In 2016, the Tarrant County infant mortality rate was **6.21** per 1,000 live births, a **23% decrease** from 2007 and above the Healthy People 2020 goal of 6.0

Tarrant County had the **second highest** infant mortality rate among Texas counties with at least 10,000 live births in 2016.

**Non-Hispanic Black** residents consistently had higher infant mortality rates than all other race/ethnicity groups in Tarrant County, but this rate decreased significantly from 2007 to 2016 (**13.6 vs. 9.3 deaths per 1,000 live births**).

Out of the possible 71 rankable causes of infant death, **five** were responsible for **more than 60%** of all deaths among Tarrant County infants from 2012-2016.

**Birth defects** were the leading cause of infant deaths in Tarrant County, responsible for **1 out of 5** infant deaths from 2012-2016.
Figure 3. Infant mortality in Texas counties with 10,000+ live births, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2016 IMR</th>
<th>Percent change from 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bexar</td>
<td>6.46</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant</td>
<td>6.21</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>6.03</td>
<td>4.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>5.95</td>
<td>-12.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denton</td>
<td>4.81</td>
<td>37.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidalgo</td>
<td>4.55</td>
<td>-2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collin</td>
<td>4.52</td>
<td>12.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Paso</td>
<td>4.46</td>
<td>5.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis</td>
<td>3.94</td>
<td>-1.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2016, Non-Hispanic Black residents had a historically low infant mortality rate.

Figure 4. Infant mortality by race/ethnicity among Tarrant County residents, 2007-2016

In 2016, Non-Hispanic Black residents had a historically low infant mortality rate.

Figure 5. Leading causes of death among Tarrant County infants, 2012-2016

- **Birth Defects**: 22.6%
- **Premature / Low Birth Weight**: 14.2%
- **Sudden Infant Death Syndrome**: 12.8%
- **Maternal Complications of Pregnancy**: 9.5%
- **Complications of Placenta, Cord, and Membranes**: 4.3%

Birth defects are consistently the leading cause of death among Tarrant County infants.

Resources available at Tarrant County Public Health [health.tarrantcounty.com]

- **Nurse Family Partnership**: Home nurse visits for eligible first time moms throughout their pregnancy and until their baby turns 2 years old
- **WIC**: Helps families eat well, learn about nutrition, and stay healthy
- **For Her Health**: Pap tests, family planning, referrals
- **17P Initiative**: Case management for pregnant women at risk for a repeat preterm birth
- **Health For Me**: Self-management class for persons with diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and other chronic conditions

For other community resources: Call 2-1-1

IMR = Infant Mortality Rate = number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births
HP 2020 Goal = Healthy People 2020 Objective: decrease infant mortality to 6.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births
Data sources: Texas Department of State Health Services
Data Brief provided by: Division of Epidemiology and Health Information