Sedgwick County Health Department
Healthy Babies Program

Education
Assessment & Referrals
Support

Increased Knowledge
Medical Home
Improved Maternal Health
Improved Birth Outcomes

316-660-7433 or healthybabies@sedgwick.gov
1900 E. 9th St. N., Wichita or sedgwickcounty.org
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.)