

Definition/Description:

Infant mortality is internationally recognized as a population health measure of a community. It is considered a health status indicator for the level of mortality, health status, health care of a country, and the effectiveness of preventive and pre-natal care received by the mother. Caution must be used when interpreting and comparing this indicator to other populations as limitations include differences in the definition of live births and stillbirths and differences in the time period used in the denominator to generate the rate. This is particularly important when international comparisons are made. For the purposes of this report, international comparisons were not made.

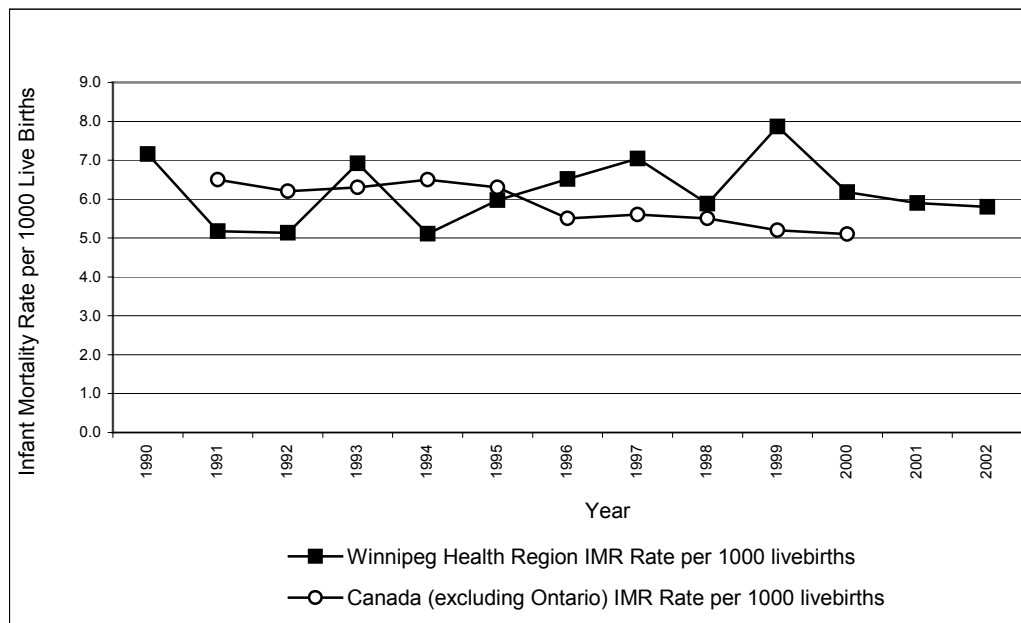
Infant mortality rate (IMR) refers to the death of a live born infant within the first year of life. Perinatal deaths are the combination of stillbirths and early neonatal deaths. Early neonatal deaths occur within the first seven days of life while late neonatal deaths occur between 8 and 28 days of life. Infant mortality and neonatal mortality rates have been generated for this report. The IMR is defined as the ratio of deaths less than 1 year of age to the number of live births in a given period of time.

Source:

Vital Statistics Agency, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Manitoba Finance 1990-2002.

Findings:

Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births in the Winnipeg Health Region and Canada by Year



Infant Mortality in the Winnipeg Health Region, 1990-2002

YEAR	Infant Deaths (< 1 year of age)	IMR Rate per 1000 livebirths	Postnatal Deaths (>28 Days)	Neonatal Deaths (<= 28 Days)	Per Cent of Neonatal Deaths (<= 28 Days per year)	Neonatal (<= 28 days) Mortality Rate per 1000 livebirths
1990	68	7.2	20	48	70.6	5.0
1991	49	5.2	18	31	63.3	3.3
1992	47	5.1	18	29	61.7	3.2
1993	63	6.9	18	45	71.4	4.9
1994	46	5.1	15	31	67.4	3.4
1995	50	6.0	17	33	66.0	3.9
1996	54	6.5	19	35	64.8	4.2
1997	54	7.0	16	38	70.4	5.0
1998	44	5.9	13	31	70.5	4.1
1999	59	7.9	17	42	71.2	5.6
2000	45	6.2	19	26	57.8	3.6
2001	43	5.9	14	29	67.4	4.0
2002	41	5.8	17	24	58.5	3.4
Total 1990-2002	663	6.2	221	442	66.7	4.1

Highlights:

- Over the past 13 years in the WHR, the IMR has fluctuated between 5.1 deaths per 1000 live births in 1992 and 1994 and 7.9 deaths per 1000 live births in 1999. In 2002, the IMR in the WHR was 5.8 deaths per 1000 live births. Over the past three years, there has been a decrease in the IMR, coming closer to the Canadian IMR of 5.1 per 1000 live births in 2000 (Canadian Perinatal Health Report, 2003). A decrease in the number of deaths occurring in infants between 28 days and 1 year is also reported.
- In comparison to the other ten RHAs in Manitoba, the WHR has reported the 4th smallest IMR for the period 1995-1999 (MCHP, 2003). In the Province of Manitoba, IMR range from 3.5 deaths per 1000 live births in Parkland Health Region to 10.2 deaths per 1000 live births in Burntwood Health Region for this same time period. The WHR rate is lower than that for Manitoba (6.9 deaths per 1000 live births; MCHP, 2003).