Data notes
- Infant mortality is the number of deaths among infants less than 12 months of age per 1000 live births.
- Infant mortality is a global indicator of population health.
- Each data point below shows the annual death rate averaged over 3 years.

Average annual infant mortality rates and 95% confidence intervals for Pierce County and Washington State—1990-2007

Data summary
- Pierce County and Washington State have both seen a gradual decline in infant mortality. Neither, however, has attained the Healthy People 2010 goal of 4.5 deaths per 1000 live births.
- Infant mortality was consistently higher in Pierce County than in Washington State.
- Infant mortality is higher in the United States than in other developed nations. This can be attributed to larger numbers of preterm births and to somewhat lower survival among full term infants.


* Death rates are three-year rolling averages, calculated as the number of infant (< 1 year of age) deaths per 1000 live births
Data notes

- Race and ethnicity are socially, not biologically, defined constructs. Although they are imprecisely defined, race and ethnicity are frequently associated with certain health outcomes.
- The data below show the annual death rate averaged over 3 years.

Data summary

- Infant mortality rates were higher for Native Americans and blacks than for whites, Asian and Pacific Islanders, or those of Hispanic ancestry, both in Pierce County and in Washington.
- Groups with higher mortality also had higher rates of preterm births. In Pierce County about 15% of Native American and black births were preterm; about 10% of births in other race/ethnicity groups were preterm.