



Figure 2. Infant, neonatal, and postneonatal mortality rates, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2017

State

- By state, infant mortality ranged from a low of 3.66 infant deaths per 1,000 births in Massachusetts to a high of 8.73 in Mississippi (Figure 3, Table 3).
- Eleven states had infant mortality rates significantly lower than the national infant mortality rate of 5.79: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, and Washington.
- Fifteen states and the District of Columbia had infant mortality rates significantly higher than the U.S. infant mortality rate: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Tennessee.

Gestational age

- In 2017, 67% of infant deaths were to infants born preterm (less than 37 weeks of gestation) (Table 2, Table A).
- Infant mortality rates were highest for infants born before 28 weeks of gestation (384.39 infant deaths per 1,000 births), rates declined through 41 weeks (1.51), and then increased at 42 weeks or more (3.98).
- In 2017, the mortality rate for infants born before 28 weeks of gestation was 183 times the rate for term infants (37–41 weeks of gestation) (2.10).

Leading causes of infant death

- In 2017, the five leading causes of all infant deaths were congenital malformations (21% of infant deaths), disorders related to short gestation and low birthweight (17%), maternal complications (6%), sudden infant death syndrome

Table A. Infant mortality rate, by gestational age: United States, 2015–2017

Year	Less than 32 weeks	32–33 weeks	34–36 weeks	37–41 weeks	42 weeks or more
Deaths per 1,000 live births					
2017	187.56	20.50	8.50	2.10	3.98
2016	190.15	20.12	8.65	2.19	4.31
2015	193.54	20.79	8.76	2.17	4.20

SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Linked birth/infant death file.