all unknown causes of death.

Five Year Average Infant Mortality Rate By Population Group of Mother - Kansas, 1995-2014

While the infant mortality rates in Kansas for White, non-Hispanic, and Black, non-Hispanic has decreased for the most recent period (2010-2014), the rate for Hispanic (any race) has increased for the same time period.

The White Non-Hispanic rate is 5.1.
The Black Non-Hispanic five-year rate 12.5 (2.6 times higher than the White non-Hispanic rate). Which was the highest in the nation.
The Hispanic five-year rate is 7.5 (1.5 times higher than the White non-Hispanic rate.)