

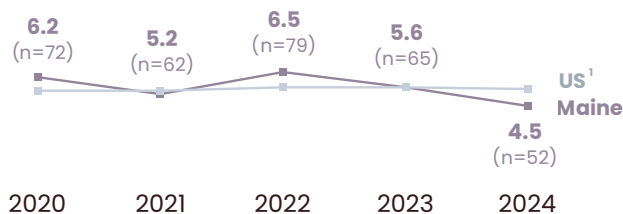


Infant Mortality in Maine, 2024

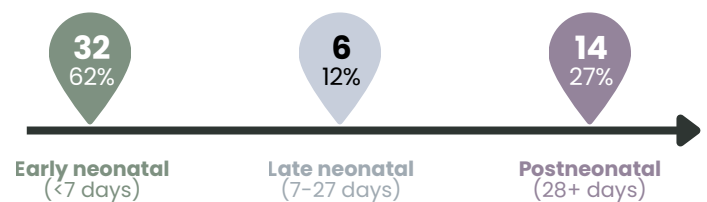


Prevalence and Timing

In 2024, there were **52** deaths to Maine resident infants <1 year of age. The infant mortality rate was **4.5 deaths per 1,000 live births**.



More than half of the infants in 2024 died during the **early neonatal period** (within 7 days of birth).



Causes of Death

The three most common causes of infant death were **preterm-related**, **congenital anomalies**, and **other perinatal causes**. These three causes account for **73%** of the infant deaths in 2024. The remaining deaths were caused by SIDS/SUID (n=9), infections (n=2), and other causes (n=3).

Preterm-related (n=16)

1.4 deaths per 1,000 live births



Congenital anomalies (n=12)

1.0 deaths per 1,000 live births



Other perinatal causes (n=10)

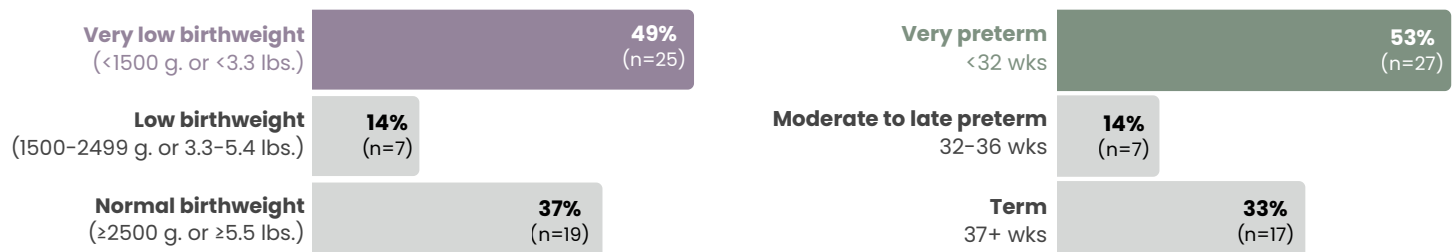
0.9 deaths per 1,000 live births



See page 3 for additional information on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SIDS/SUID) in Maine.

Birth Characteristics

Preterm and low birthweight infants are at increased risk of morbidity and mortality compared to their term and normal birthweight peers.² The majority of 2024 infant deaths in Maine occurred to **very low birthweight** and **very preterm** infants.



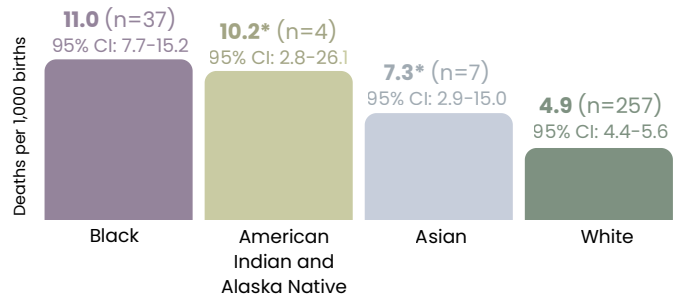
Disparities in Infant Mortality, 2020-2024

Demographic, socioeconomic, and maternal health characteristics of infant deaths occurring between 2020-2024 (n=330) in Maine



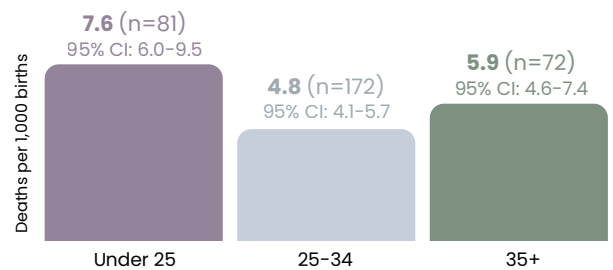
Race

Black and **American Indian and Alaska Native** birthing people experienced a higher infant mortality rate than **Asian** and **white** birthing people.**



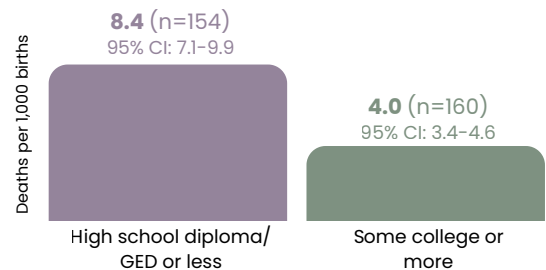
Age

Infants born to birthing people **under age 25** experienced a higher mortality rate than infants born to birthing people **ages 25-34** and **ages 35+**.†



Education

Infants born to birthing people with a **high school diploma/GED or less** experienced a higher mortality rate than infants born to birthing people with **at least some college education**.†



Infant mortality rates were also higher for birthing people...



who received **inadequate prenatal care**.†



for whom **MaineCare/Medicaid** was the primary delivery payer†



who **smoked cigarettes** at all during pregnancy†

*Rates are calculated with fewer than 20 in the numerator. Interpret with caution.

**Infant mortality rates were higher for Black and American Indian/Alaska Native birthing people compared to white birthing people. These differences were not statistically significant due to sample size leading to unstable estimates, but the patterns mirror national inequities in infant mortality. Statistical significance was determined by comparing 95% confidence intervals.

† Infant mortality rates were significantly higher for birthing people under age 25, with a high school diploma or less, who received inadequate prenatal care, who were insured by MaineCare, or who smoked cigarettes during pregnancy.

Data source: Linked birth / infant death records, Maine CDC Data, Research, and Vital Statistics (DRVS)

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT INFANT MORTALITY?

The Maine Maternal, Fetal, and Infant Mortality Review (MFIMR) Panel is charged to:

- identify factors that contribute to maternal, fetal, and infant mortality
- identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current maternal/infant health care delivery system
- make recommendations to decrease the rate of maternal, fetal, and infant mortality.



For more information, visit [Maine's MFIMR Panel website](#).



SIDS/SUID in Maine

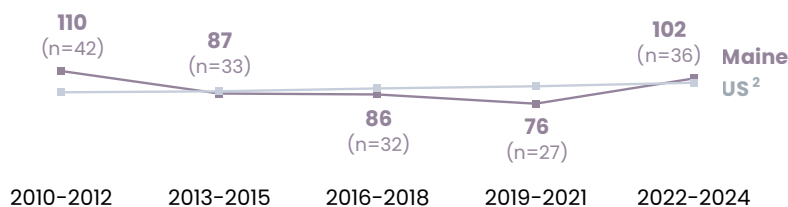
Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) is a death to an infant under 1 year of age due to SIDS, ASSB, or an unknown cause.

SUID is often, but not always, sleep-related.

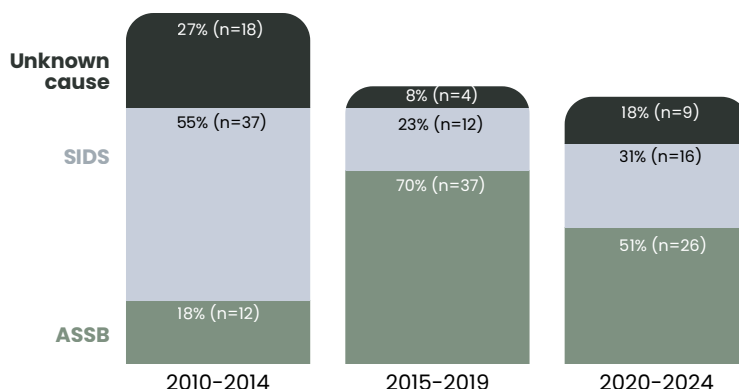


SUID often occurs during sleep or in the infant's sleep environment, and safe sleep practices can help to reduce SUID risk. However, SUID includes deaths due to unknown causes, and these deaths may occur outside of a sleep environment.

The **US** has been experiencing a steady increase in SUID over time despite decreases in overall infant mortality.¹ Maine has experienced more variation in the statewide SUID rate. In 2022–2024, the SUID rate in **Maine** was **102 deaths per 100,000 live births**.



In recent years, **ASSB** has been the most common cause of SUID in Maine. The increase in ASSB from the early 2010s may reflect a combination of changes in safe sleep behaviors as well as evolving investigation and reporting methods.



SUID

SIDS

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

ASSB

Accidental suffocation or strangulation in bed

Unknown cause

Cause remains unknown after investigation

Disparities in SUID

Certain demographic and other characteristics are **more prevalent in SUIDs** compared to all live births in Maine.[‡] These factors include:

- ▶ Birthing person cigarette smoking during pregnancy
- ▶ Birthing parent substance use disorder
- ▶ Younger birthing parent age
- ▶ Low birthweight infant
- ▶ Preterm infant
- ▶ Inadequate prenatal care
- ▶ Infant not breastfed at time of hospital discharge

[‡] Determined by comparing the demographic and risk factor distribution of SUIDs to the population of all live births in Maine (2019–2023).