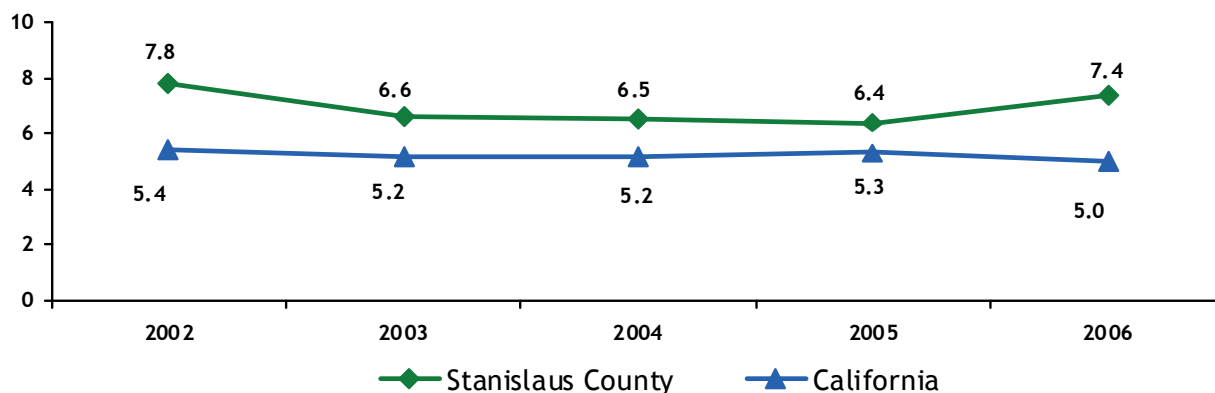


Infant Mortality

Why It Is Important

The infant mortality rate is the rate at which babies under one year of age die. In the United States, the rate has continued to steadily decline over the past several decades, from 26.0 per 1,000 live births in 1960 to 6.9 per 1,000 live births in 2000.¹⁸ Risk factors for infant mortality include poverty, low birth weight, young maternal age, low maternal education level, inadequate prenatal care, infection, and respiratory distress syndrome.¹⁹ Infant mortality can be reduced by appropriate infant care, including immunizations, and may be impacted by healthy habits during pregnancy, such as good nutrition and avoidance of tobacco.²⁰

Figure 67: Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births



Source: State of California, Department of Health Services, Death and Birth Records, 2008.
 Stanislaus County 2002 N: 7,929; 2003 N: 8,022; 2004 N: 8,061; 2005 N: 8,445; 2006 N: 8,728.
 California 2002 N: 529,245; 2003 N: 540,827; 2004 N: 544,685; 2005 N: 548,700; 2006 N: 562,157.

 **New data not available**

Data Summary

Stanislaus County consistently had a higher infant death rate per 1,000 live births between 2002 and 2006 than California. During this time period, the infant death rate remained fairly constant in Stanislaus County (ranging from 6-8 deaths per 1,000 live births) and in California (at 5 deaths per 1,000 live births).

¹⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Infant Mortality Fact Sheet*, 2007.
¹⁹ Community Partnerships, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford, *Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Needs in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties*, 2003.
²⁰ Community Partnerships, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford, *Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Needs in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties*, 2005.