

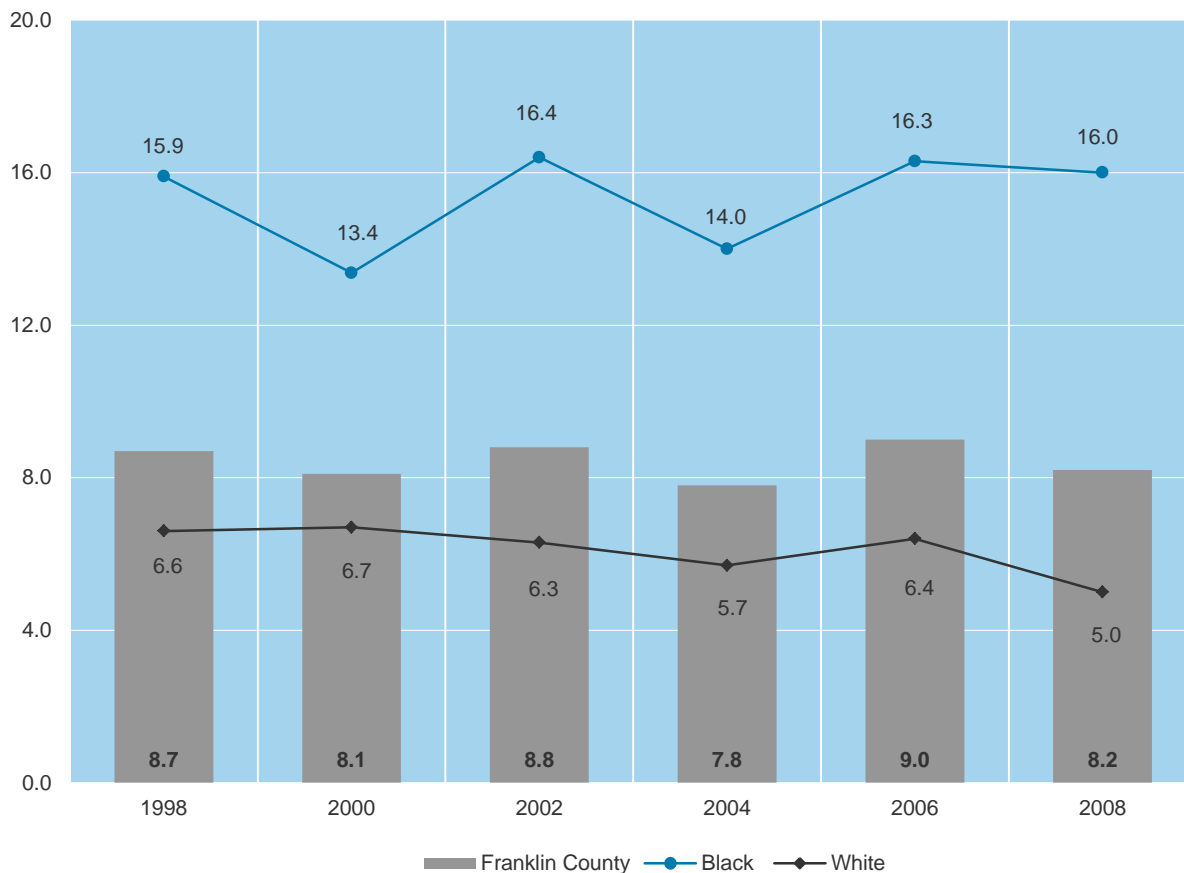
# Infant Health

**Table 1. Total Births and Percent Low Birth Weight by Race, Franklin County, 2000-2008**

Race	2000		2002		2004		2006		2008	
	# Births	% LBW	# Births	% LBW	# Births	% LBW	# Births	% LBW	# Births	% LBW
Black	4,114	12.4%	4,325	13.7%	4,776	13.1%	5,271	13.3%	5,440	14.2%
White	12,541	7.3%	11,809	7.2%	11,688	7.4%	12,163	7.8%	12,140	7.7%
Other	815	8.2%	879	9.9%	943	9.3%	793	8.4%	868	6.8%
Total	17,470	8.6%	17,013	8.9%	17,407	9.0%	18,227	9.4%	18,448	9.6%
State of Ohio	155,721	7.9%	147,832	8.3%	148,855	8.5%	150,510	8.8%	148,592	8.6%

- The number of births in Franklin County to black mothers has been steadily increasing since 2000, while births to white mothers are relatively unchanged between 2000 and 2008. The number of births to mothers of other racial groups (Asian, Native American, and other), although small compared to births for blacks and whites, nevertheless fluctuated between a high of 943 births in 2004 and a low of 793 births in 2006.
- The percentage of low birth weight births in Franklin County had been steadily increasing, from 8.6% of all births in 2000 to 9.5% in 2008. This parallels a statewide increase in low birth weight births, although statewide percentages are slightly lower; comparable figures for Ohio were 7.9% in 2000 and 8.6% in 2008. Blacks are much more likely to have low birth weight infants compared to whites, both in Franklin County and Ohio.

**Chart 1. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births by Race; Franklin County, 1998-2008**



- Infant mortality has fluctuated slightly for Franklin County between 1998 and 2008. The infant mortality rate for Franklin County varied from a low of 7.8 per 1,000 live births (136 infant deaths) in 2004 to a high of 9.0 per 1,000 live births (164 infant deaths) in 2006. The infant mortality rate for blacks was more than twice that of whites over the same time period.
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## About the Data

### Data Sources:

- Ohio Department of Health, Data Warehouse
- Ohio Department of Health, Statistical Analysis Unit, Center for Public Health Data and Statistics

### Definitions:

- **Birth rate:** Total births per 1,000 population
- **Low birth weight birth:** Live birth of an infant less than 2500 grams (5.5 pounds)
- **Infant mortality:** The death of a live born infant under 1 year of age

### Explanations and Caveats:

- Low birth weight is associated with many health problems in infants, including mental retardation and cerebral palsy, as well as being a major predictor for infant mortality. The Ohio and United States low birth weight rates have been steadily rising over the last 15 years, and Ohio has been above the national average for several years.

### Update Status:

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