

# The Silent Epidemic

## Uniting to Reduce Infant Mortality

Joint Commission on Health Care  
Healthy Living and Health Services Subcommittee

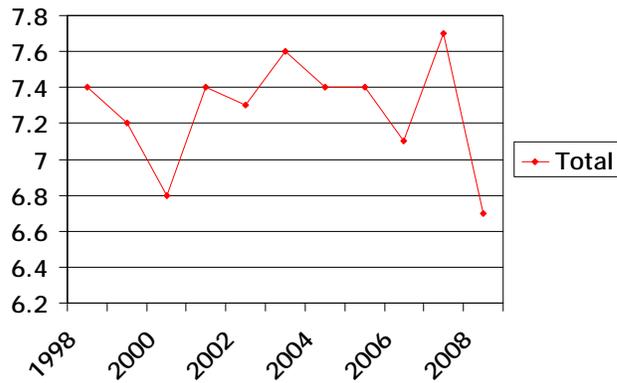
August 12, 2009

## Infant Mortality: The Problem - Virginia

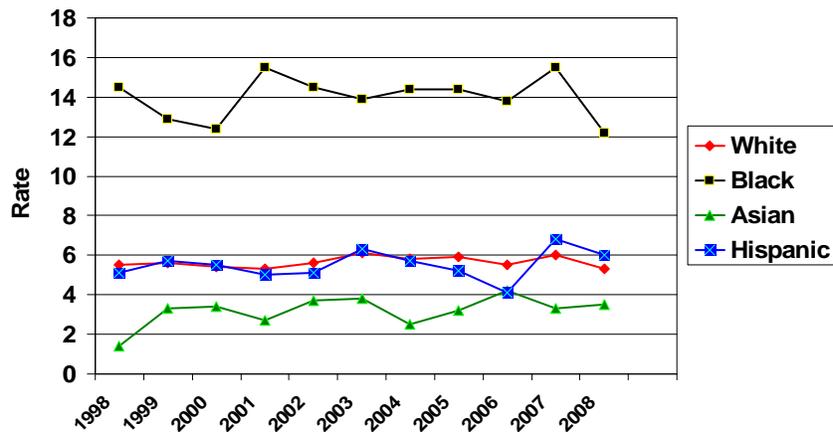
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- Only ranks within the **top 30 states** for protecting the lives of infants
- Infant mortality rate ranked **18<sup>th</sup> highest** in the nation by the CDC in 2006
- Infant mortality rate **twice as high** for African-Americans
- Virginia's 2008 rate has been reduced to the lowest in State history

### Total Infant Mortality Rates Per 1,000 Births in Virginia



### Infant Mortality Rates Per 1,000 Births By Race/Ethnicity 1998-2008



## Examples of Targeted Interventions

Expansion of the FAMIS MOMs program to 200% of the federal poverty level:

BabyCare Program

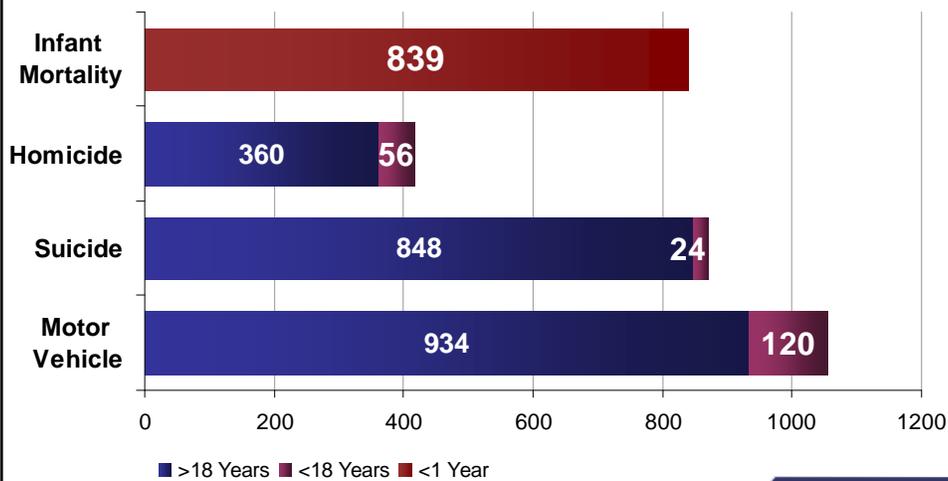
VDH Saving Babies Initiative

Grants to the ten localities with the largest number of infant deaths

Resource Mothers Program

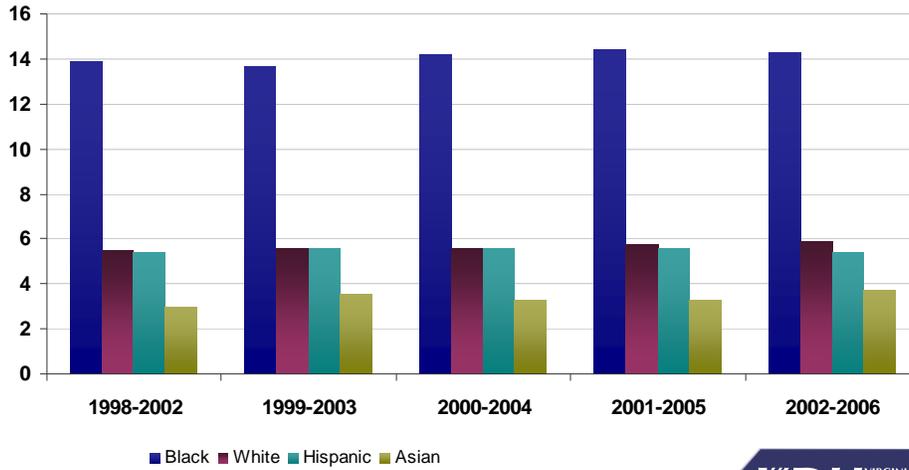


## Infant Mortality: Comparative Deaths



## Infant Mortality: 5 Year Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity

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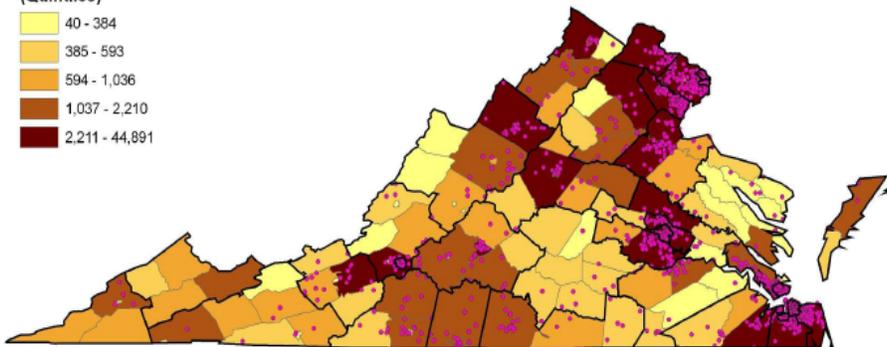
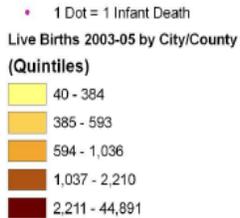


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## Infant Mortality: By Geography

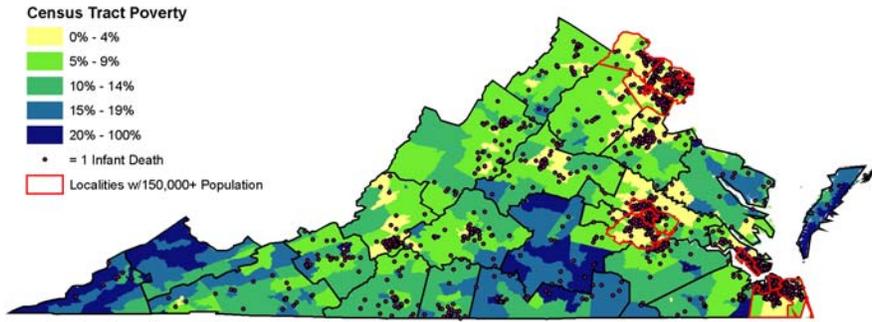
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Infant Deaths 2003-05 - VA residents by number of live births

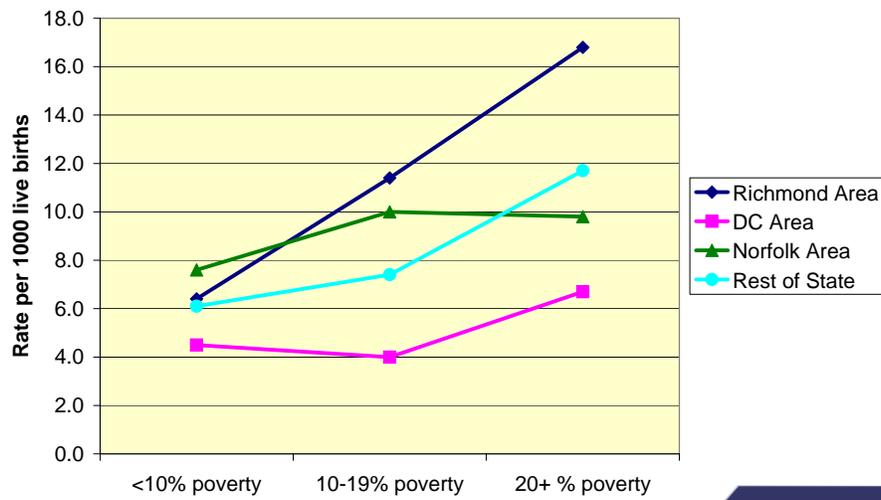


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### Infant Deaths 2003-05, Virginia Residents, by Tract-Level Poverty



### Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000) by Census Tract Poverty Level and Region of VA, 2003-2005



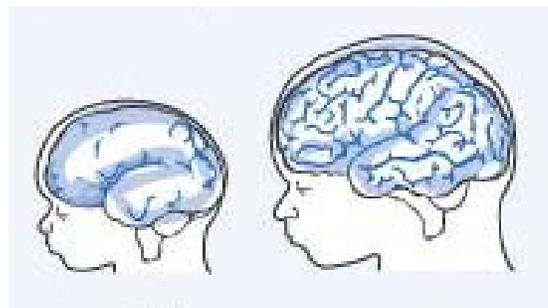
## Infant Mortality: Top Causes 2007

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1. Prematurity
2. Birth defects
3. SIDS
4. Complications of pregnancy
- 5-7. Miscellaneous conditions
8. Accidents
9. Respiratory distress

## Prematurity and Late Preterm Births

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**35 Weeks**

**39 Weeks**

## Changing Attitudes

### Engage

- Healthcare Providers
- Pregnant women and their families
- Community Groups
- Health Insurers



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## Infant Mortality Reduction: Raise Awareness

- Communicate the facts
- Provide intervention tips
- Support the Commissioner's Infant Mortality Workgroup



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## Infant Mortality Reduction: Spread the Word

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- Control Weight
- Don't Smoke
- Don't Drink
- Take Vitamins with Folic Acid
- Visit Your Dentist
- Breastfeed