



HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES

Coalition of Georgia

Improving maternal and infant health in Georgia through advocacy, education and access to vital resources since 1974.

INFANT MORTALITY IN GEORGIA

The 5 leading causes of infant mortality in the United States:

1. Birth Defects
2. Preterm Births
3. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
4. Maternal Pregnancy Complications
5. Injuries (e.g. suffocation)

Infant Mortality in Georgia from 2010—2016:

Year	# of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)
2010	836	6.3
2011	904	6.8
2012	878	6.7
2013	931	7.2
2014	1,004	7.8
2015	1,023	7.4
2016	962	7.4*

Infant Mortality—defined as the death of an infant before they reach their first birthday.

The average stay in a neonatal intensive care unit is more than \$150,000 per infant, and can easily reach \$500,000.

*The national infant mortality rate in 2016 was 5.9.

Sources: Georgia Department of Public Health (OASIS), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Georgia has four federally funded programs to address infant mortality in communities with rates that were 1.5 - 2.5 times the national average:

Atlanta Healthy Start Initiative
(Atlanta, GA)

Heart of Georgia Healthy Start
(Dublin, GA)

Enterprise Community
Healthy Start
(McDuffie & Burke Counties)

Healthier Generations
(Clayton County)

READY TO GET INVOLVED? Email us at thecoalition@hmhbga.org. Visit our website to sign up for weekly advocacy updates at www.hmhbga.org.

SAVE-THE-DATE: Join us on February 21, 2018 at CLOB 605 from 10AM to 2PM, and from 12PM to 1PM in the South Wing of the State Capitol, for Infant Mortality Awareness Day at the Capitol. All are welcome.



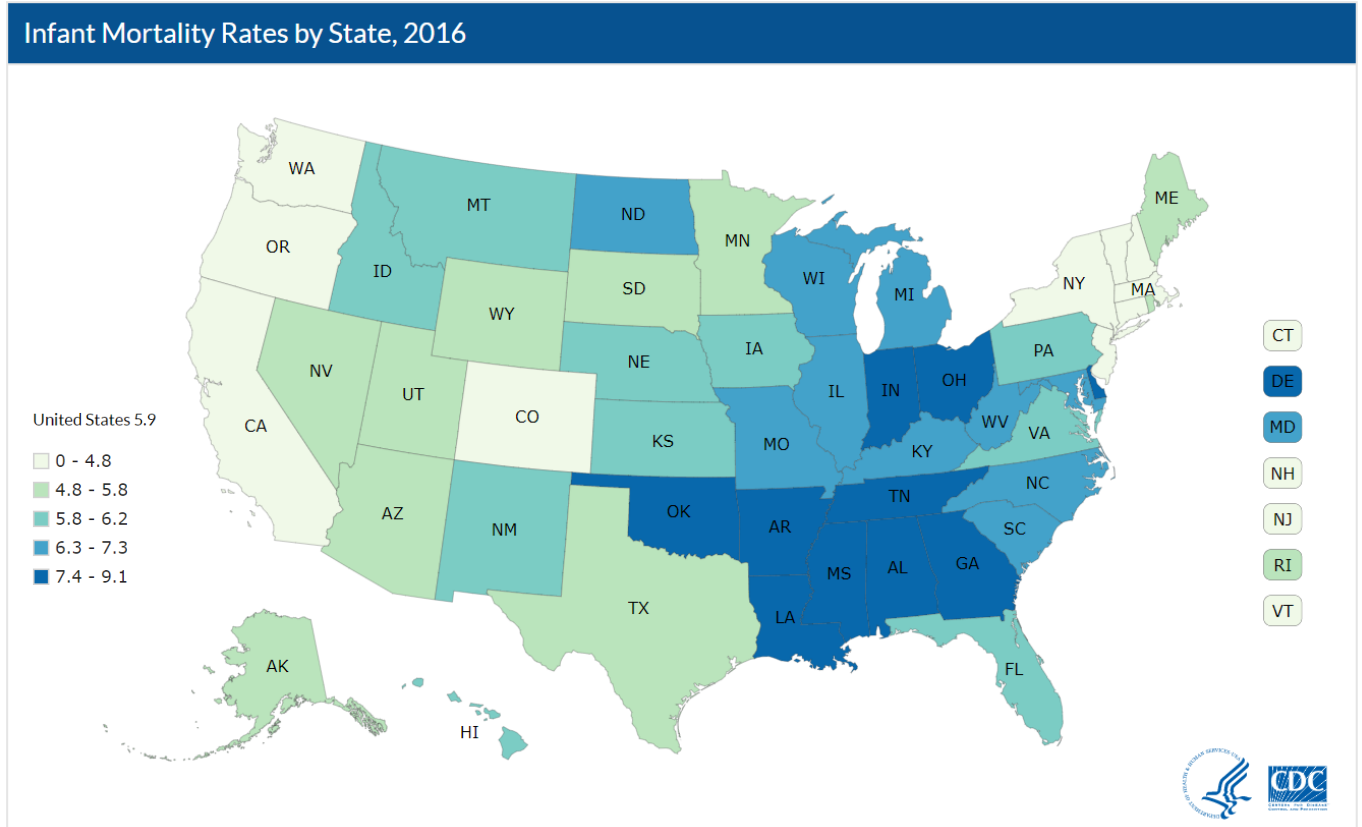
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Georgia has consistently ranked poorly in terms of national infant mortality rates. **Georgia is currently ranked 43rd in the United States.**



Key strategies toward decreasing infant mortality include:

- **Improving access to and use of ongoing prenatal and postpartum care.** Group Prenatal Care is a model that has been successful in reducing the number of low birth-weight and premature infants, in addition to improving other maternal and infant health outcomes.
- **Reducing maternal obesity.** We support early intervention to prevent obesity with school-aged children. We also support access to preventative care and insurance coverage, especially for women who would only have coverage via pregnancy Medicaid.
- **Reducing maternal smoking, alcohol and illicit substance consumption.** We recommend raising the tobacco tax which has been shown to reduce tobacco use. Georgia has one of the lowest tobacco taxes (\$0.37) in the US (ranking 48th).
- **Increasing home nursing visits to reduce the incidence of sudden infant death syndrome and accidents.** We support programs to educate parents and providers to prevent sleep related deaths. We also support an increase to the Federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funding for home visits with high-risk families in Georgia. These funds do not require a state match.