

# 2011 February

## Birth Outcomes & Fetal/Infant Mortality

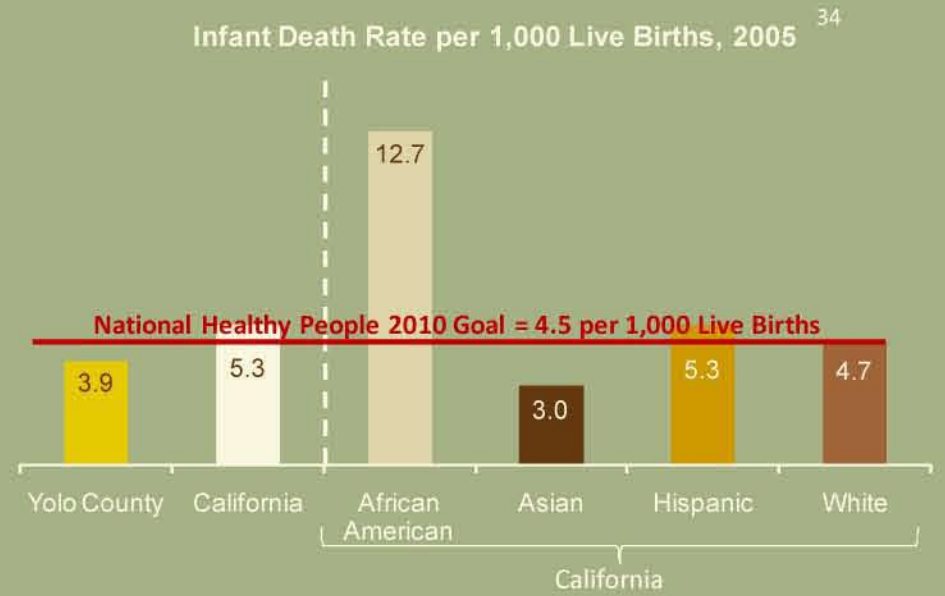
The health of a community is reflected in the health of its infants.



Snow geese, Tule Ranch. © Dave Feliz.

Healthy birth and infancy are important measures of our community's overall health. Measures of fetal and infant mortality and other birth outcomes such as prematurity rates and birth weight are often used to compare the health status of nations, states, and communities and play an important role in identifying disparity.

Fortunately, in Yolo County, fetal and infant deaths remain relatively rare events and rates have continued to trend downward over the past 20 years. Yolo County's fetal death rate and infant death rate both compare favorably to the statewide rate and to national objectives.<sup>78</sup> Significant disparity is evident statewide when comparing infant death rates by race, with African Americans experiencing significantly higher infant death rates than other groups.<sup>34</sup>



American Heart Month • National Cancer Prevention Month • National Children's Dental Health Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2 Groundhog Day	3 Chinese New Year (Rabbit)	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 County Holiday President's Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	1	2	3	4	5

### Low Birth Weight & Prematurity

Low birth weight (infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds) and preterm infants (infants born before the 37th week of gestation) are at increased risk of significant health problems. Perinatal tobacco and substance use and late entry into prenatal care are associated with low birth weight and prematurity. Often the cause of premature labor is unknown. In 2008 about 8% of all babies born to Yolo County residents were born prematurely and 5% of all births were low birth weight.<sup>80</sup>

Statewide, African Americans, American Indians, and Pacific Islanders experience higher preterm rates and African Americans experience significantly higher low birth weight rates than other groups.<sup>34</sup> In Yolo County, these populations are relatively small and disparity may not be apparent locally due to small numbers.

### High Birth Weight

High birth weight (infants born weighing more than 8.8 pounds) is also recognized as an important birth outcome. Large infants are at increased risk for health problems during and immediately after delivery. In addition, these infants appear to be at higher risk of obesity and diabetes later on in life.<sup>79</sup> In Yolo County, 15% of non-Hispanic infants and 10% of Hispanic infants are born high birth weight.<sup>79</sup> Major contributing factors to high birth weight are maternal obesity and gestational and type 2 diabetes.<sup>79</sup>

### Yolo County by the Numbers...

#### Low Birth Weight Rate

- U.S. Goal = 5% or Lower
- Yolo Co. 5%<sup>80</sup>
- California 7%<sup>34</sup>

#### Preterm Birth Rate

- U.S. Goal = 7.6% or Lower
- Yolo Co. 8%<sup>80</sup>
- California 11%<sup>34</sup>

#### High Birth Weight Rate

- U.S. Goal = no goal
- Yolo Co. 12%<sup>80</sup>
- California 8%<sup>79</sup>

### Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)

The Yolo County Health Department has maintained a FIMR Program since 1998. The purpose of FIMR is to understand how a wide array of social, economic, health, environmental, and safety issues relate to infant death on a local level and to use that information to improve community resources and systems of care. Infant sleeping position and co-sleeping, maternal chronic health problems, substance use and limited or no prenatal care are some of the contributing factors noted in a large proportion of these deaths. The FIMR Team coordinates efforts to develop community-wide interventions that work to eliminate preventable infant and fetal death in our community.

- Yolo County Birth and Death Statistics
- Birth Weight & Gestation
- Infant Mortality
- Yolo County Health Department FIMR Program

[www.yolohealth.org](http://www.yolohealth.org) (click on 'Health Statistics' on left toolbar)  
[www.cdc.gov/nchs/FASTATS/birthwt.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/FASTATS/birthwt.htm)  
[www.cdc.gov/omhd/amh/factsheets/infant.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/omhd/amh/factsheets/infant.htm)  
 Call (530) 666-8645 or 1-800-794-6517