
DELAWARE VITAL STATISTICS SUMMARY REPORT ■ 2007



Photo courtesy of the Delaware Tourism Office



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Public Health



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Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health: 2010

Selected Characteristics: Delaware Vital Statistics Annual Report, 2007

Population			Number*	Percent	First Trimester Care		Number*	Percent
Delaware			864,773	100.0%	White		5,684	68.8%
Kent			152,249	17.6%	Black		2,020	62.0%
New Castle			528,223	61.1%	Hispanic		941	49.1%
Sussex			184,301	21.3%	Delaware		8,092	66.9%
					Kent		1,318	58.8%
					New Castle		5,456	74.2%
					Sussex		1,318	52.8%
Marriages			Number*	5-yr Rate ¹	Reported Pregnancies		Number*	5-yr Rate ⁵
Delaware			4,970	6.0	Delaware		15,691	86.0
Kent			944	6.7	Kent		2,877	86.1
New Castle			2,670	5.3	New Castle		9,773	84.8
Sussex			1,356	7.4	Sussex		3,041	90.8
Divorces			Number*	5-yr Rate ¹	Pregnancy Outcomes		Number*	Percent
Delaware			3,215	3.8	Live Births		12,097	77.1%
Kent			721	4.8	Fetal Deaths		62	0.4%
New Castle			1,771	3.4	Induced Terminations (ITOP)		3,532	22.5%
Sussex			723	4.1				
Live Births			Number*	5-yr Rate ²	ITOP by Place of Residence			
Delaware			12,097	66.8	Delaware		3,532	71.4%
Kent			2,243	68.2	Kent		628	17.8%
New Castle			7,357	63.9	New Castle		2,371	67.1%
Sussex			2,497	76.0	Sussex		533	15.1%
					Other States		1,417	28.6%
Births to Teenagers (15-19)								
White			697	35.0				
Black			520	67.4				
Delaware			1,234	43.0				
Kent			248	45.1				
New Castle			662	37.8				
Sussex			324	58.6				
Race			Number*	Percent	Infant Mortality		Number*	5-yr Rate ⁶
White			8,264	68.3%	Delaware		90	8.5
Black			3,257	26.9%	White		52	6.2
Hispanic Origin ⁴			1,917	15.8%	Black		37	15.6
					Hispanic		19	8.0
Marital Status			Number*	Percent	Mortality		Number*	Adj. Rate ⁷
Married			6,466	53.5%	Delaware		7,245	745.6
Single			5,624	46.5%	Kent		1,255	841.7
					New Castle		4,100	752.8
					Sussex		1,890	696.7
Births to Single Mothers³								
White			3,236	39.2%	Race and Gender			
Black			2,324	71.4%	White Males		2,978	870.2
Hispanic			1,216	63.4%	White Females		3,007	611.0
					Black Males		606	1066.7
					Black Females		574	721.9
Low Birth Weight (<2500 gms)			Number*	Percent	Leading Causes of Death		Number*	Percent
All Races			1,118	9.2%	Diseases of heart		1,899	26.2%
White			617	7.5%	Malignant neoplasms		1,836	25.3%
Black			448	13.8%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases		375	5.2%
Hispanic			154	8.0%	Cerebrovascular diseases		366	5.1%
					Accidents (unintentional injuries)		304	4.2%

Notes:

* Numbers are for 2007.

1. The 5-year rate is per 1,000 population and refers to the period 2003-2007.

2. The 5-year rate refers to total live births per 1,000 women 15-44 years of age during the 2003-2007 period.

3. Percentages for births to single mothers are based on total births for the race-group.

4. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race. The percentage is based on total resident births for 2007.

5. The 5-year pregnancy rate represents the number of reported pregnancies per 1,000 women 15-44 years of age for 2003-2007.

6. The 5-year (2003-2007) infant mortality rates represent the number of deaths to children under one year of age per 1,000 live births.

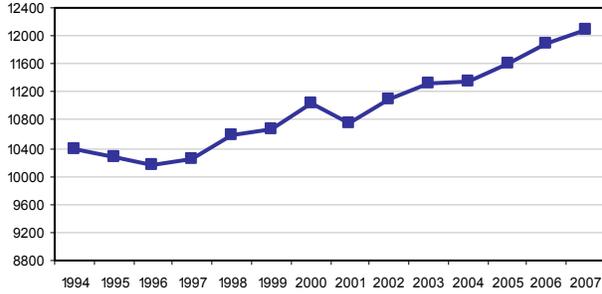
7. The 2007 mortality rates (deaths per 100,000 population) for Delaware and counties are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population.

SUMMARY

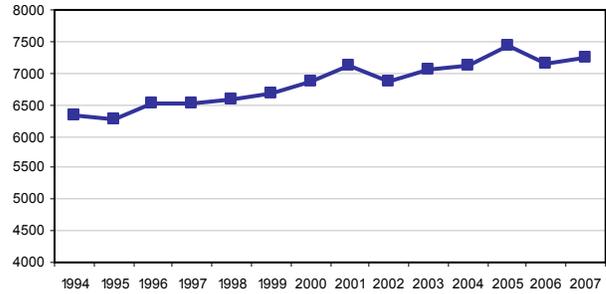
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

2007 DELAWARE VITAL STATISTICS

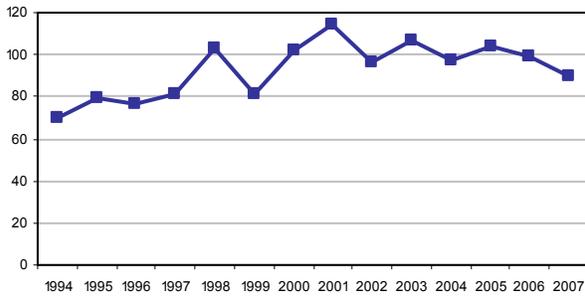
Live Births
Delaware, 1994-2007



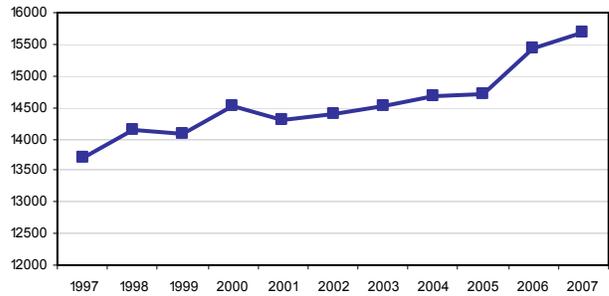
Deaths
Delaware, 1994-2007



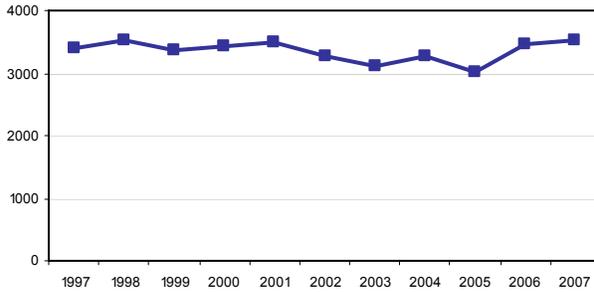
Infant (< 1 year of age) Deaths
Delaware, 1994-2007



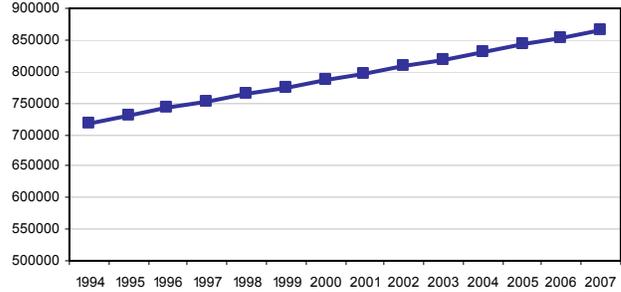
Reported Pregnancies
Delaware, 1997-2007



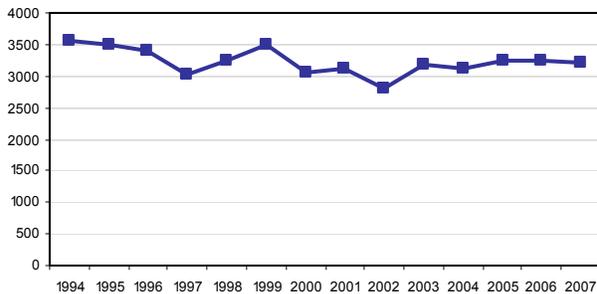
Abortions
Delaware, 1997-2007



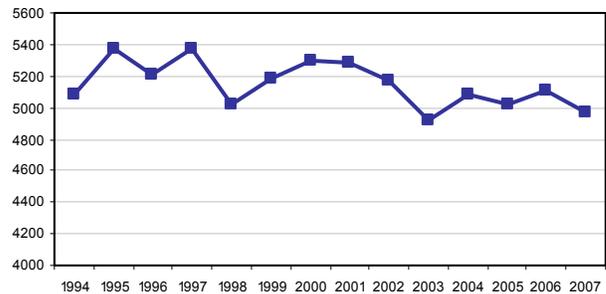
Population
Delaware, 1994-2007



Divorces
Delaware, 1994-2007



Marriages
Delaware, 1994-2007



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

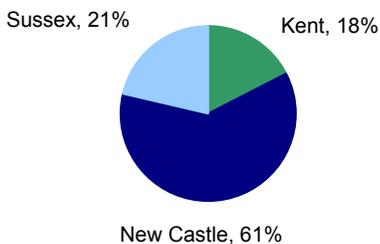
POPULATION

Each of Delaware's three counties continued their increasing population trend, though they grew at different rates. For the recent period from 2000 to 2007, county populations grew annually by 2.8 percent for Kent, 0.7 percent for New Castle, and 2.4 percent for Sussex. The overall increase for Delaware was 1.4 percent.

While Sussex County had the highest percentage of residents 65 years of age and older among the three counties (20.8% in 2007) more than half of the state's total 65+ population resided in New Castle County (see Table A-2).

Over half of Delaware's population resides in New Castle County.

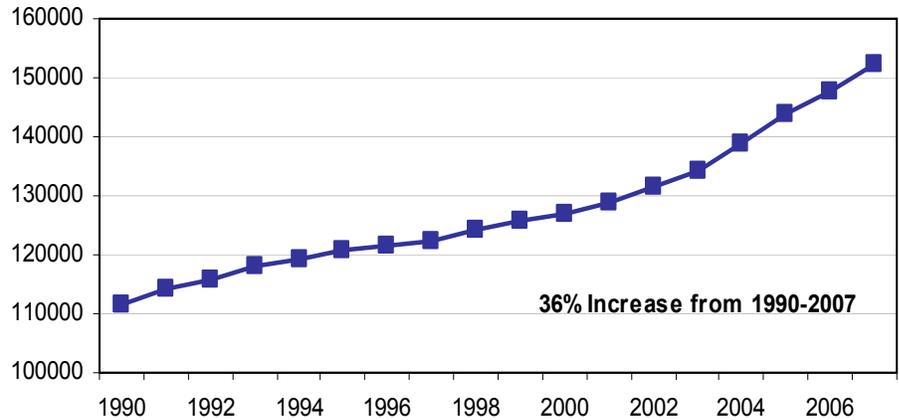
Percent of Population by County Delaware, 2007



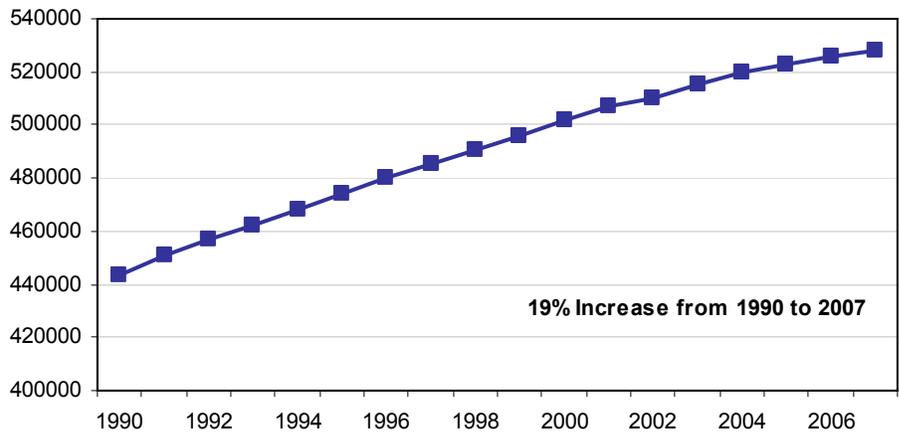
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Delaware Resident Population by County, 1990-2007

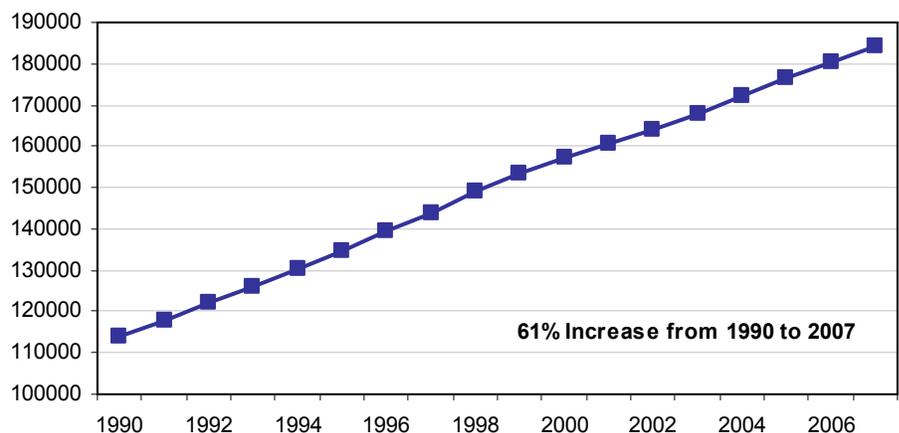
Kent County Population 1990-2007



New Castle County Population 1990-2007



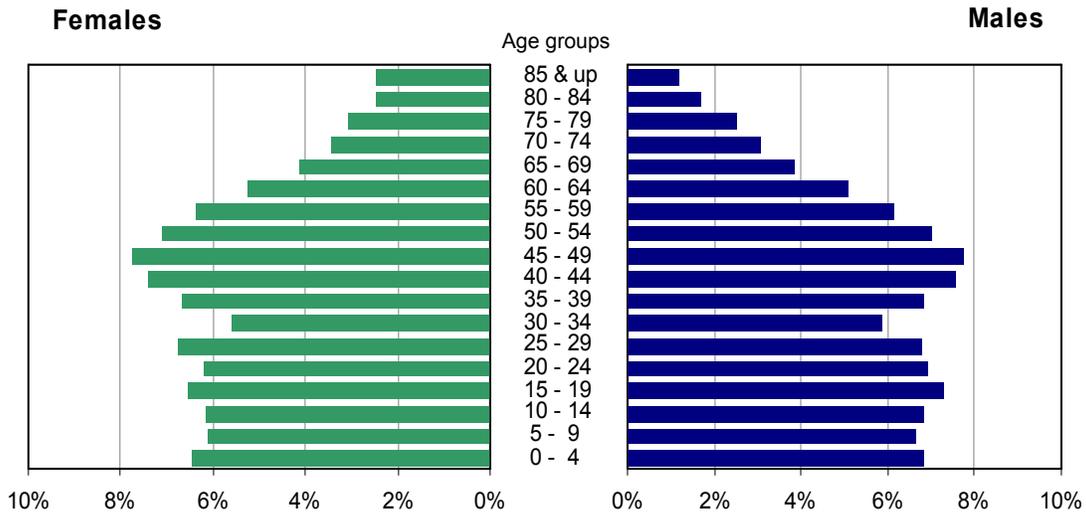
Sussex County Population 1990-2007



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

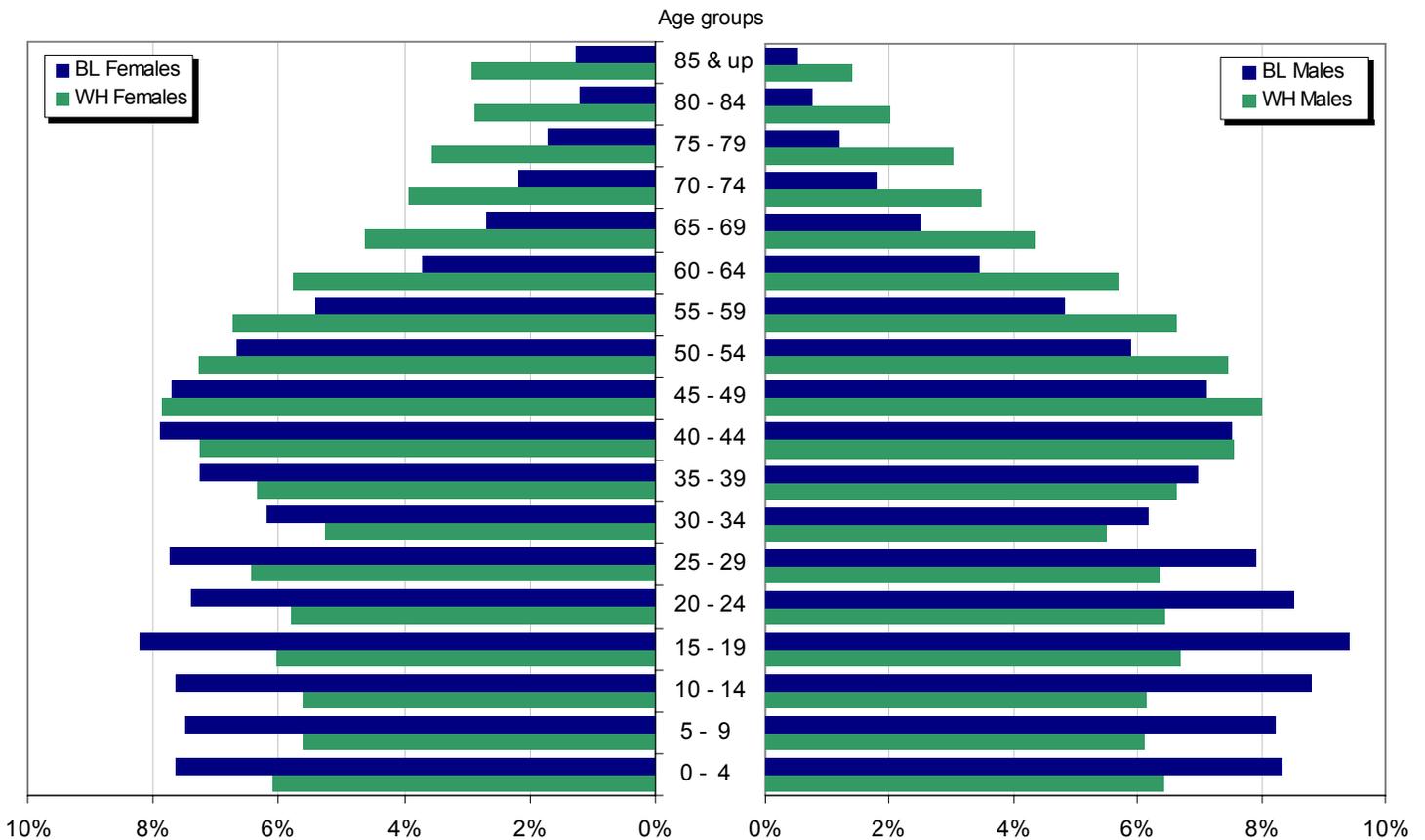
POPULATION

Just over 50 percent of Delaware's population was female in 2007. Females made up a greater proportion of the older age groups, which reflects the longer female life expectancy. Delaware females born in 2007 could expect to live an average of 81.5 years, versus males, who could expect to live 76 years.



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

When the population was broken down by race, the higher proportion of females in the older age groups appeared in the black population as well. However, both black males and females had a greater percentage of their population in the 0-39 year age range than whites; in the 45 and above age range, whites made up a greater proportion of the population.



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

There were 4970 marriages and 3,215 divorces in Delaware in 2007 (see Tables B-1 and B-11).

Marriage

Male

Youngest: 18
Oldest: 91

Female

Youngest: 16
Oldest: 85

Marriage with the greatest age difference between bride and groom: 39 years
Most popular month to get married: June (see Table B-9).

Divorce

Male

Youngest: 18
Oldest: 86

Female

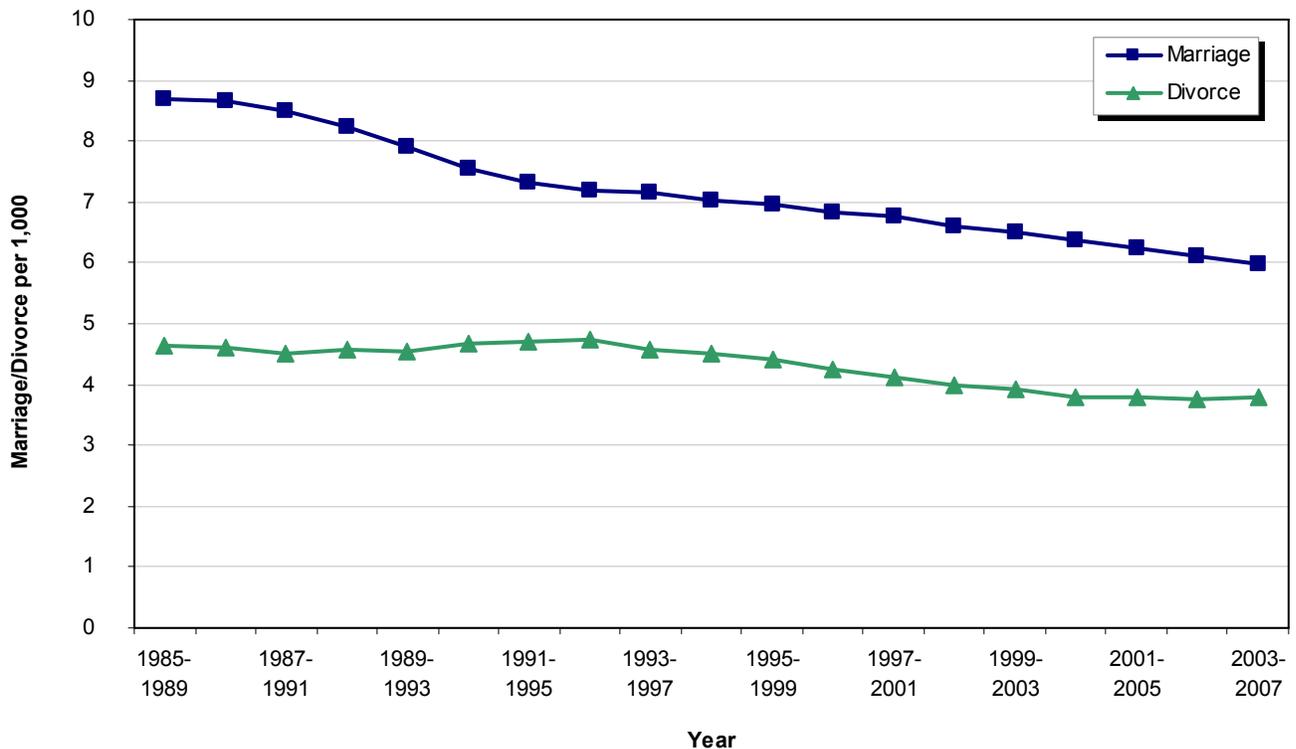
Youngest: 18
Oldest: 82

Shortest duration of marriage: 12 days
Longest duration of marriage: 49 years
Median duration of marriage: 8.1 years (see Table B-16).
Total children under 18 years of age: 2861 (see Table B-18).

The five-year average marriage rate changed very little from 1982-1986 to 1986-1990. Since that time, marriage rates have decreased 31 percent, from 8.7 to 6.0 marriages per 1,000 population in 2003-2007.

Divorce rates remained fairly stable from 1984-1988 to 1992-1996. From 1992-1996 to 2000-2004, divorce rates declined 20; since then rates have remained stable at 3.8 divorces per 1,000 population.

**Five-year Average Marriage and Divorce Rates per 1,000 Population
Delaware, 1985-2007**



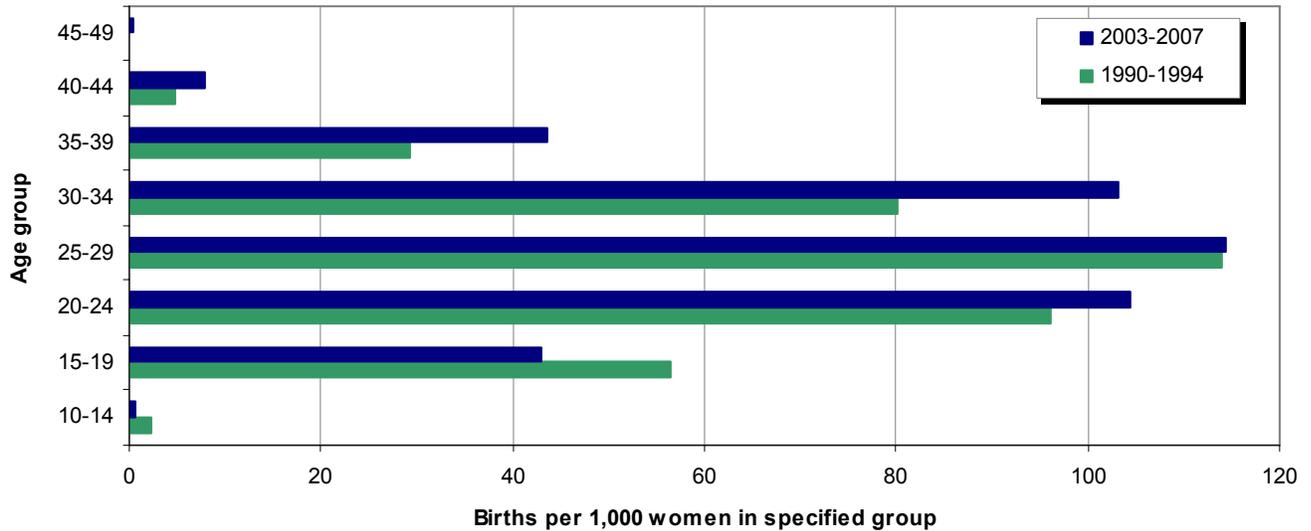
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

LIVE BIRTHS

In 2007, there were 12,527 births in Delaware, 11,519 were to Delaware residents and 1,008 were to non-residents. Additionally, 578 births to Delaware residents occurred out of state, for a total of 12,097 Delaware resident births, 199 more than in 2006.

Delaware's general fertility rate was 66.8 live births per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years in 2003-2007. However, when broken down into specific age groups, birth rates and trends varied substantially; comparing birth rates in 1990-1994 and 2003-2007 displayed a shift toward older mothers in the distribution of birth rates.

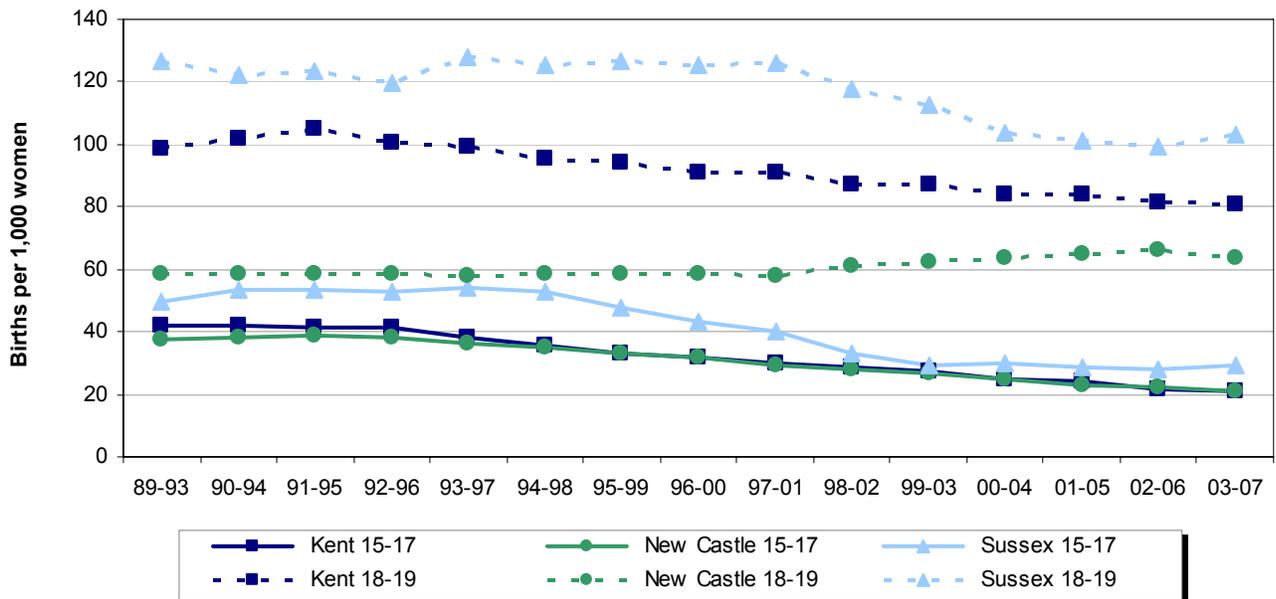
**Five-year Average Live Birth Rates by Age of Mother
Delaware, 1990-1994 and 2003-2007**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

The teen (15-19) birth rate varied by county and specific teen age groups. With the exception of Sussex County age groups 15-17 and 18-19, birth rates for all county and teen age groups declined or were stable from 2002-2006 to 2003-2007. Sussex County had the highest rates for both the 15-17 and 18-19 age groups.

**Five-year Teen Live Birth Rates by County and Age Group
Delaware, 1989-2007**

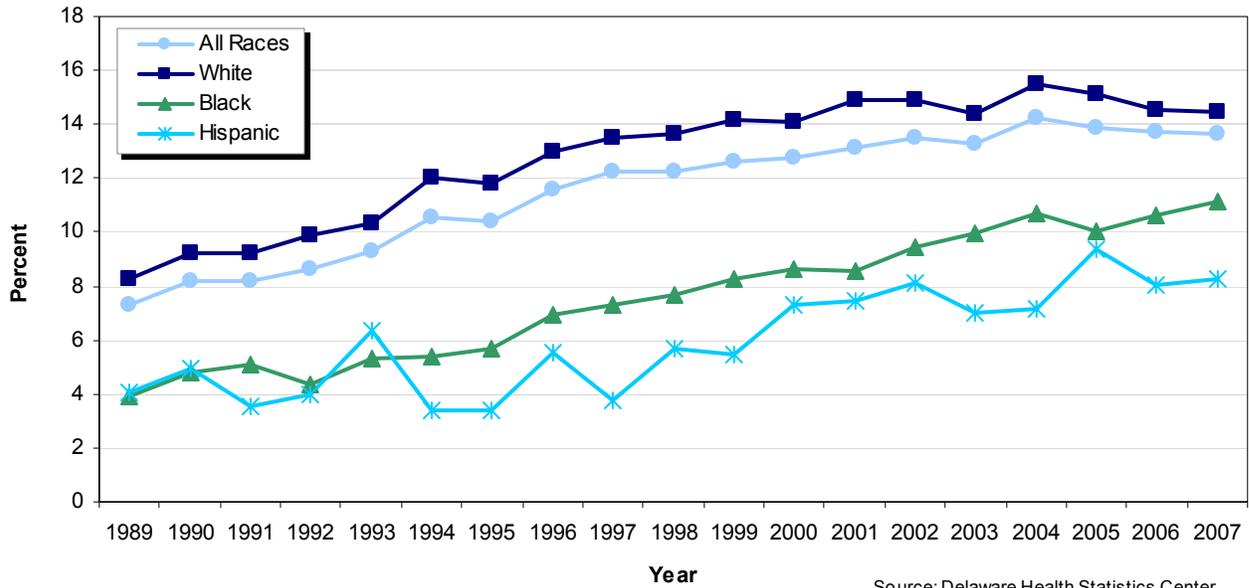


Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

LIVE BIRTHS

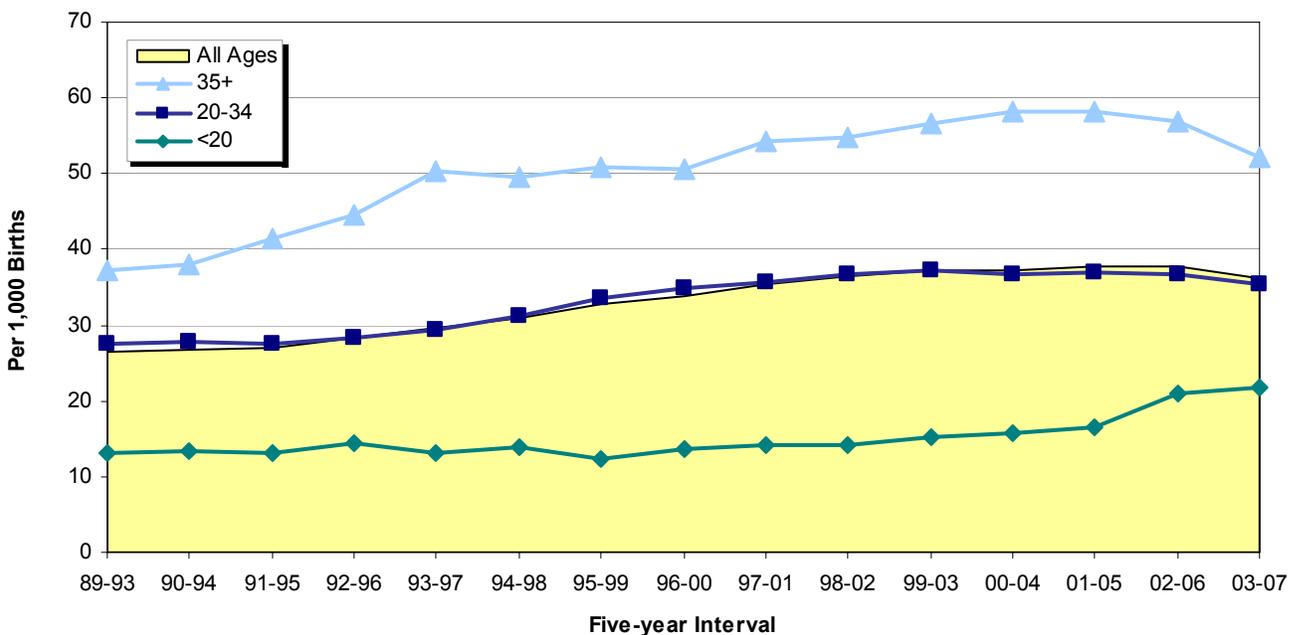
The proportion of births to women 35 and older has been increasing over time, a trend seen in black, white, and Hispanic mothers. Most recently, the proportion of births to white women 35 and older stabilized at approximately 15 percent of all births.

**Annual Percent of Live Births to Women 35 or Older by Race and Hispanic Origin*
Delaware, 1989-2007**



Overall, the rate of plural births increased 37 percent between 1989-1993 and 2003-2007, and the impact of mother's age on the plural birth rate became more pronounced. In 2003-2007, older mothers (35+) had the highest plural birth rates, at 52 twins per 1000 births, more than double that of mothers under 20, and 48 percent higher than mothers 20-34.

**Five-year Average Plural Birth Rate by Age of Mother
Delaware, 1989-2007**

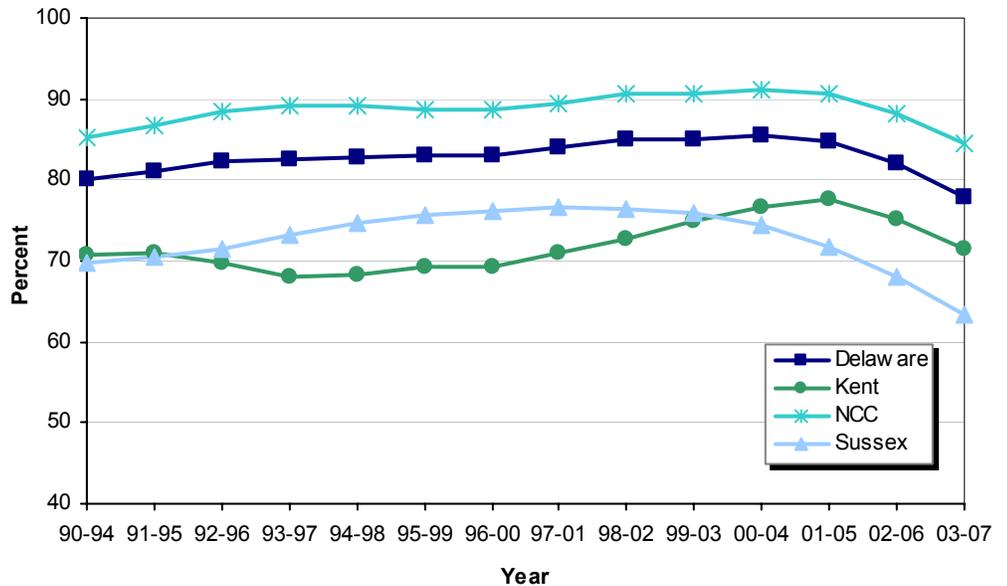


LIVE BIRTHS

After increasing steadily through the 1990s and leveling off from 1998-2002 to 2001-2005, first trimester prenatal care attainment in Delaware decreased for the third consecutive time period, to 78 percent in 2003-2007.

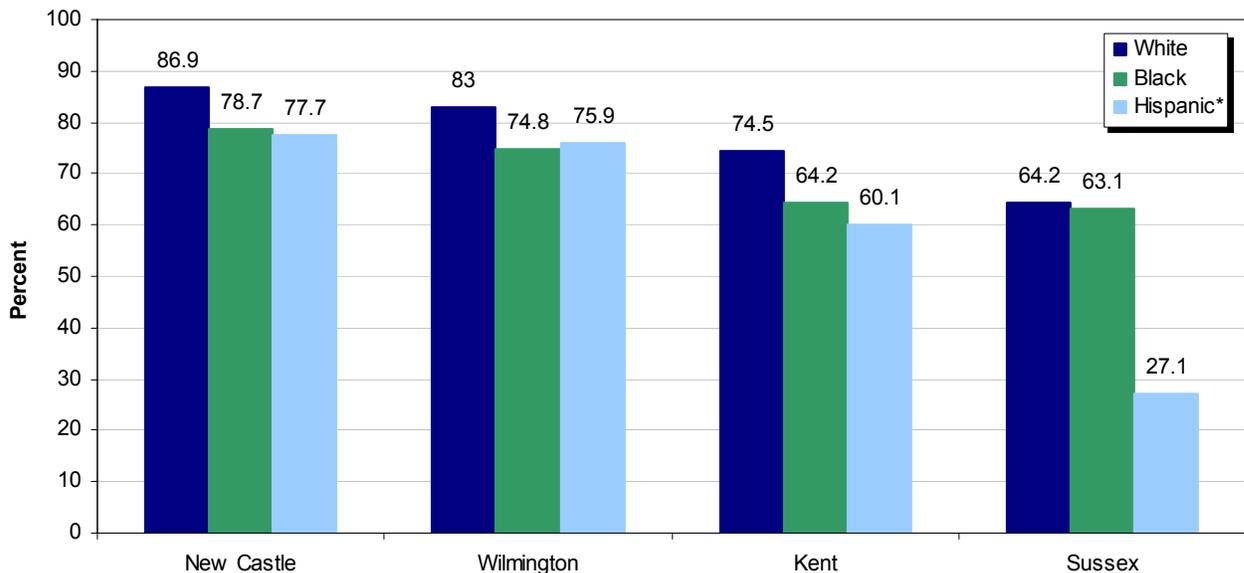
Since 2001-2005, each of the three counties and Wilmington experienced decreases in the percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care attainment in the first trimester, though in Sussex county the decline had begun in 1998-2002. In 2003-2007, prenatal care attainment in the first trimester ranged from 63.4 percent in Sussex county to 84.5 percent in New Castle

Five-Year Average Percentage of Births to Mothers Beginning Prenatal Care in the First Trimester Delaware and Counties, 1990-2007



The graph below illustrates how the percentages of prenatal care differ between the counties and their racial and ethnic groups. New Castle county had the highest rates of women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester, regardless of race; isolating Wilmington produced similar results. With the exception of Sussex county, black mothers and mothers of Hispanic origin received similar percentages of prenatal care in the first trimester. Not only did Sussex County have the lowest percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester, but it also had the greatest difference between Hispanic mothers and white and black mothers.

Five-Year Average Percentage of Mothers Receiving PNC in First Trimester by County and Race, Delaware 2003-2007



*Hispanic can be of any race.

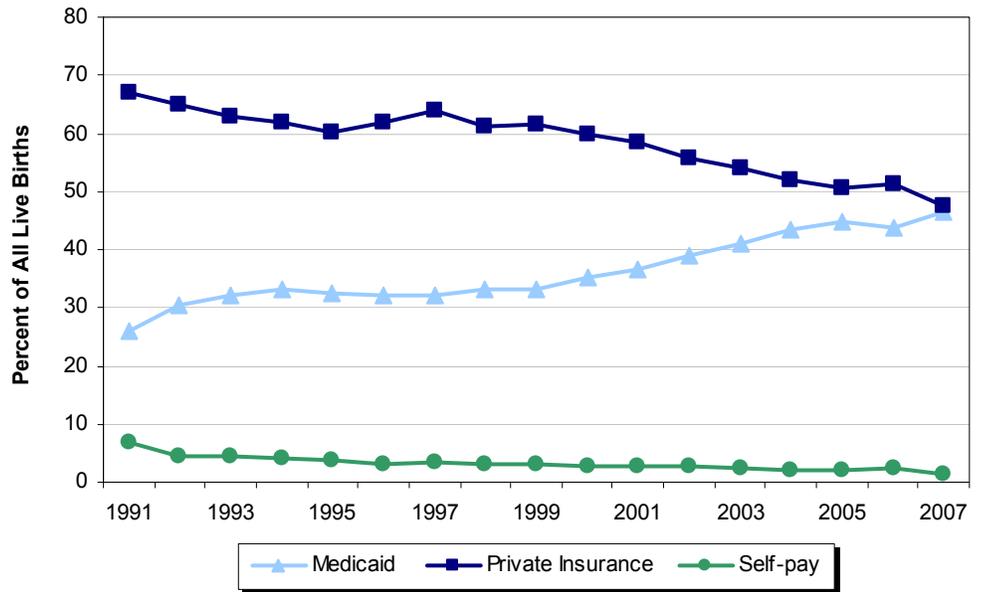
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

LIVE BIRTHS

In 2007, 94 percent of live births had either private insurance or Medicaid listed as the primary source of payment; the remaining 6 percent were split between other government coverage and self-pay.

- Medicaid was the primary source of payment for the majority of mothers under 20, covering 82 percent of both black mothers and mothers of other races, and 78 percent of white mothers.
- Among women of all ages, Medicaid covered more than half of all deliveries for both Hispanic and black mothers.

**Percent of Births by Source of Payment for Delivery
Delaware, 1991-2007**

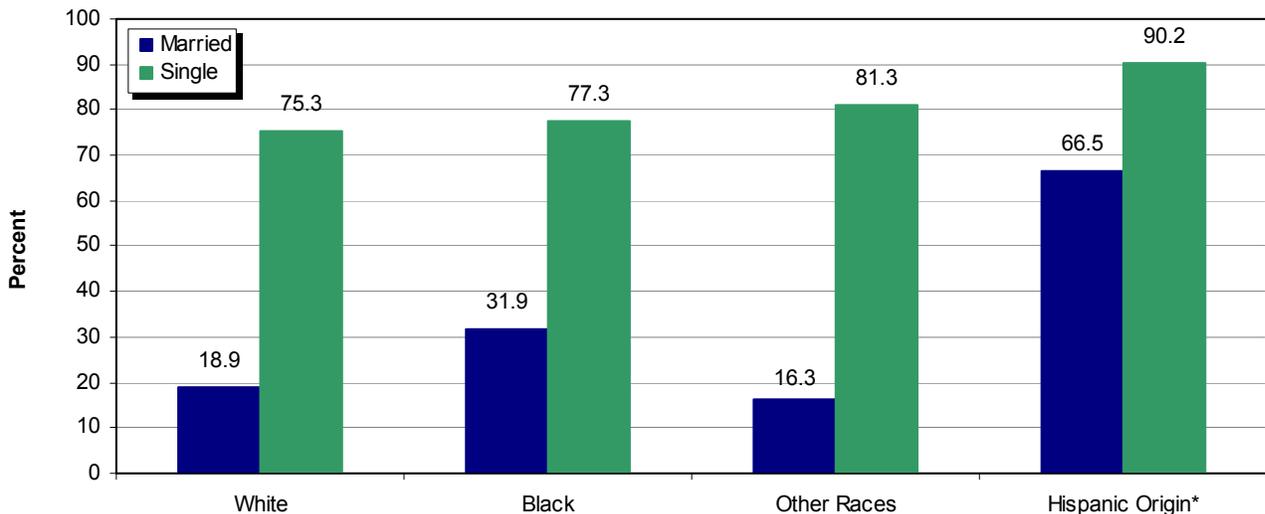


Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Marital status has a tremendous effect on the use of Medicaid as the primary source of payment for delivery:

- 18.9 percent of white married women used Medicaid as their primary source of payment, but that number nearly quadrupled, to 75.3 percent, for single white women.
- 31.9 percent of black married women used Medicaid as their primary source of payment, but that number more than doubled, to 77.3 percent, for single black women.
- 66.5 percent of Hispanic married women used Medicaid as their primary source of payment; that number increased to 90.2 percent for single Hispanic women.
- 16.3 percent of married women of other races used Medicaid as their primary source of payment, but that number was nearly five times higher, at 81.3 percent, if the mother was single.

**Percent of Births by Race, Hispanic Origin, Marital Status, and
Medicaid as Primary Source of Payment
Delaware, 2007**

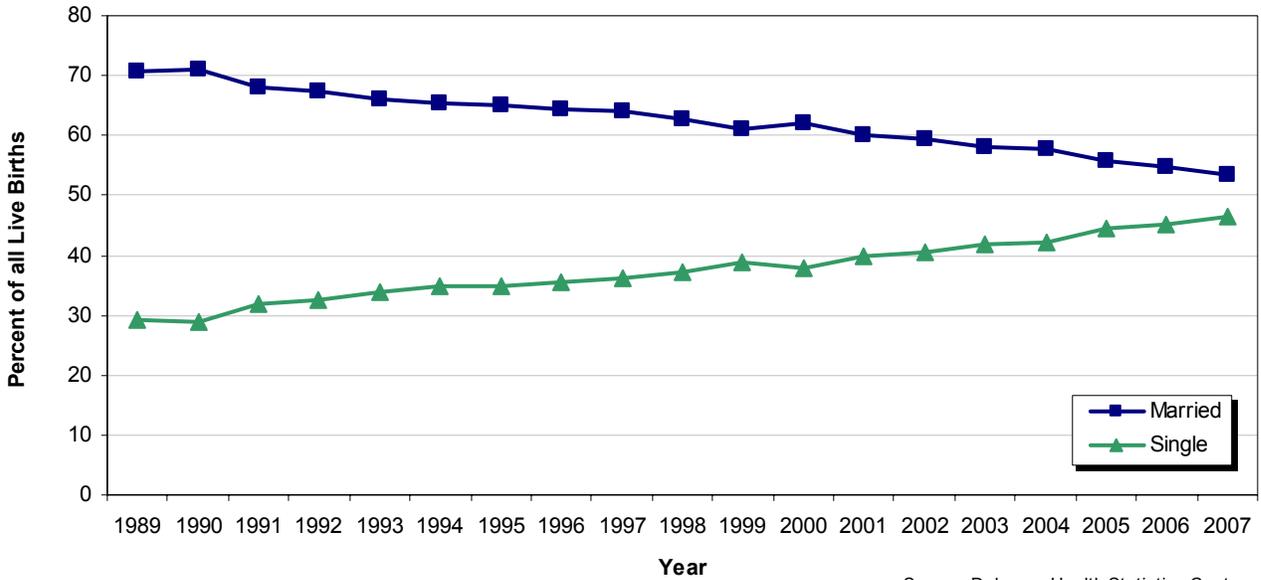


Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

LIVE BIRTHS

The percent of births to unmarried women rose again in 2007, to 46.5 percent of all births. The steadily increasing trend began in 1991, when 31.8 percent of all births were to unmarried women.

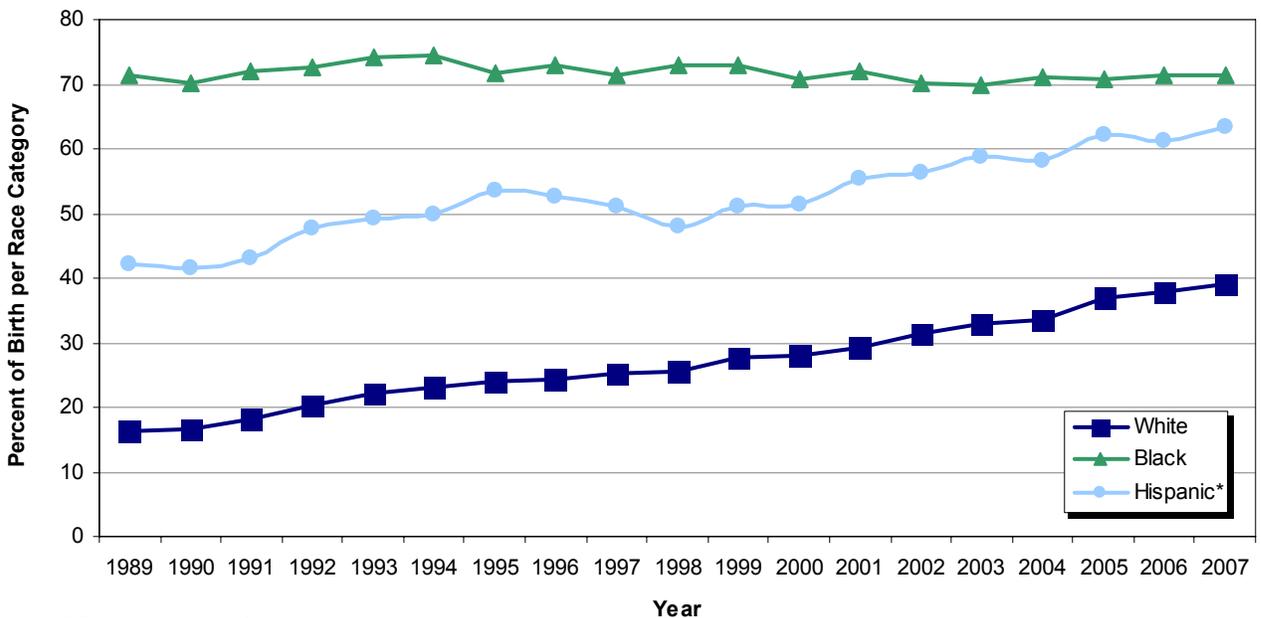
**Annual Percent of Births by Mother's Marital Status
Delaware, 1989-2007**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

However, this shift in the distribution of mother's marital status was only apparent in births to white and Hispanic women, whose percentage of births to unmarried women increased from 16 percent to 39 percent, and 42 percent to 63 percent from 1989 to 2007. During this same time period, the percent of births to unmarried black women has remained stable, at approximately 71 percent.

**Percent of Live Births to Unmarried Women by Race and Ethnicity
Delaware, 1989-2007**



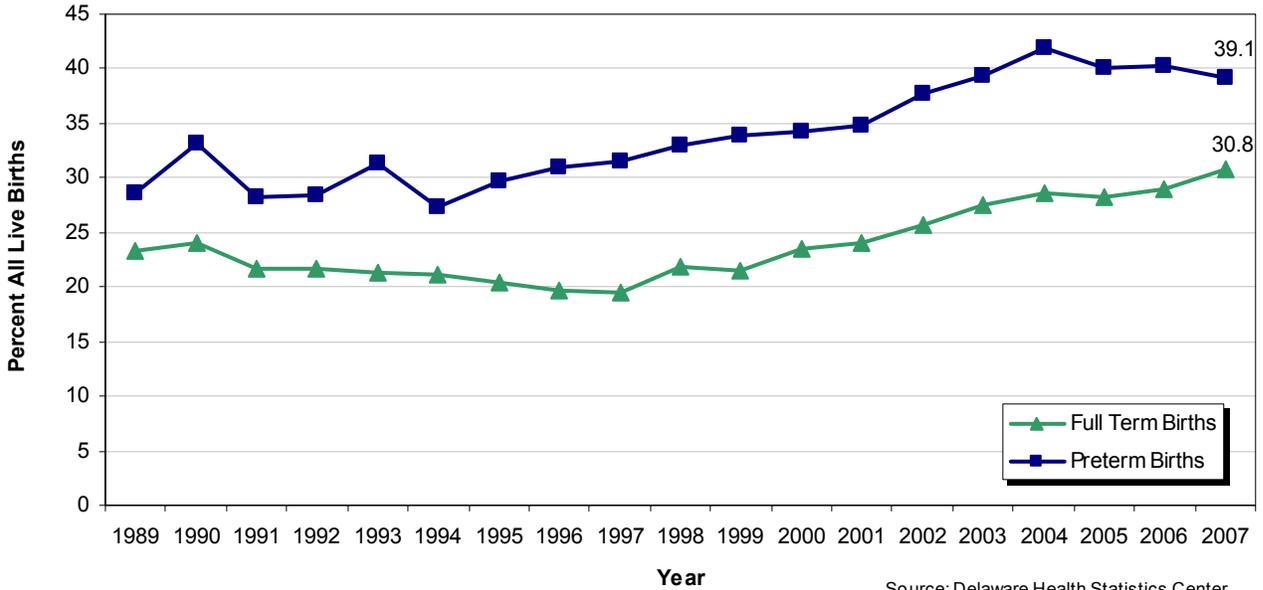
*Hispanic may be of any race.

Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

LIVE BIRTHS

From 1997 to 2007, the rate of cesarean deliveries increased 52 percent, to 32 per 100 live births. Both preterm and term births demonstrated increasing trends in cesarean deliveries during this same period; although the cesarean section rate for term (37+ weeks of gestation) births rose 58 percent, to 31, the c-section rate for preterm (<37 weeks gestation) births remained significantly higher, at 39.1 per 100 live births.

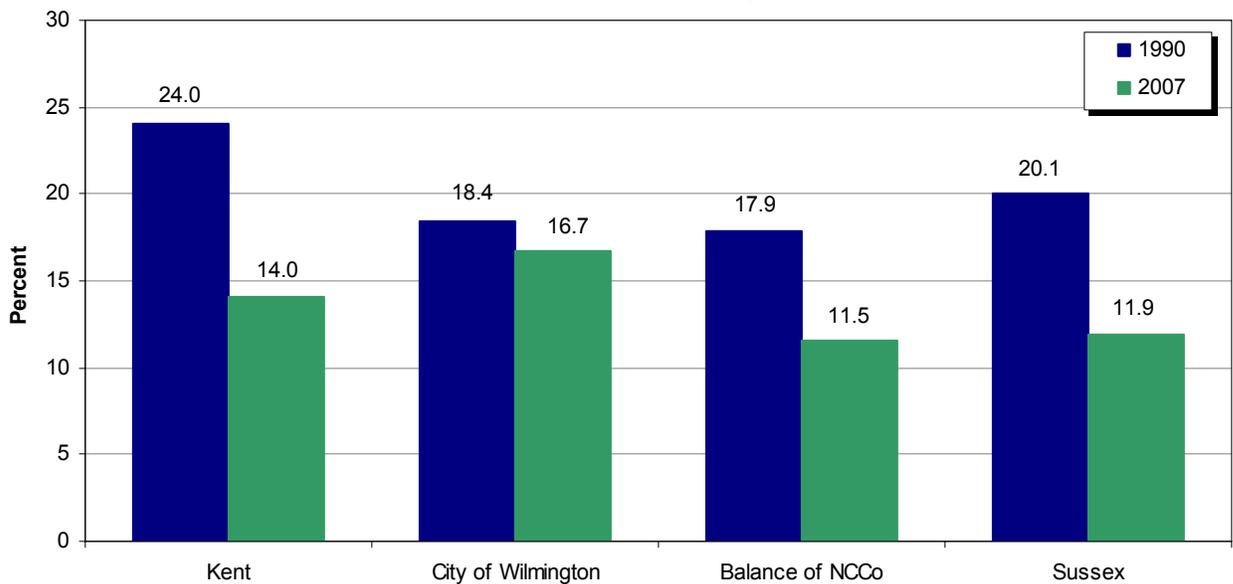
**Annual Percent of Live Births by Gestational Category and Delivery by Cesarean Section
Delaware, 1989-2007**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

From 1990 to 2007, the percentage of Delaware mothers who used tobacco while pregnant decreased in the three counties and in the city of Wilmington. In 2007, the city of Wilmington had the highest percentage of mothers who smoked while pregnant (16.7).

**Percent of Mothers who Smoked while Pregnant
Delaware Counties and City of Wilmington, 1990 and 2007**



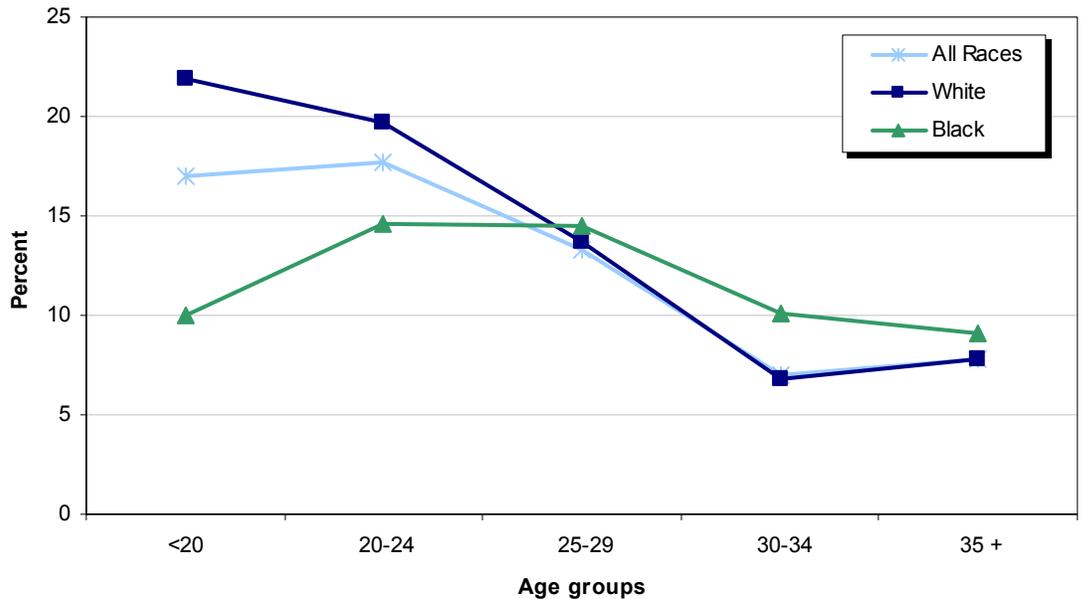
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

LIVE BIRTHS

The largest percent of mothers who smoked while pregnant were white mothers under 20.

In the under 20 and 20-24 age groups, white mothers were more likely than black mothers to smoke while pregnant. In the 30 and older age groups, black mothers were more likely to smoke while pregnant.

Percent of Mothers who Smoked While Pregnant by Age Group and Race Delaware, 2007

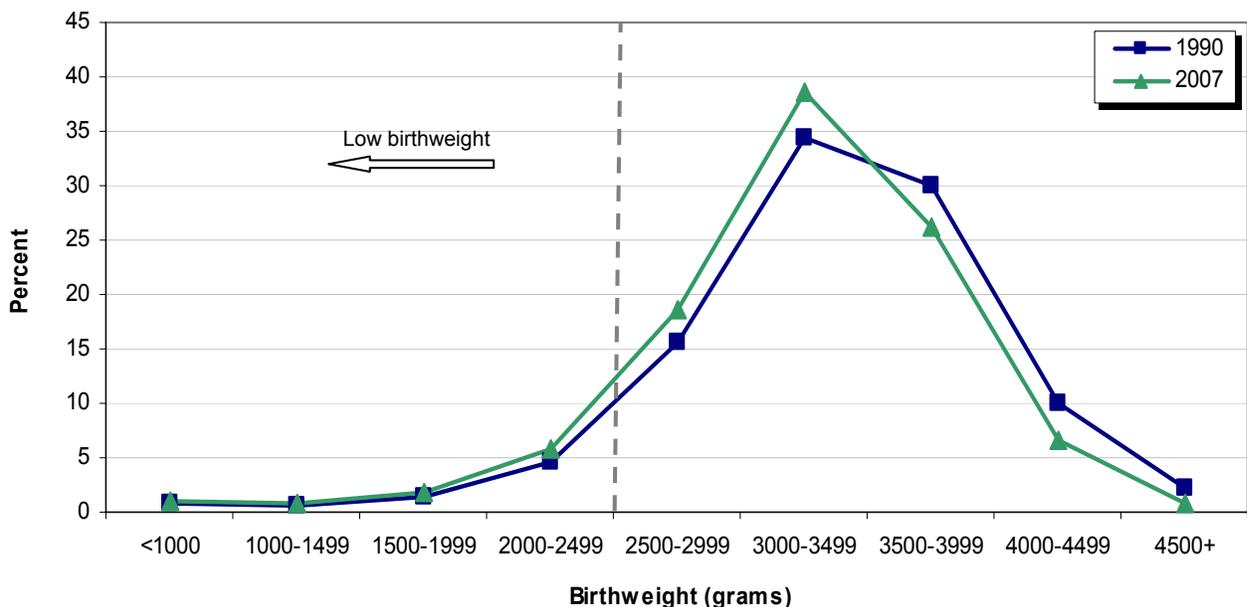


Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

In 2007, 13.9 percent of Delaware women who smoked while pregnant gave birth to low birthweight babies (< 2500 grams), versus the significantly lower percentage (8.5) of non-smokers who gave birth to low birthweight babies.

The percent distribution of births by birthweight did not differ significantly between 1990 and 2007. The greatest percentage of births fell within the 3000 to 3499 gram range.

Percent Distribution of Births by Birthweight Delaware, 1990 and 2007



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

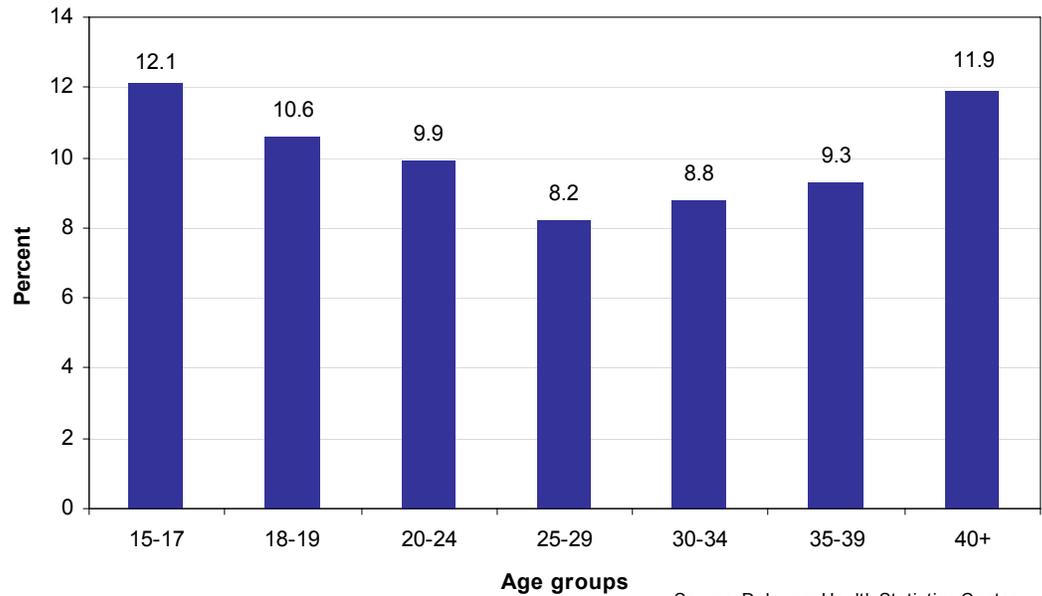
LIVE BIRTHS

From 2002-2006 to 2003-2007, the five-year percent of low birthweight (LBW) births and very low birthweight (VLBW) births remained relatively stable at 9.3 and 2.0, respectively.

Percentages of LBW births were greatest for mothers 15-17 (12.1 percent).

Black mothers of every age group had higher percentages of LBW births than white or Hispanic mothers.

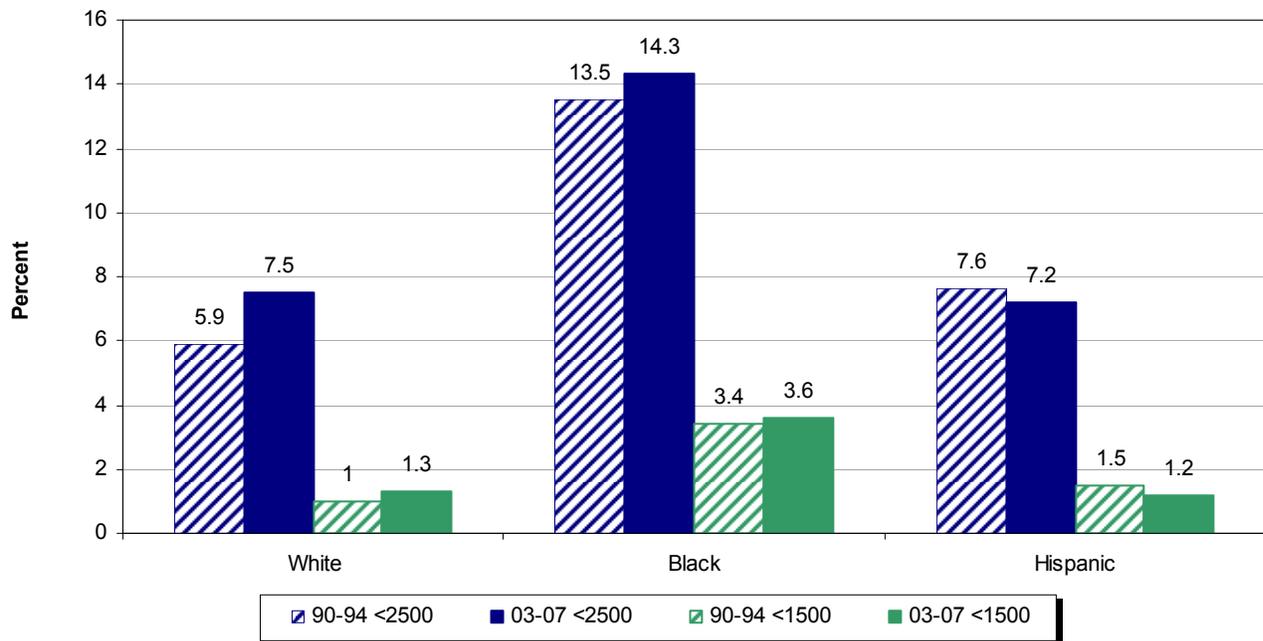
Five-year Percent of Low Birthweight Births (<2500 grams) by Mother's Age Delaware, 2003-2007



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Among mothers of all ages, black mothers had the highest percentage of LBW and VLBW births, at 14.3 percent and 3.6 percent respectively. There was an increase in the percentage of LBW births from 1990-1994 to 2003-2007 for both black and white infants. During the same time period, the percentage of LBW births to Hispanic women decreased.

Five-year Average Percent of Low (<2500 grams) and Very Low Birth Weight Births (<1500 grams) by Race and Hispanic Origin Delaware, 1990-1994 and 2003-2007

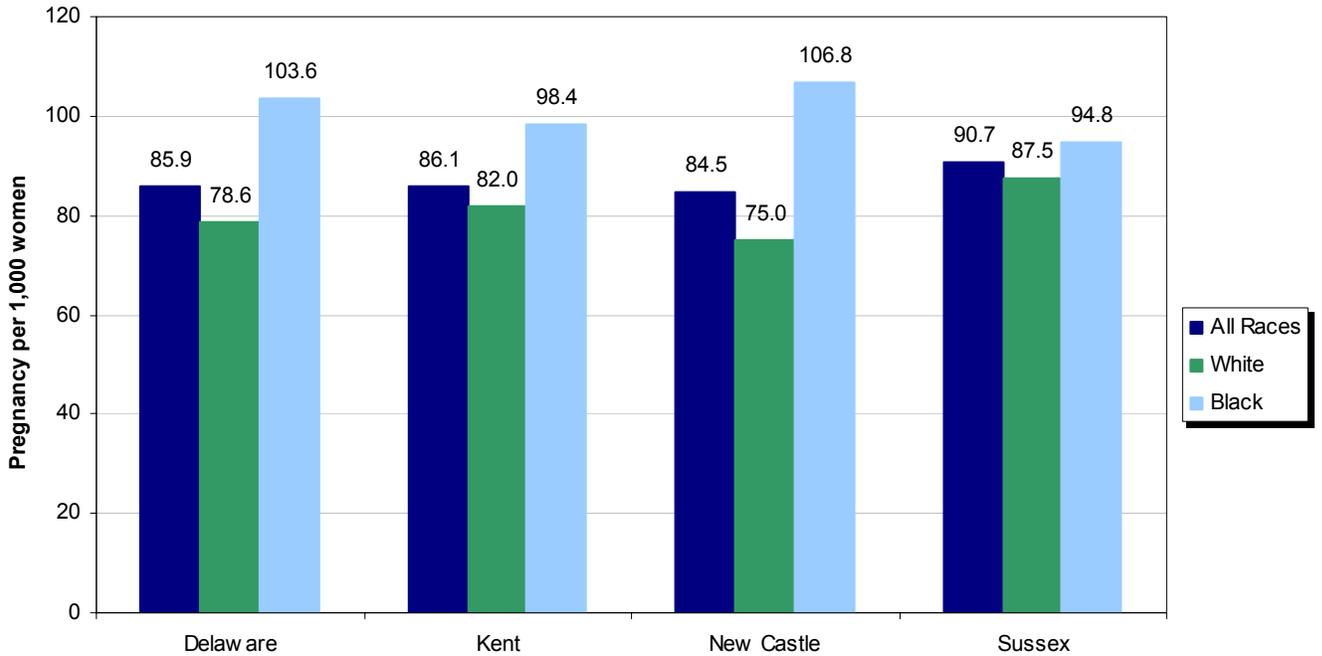


Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

REPORTED PREGNANCIES

At 86 reported pregnancies per 1,000 women ages 15-44, the 2003-2007 rate of reported pregnancies continued its slight upward trend. Although pregnancy rates of black mothers were significantly higher than those of white mothers in every county, New Castle County's difference between white (75.0) and black (106.8) was the largest of all the counties.

**Five-year Average Rate of Reported Pregnancies by Race
Delaware and Counties, 2003-2007**

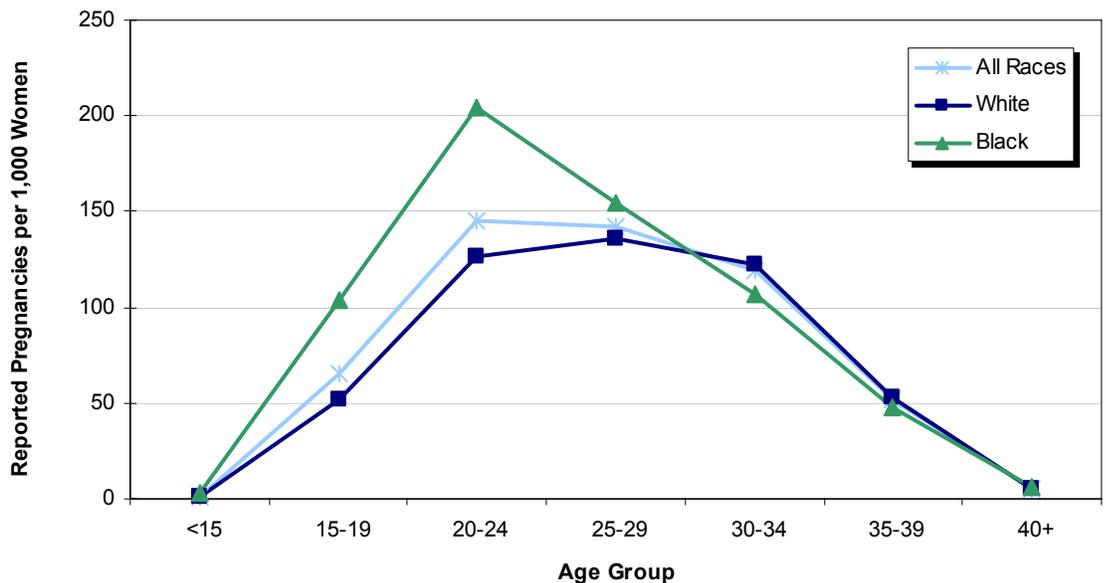


Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Overall, the 20-24 year age group had the highest pregnancy rate, with 145 pregnancies per 1,000 women in 2003-2007.

For all of the age groups under 30, black women had higher pregnancy rates than white women; for the 30-34 and 35-39 age groups, white women had higher pregnancy rates.

**Five-year Average Rate of Reported Pregnancies by Age and Race
Delaware, 2003-2007**

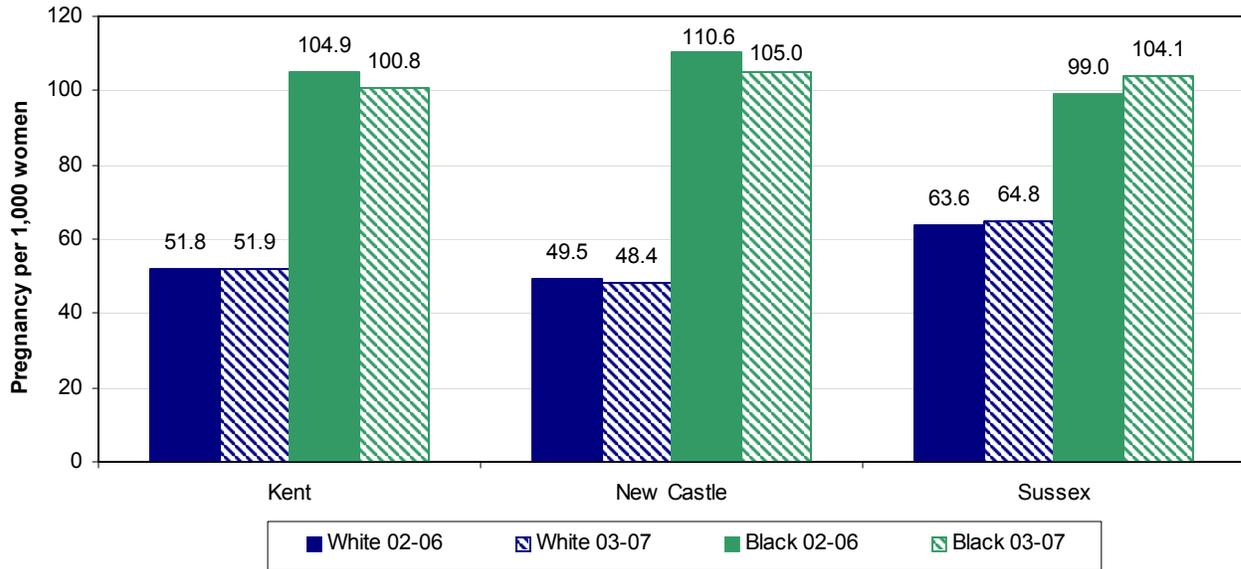


Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

REPORTED PREGNANCIES

Black teen (15-19) pregnancy rates in Sussex county rose 5.2 percent from 2002-2006 to 2003-2007; teen pregnancy rates for all other race and county groups declined or remained relatively stable. With the exception of Sussex county, where white teen pregnancy rates were the highest, black teen pregnancy rates were nearly twice that of white teens.

**Five-year Average Teenage (15-19) Pregnancy Rates by County and Race
Delaware, 2002-2007**



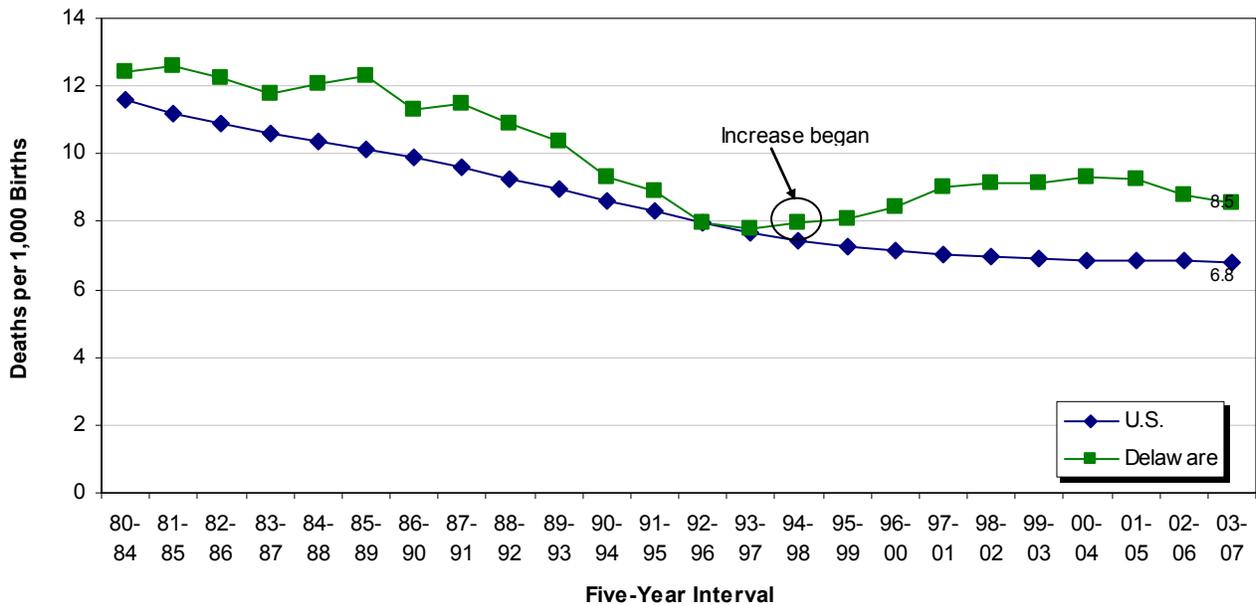
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

- The five-year average (2003-2007) pregnancy rate for 15-17 year olds was lowest in Kent County, with 31.5 pregnancies per 1,000 females, followed by New Castle County, with a rate of 37.7, and Sussex county, with a rate of 39.6. (See Table D-8). For Kent and New Castle counties, their 2003-2007 rates were lower than their 2002-2006 rates; Sussex county's rates remained stable.
- The five-year average (2003-2007) pregnancy rate for 18-19 year olds was lowest in New Castle County (102.3 pregnancies per 1,000 females), and highest in Sussex County (125.6). See Table D-8.
- In 2007, there were 4,949 abortions performed in Delaware, 3,532 to Delaware residents and 1,417 to non-residents.
- Over half of all pregnancies to females under 15 ended in termination.
 - ⇒ 60 percent of pregnancies to white females under 15, and 50 percent of pregnancies to black females under 15 ended in terminations.
- Married women undergo significantly fewer terminations than their single counterparts.
 - ⇒ 4.1 percent of pregnancies to white married women ended in termination and 10.6 percent of pregnancies to black married women ended in termination.
 - ⇒ When the women were unmarried, these numbers increased to 34.8 and 36.6 percent respectively.
- There were 62 fetal deaths of Delaware residents in 2007.
- There were 12,097 live births to Delaware residents in 2007.

INFANT MORTALITY

Delaware's infant mortality rate (IMR) decreased for the second consecutive time period. From 2002-2006 to 2003-2007, it declined 3 percent, from 8.8 infant deaths per 1000 live births in 2002-2006 to 8.5 in 2003-2007. The U.S. rate held steady at 6.8, and remained significantly lower than the Delaware rate.

**Five-year Average Infant Mortality Rates
Delaware and U.S., 1980-2007**

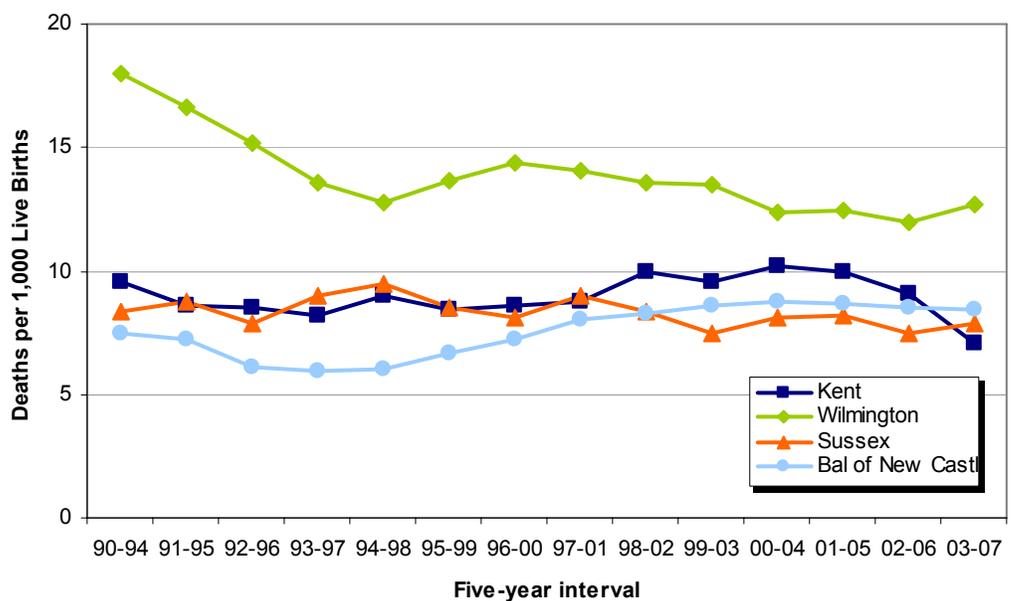


Source: Delaware health Statistics Center

IMRs for Sussex County and the city of Wilmington increased from 2002-2006 to 2003-2007. Kent County's IMR declined for the third consecutive time period, making it the lowest of the three counties at 7.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

IMRs for the balance of New Castle County and the County as a whole changed very little from 2002-2006 to 2003-2007.

**Five-year Average Infant Mortality Rates
Delaware Counties and City of Wilmington, Delaware, 1990-2007**

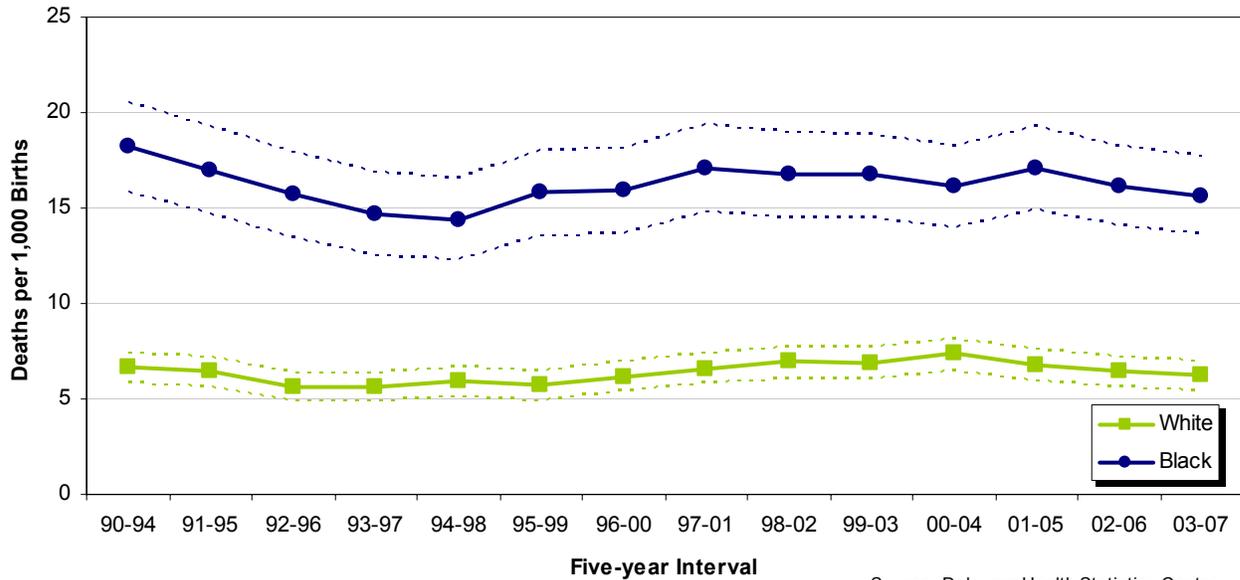


Source: Delaware health Statistics Center

INFANT MORTALITY

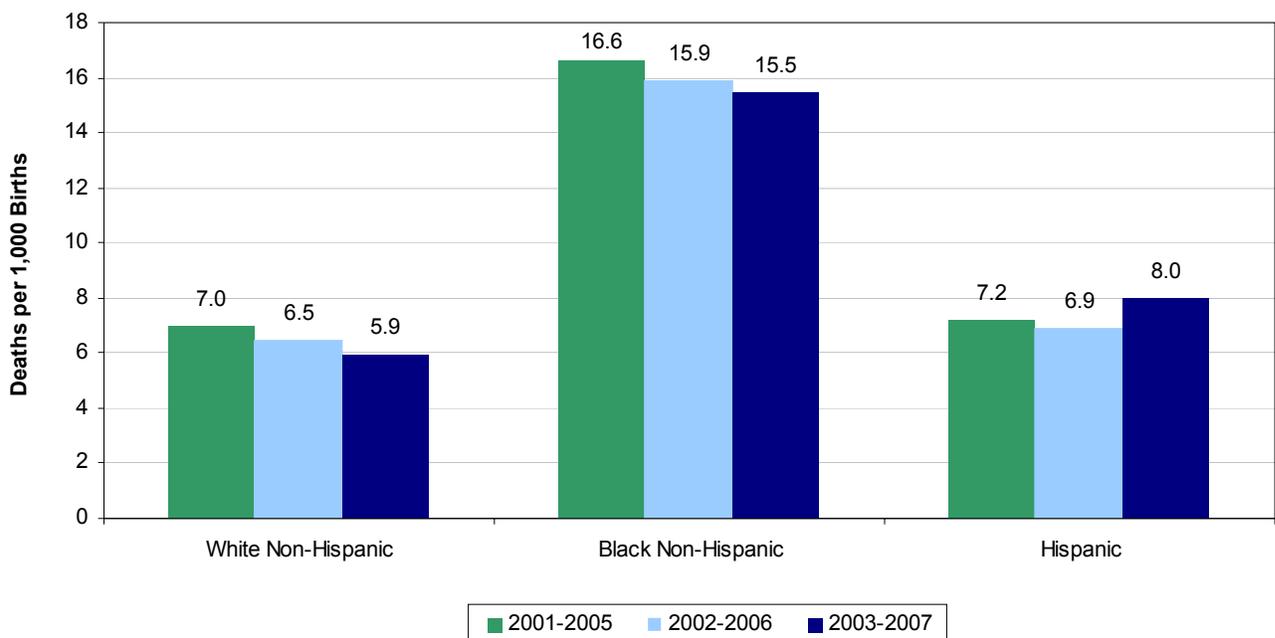
From 2002-2006 to 2003-2007, the five-year IMR decreased very slightly due to decreases in both the white IMR (from 6.4 to 6.2) and the black IMR (from 16.1 to 15.6). As shown in the graph below, black infants experienced significantly higher mortality rates than white infants, and from 1990-1994 to 2003-2007, black IMRs were anywhere from 2.2 to 2.8 times that of white IMRs.

**Five-year Average Black and White Infant Mortality Rates with Confidence Intervals
Delaware, 1990-2007**



Significant disparities existed between black non-Hispanic IMRs and each of the two other groups, white non-Hispanic and Hispanic. Black non-Hispanics had the highest IMRs in all three time periods, and their rate of 15.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2003-2007, was 2.6 times the white non-Hispanic rate of 5.9 and nearly twice the Hispanic rate of 8.0.

**Five-year Average Infant Mortality Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin
Delaware, 2001-2007**



INFANT MORTALITY

Not only did IMRs vary between counties, but also between races within each county. Black IMRs were consistently higher than white IMRs in all three counties, for every time period. To gauge the disparity between black and white IMRs, disparity ratios¹ were used. However, as is shown in the graphs to the right, both the disparity ratio and the rates should be considered when examining the issue of infant mortality.

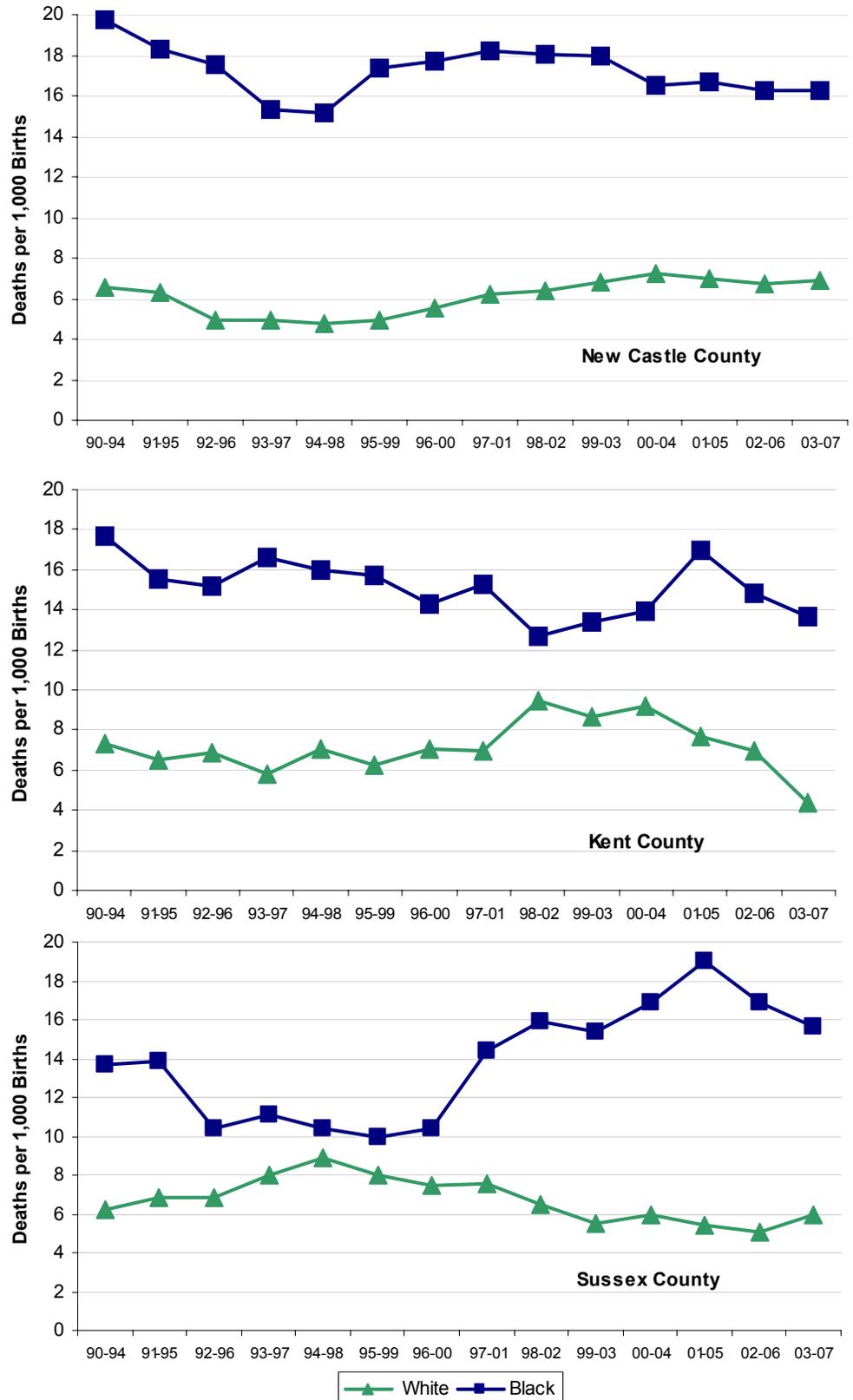
In New Castle County, rates for both races changed very little from 2002-2006 to 2003-2007, and the disparity ratio remained stable at 2.3.

Though both black and white IMRs declined in Kent County, from 14.8 to 13.6 and from 7.0 to 4.4, the change was greater for whites, causing its disparity ratio to increase to 3.1, the largest of the three counties.

Sussex County's disparity ratio narrowed due to a continued decrease in the black IMR and an increase in the white IMR.

Of the three counties, New Castle had the highest IMR (16.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births to black mothers), while Kent had the lowest (4.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births to white mothers).

Five-year Average Infant Mortality Rates by Race
Delaware Counties, 1990-2007



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

1. Disparity ratios were calculated by dividing the black IMR by the white IMR; the resulting number demonstrated the magnitude of difference between black and white.

INFANT MORTALITY- Leading Cause of Death

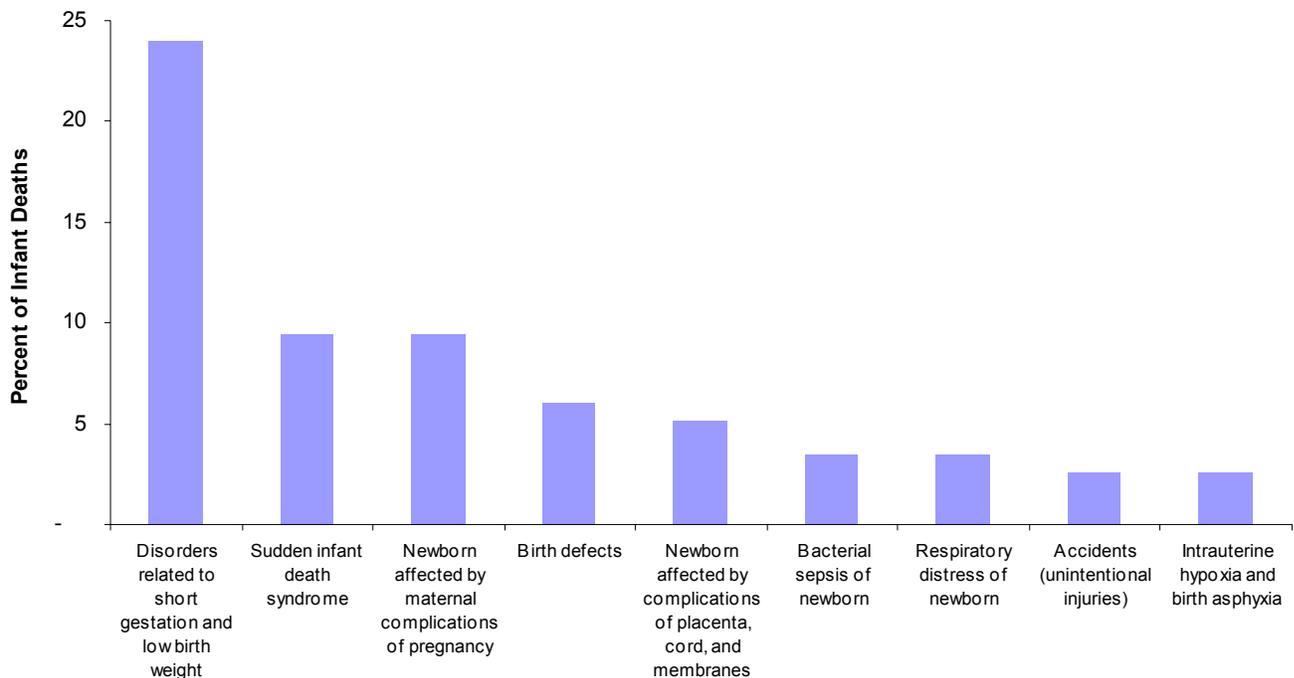
In 2003-2007 the three leading causes of infant death were:

- Disorders related to short gestation and fetal malnutrition (prematurity and low birthweight), which accounted for 22.3 percent of infant deaths,
- Congenital anomalies (birth defects), which accounted for 12.5 percent of infant deaths, and
- Newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy, which accounted for 8.7 percent of infant deaths. Of the 43 deaths attributed to this cause, 39 were due to the newborn being affected by incompetent cervix and premature rupture of membranes.

Shown in the graphs below and on the following page are the most frequent causes of death by race. Disorders related to short gestation and low birthweight and newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy were listed in the top three most frequent causes of death for both black and white infants.

Though the proportions of deaths by race were similar for many of the causes of death, a notable exception was birth defects. While birth defects were responsible for 17.1 percent of all white infant deaths, they accounted for only 6 percent of black infant deaths.

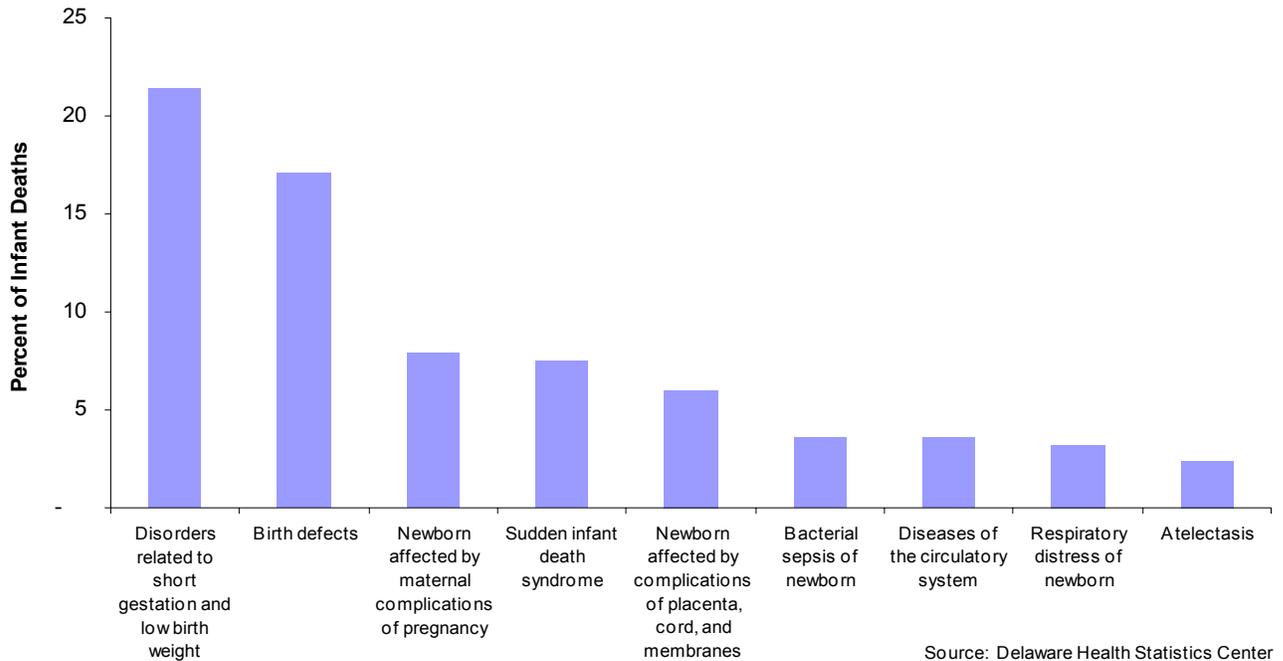
**Most Frequent Causes of Black Infant Death
Delaware, 2003-2007**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

INFANT MORTALITY- Leading Cause of Death

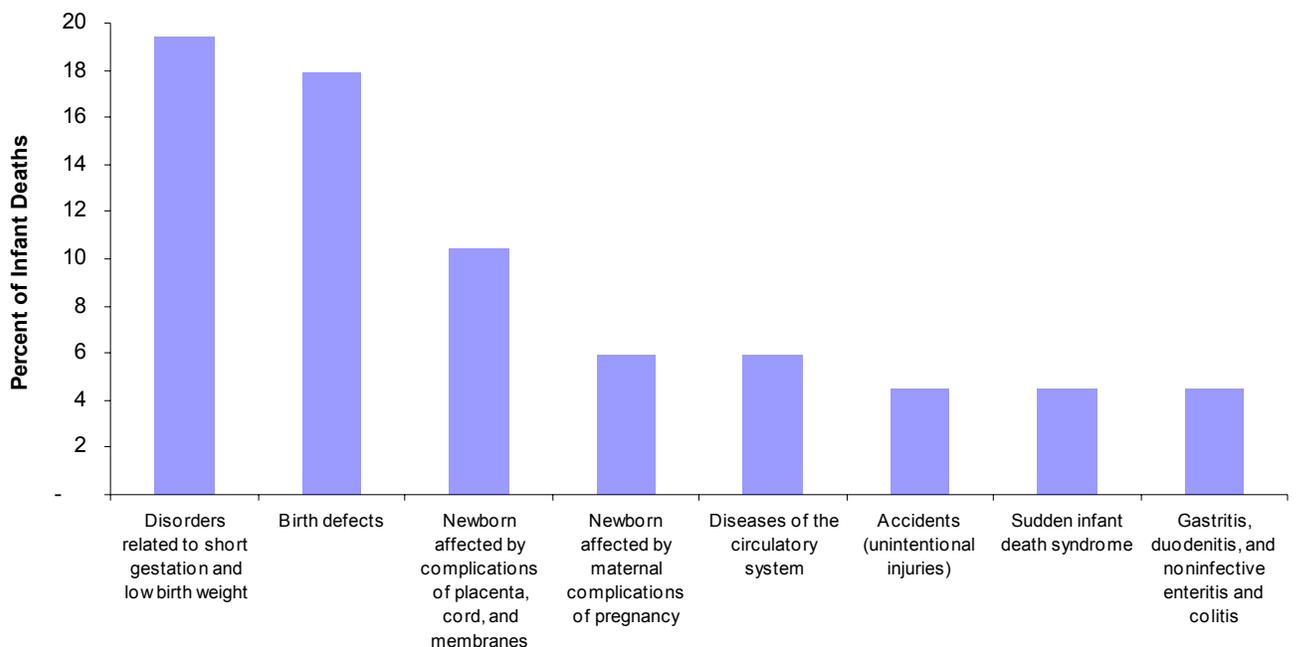
**Most Frequent Causes of White Infant Death
Delaware, 2003-2007**



In the 1989-1993 time period, Hispanics accounted for 3.6 percent of all live births and 3.4 percent of infant deaths, since that time the proportion of births to Hispanic mothers has been increasing. In the most recent five year period, 2003-2007, 14.4 percent of all live births were to Hispanic mothers, and 13.5 percent of all infant deaths were of Hispanic origin.

The leading cause of death for infants of Hispanic origin was disorders related to short gestation and low birthweight, followed by birth defects.

**Most Frequent Causes of Hispanic Infant Death
Delaware, 2003-2007**

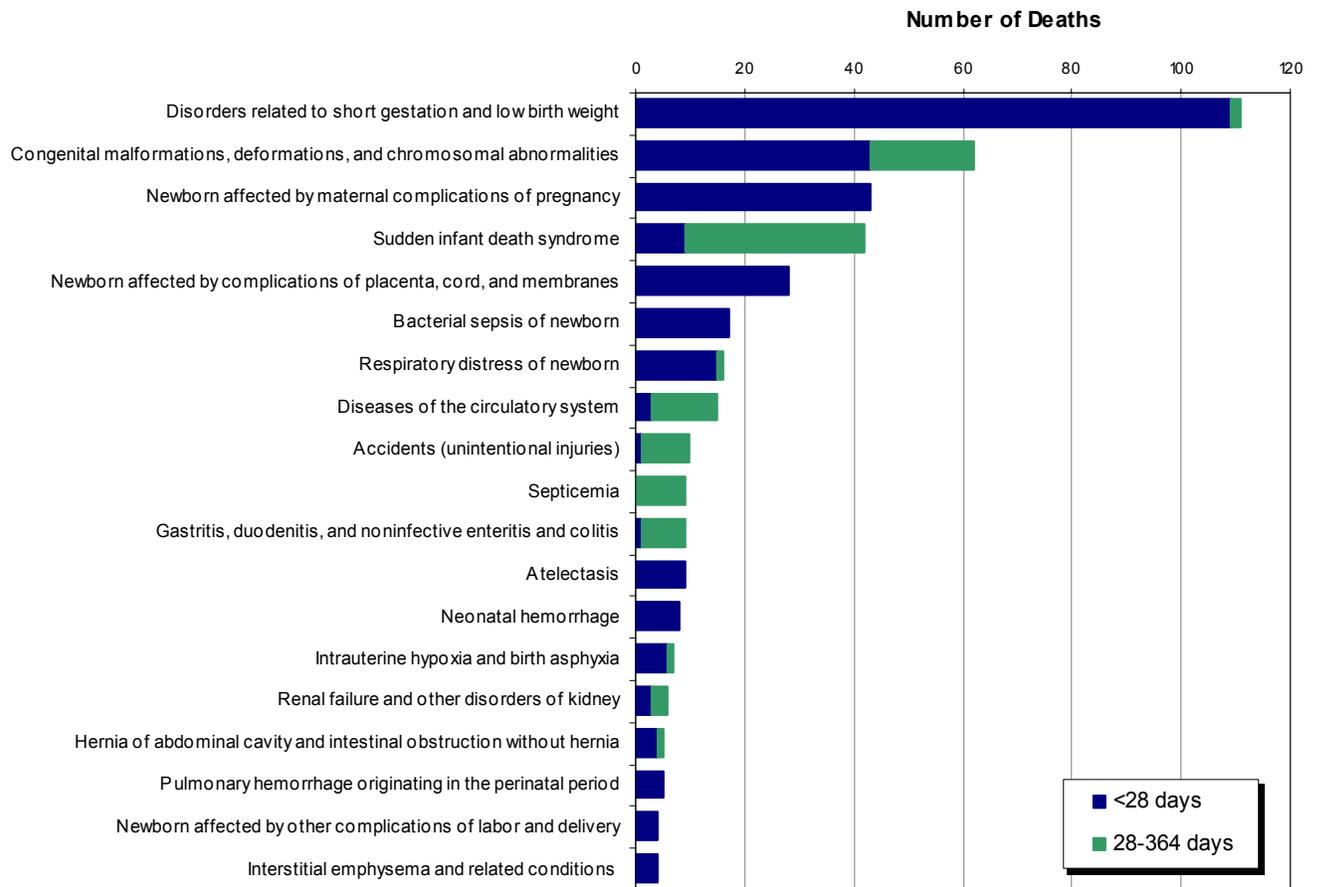


INFANT MORTALITY - Leading Cause of Death

Approximately 95 percent of all infant deaths occurred within the first six months of life, 71 percent of all infant deaths occurred within the first 28 days of life, and 39 percent occurred within 24 hours of birth.

The graph below displays deaths by specific cause and the infant's age classification at death, neonatal (<28 days) or postneonatal (28-364 days).

Most Frequent Causes of Infant Death Delaware, 2003-2007

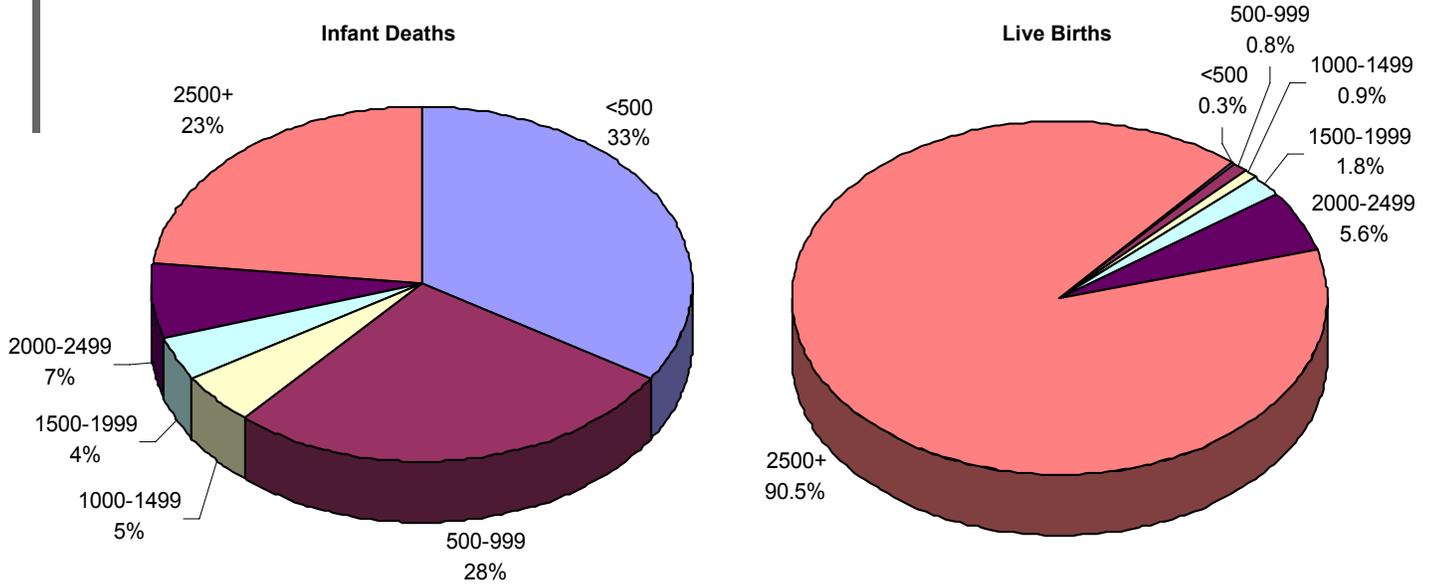


- Disorders related to short gestation and fetal malnutrition accounted for the greatest number of infant deaths in 2003-2007; all but two of these deaths occurred in the neonatal period.
- Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) was the only one of the top five causes of death that had the majority of deaths occurring in the postneonatal period, with a mean age at death of 75 days.
 - ⇒ 40 percent (17 out of 42) of the SIDS deaths were associated with co-sleeping with adults and/or sleeping on soft surfaces, such as couches and adult beds.
- During that same time period, there were 22 additional infant deaths, coded under a different cause of death, that were associated with co-sleeping and/or sleeping on a soft surface. In total, 7.8 percent of all infant deaths in 2003-2007 were associated with co-sleeping and/or sleeping on a soft surface.

INFANT MORTALITY - Live Birth Cohort

Just over 1 percent of all live births were infants weighing less than 1000 grams, but they accounted for over half (61.2 percent) of all infant deaths in 2002-2006. In total, 9.4 percent of all live births in 2002-2006 were infants of low birthweight (under 2500 grams) and 76.5 percent of infant deaths were low birthweight.

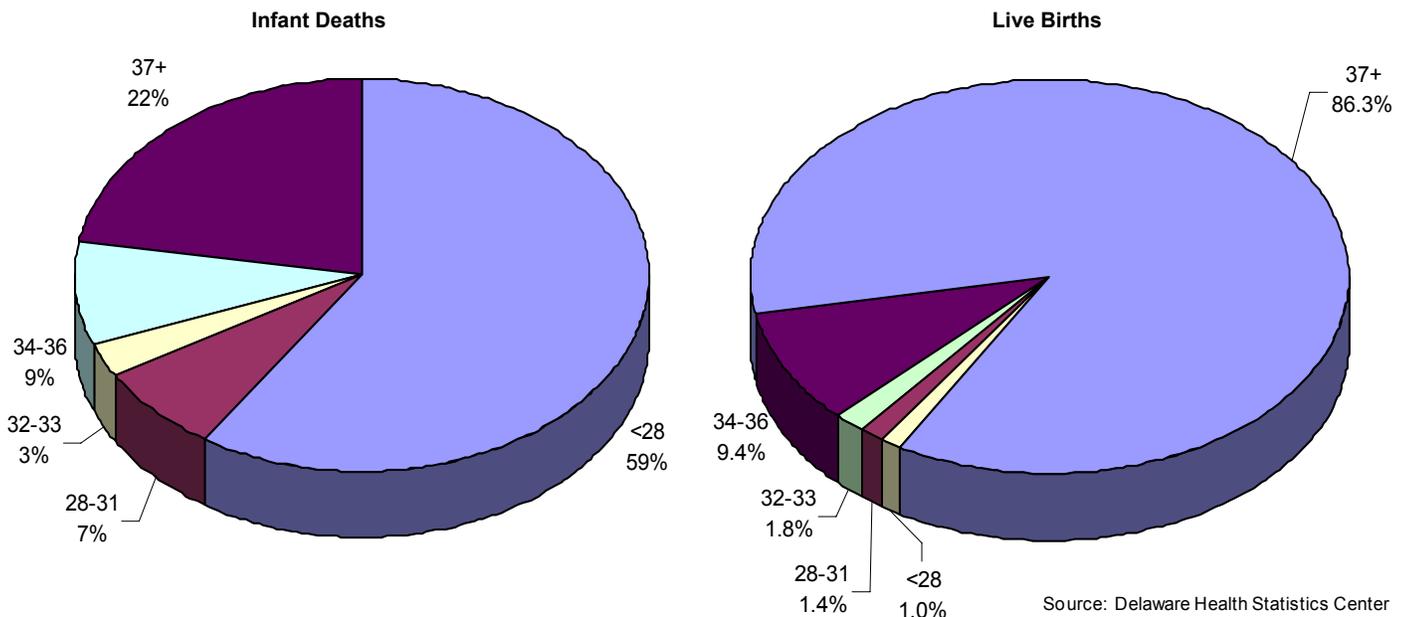
Distribution by Birthweight, Delaware Live Birth Cohort, 2002-2006



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

One percent of live births in 2002-2006 were less than 28 weeks gestation at birth, but they accounted for 59 percent of all infant deaths. In total, 13.7 percent of all live births in 2002-2006 were born preterm (<37 weeks of gestation) and 77.7 percent of infant deaths were born preterm.

Distribution by Gestation, Delaware Live Birth Cohort, 2002-2006



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

INFANT MORTALITY - Live Birth Cohort

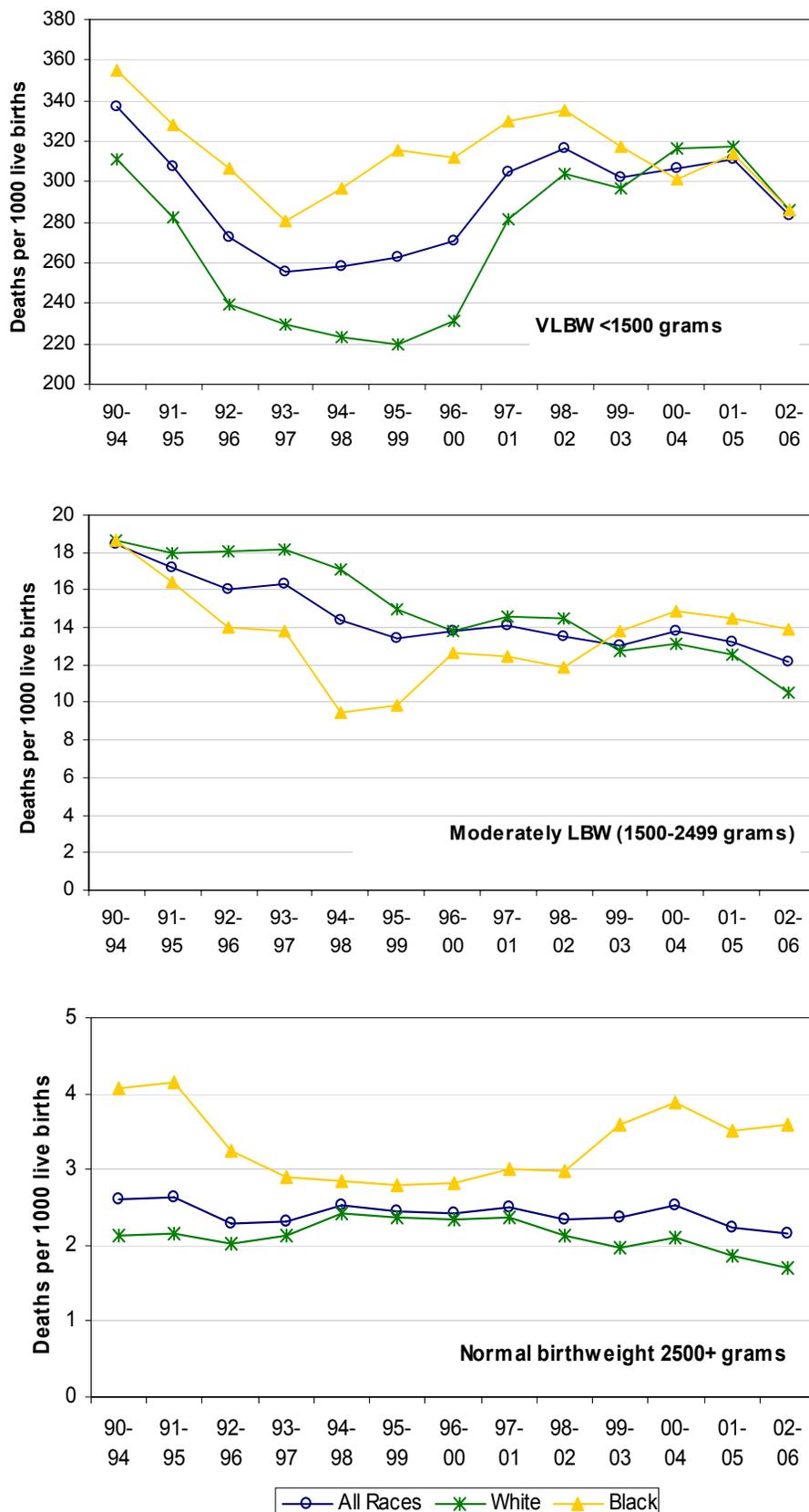
Birthweight and gestation are considered to be the most important predictors of infant health and mortality risk. Infants born too small or too early have a much greater risk of mortality than those who reach a normal birthweight (2500+ grams) or full-term gestation (37+ weeks).

As a result of the 11 percent decrease from 2001-2005 to 2002-2006, IMRs for VLBW white infants experienced little overall change since 1997-2001. IMRs for black VLBW infants declined 13 percent between 1997-2001 and 2002-2006; in 2002-2006 both black and white VLBW infants had an IMR of 286 deaths per 1,000 live births.

IMRs of moderately LBW infants moved in a different manner, with white rates declining 28 percent between 1997-2001 and 2002-2006, and black rates rising 11 percent during the same time, which made their rates 32 percent higher than white rates in 2002-2006 (13.9 vs. 10.5).

From 1997-2001 forward, the IMR trends for normal birthweight infants followed that of the moderately LBW infants, with white IMRs decreasing by 28 percent and black IMRs increasing by 19 percent. The divergent movement in black and white rates widened the black/white disparity ratio, and in 2002-2006, the black IMR for normal birthweight infants was more than double that of whites (3.6 vs. 1.7).

Five-year Average Infant Mortality Rate by Birthweight and Race Delaware, 1990-2006 Live Birth Cohort



1. VLBW—very low birthweight, is defined as less than 1500 grams .

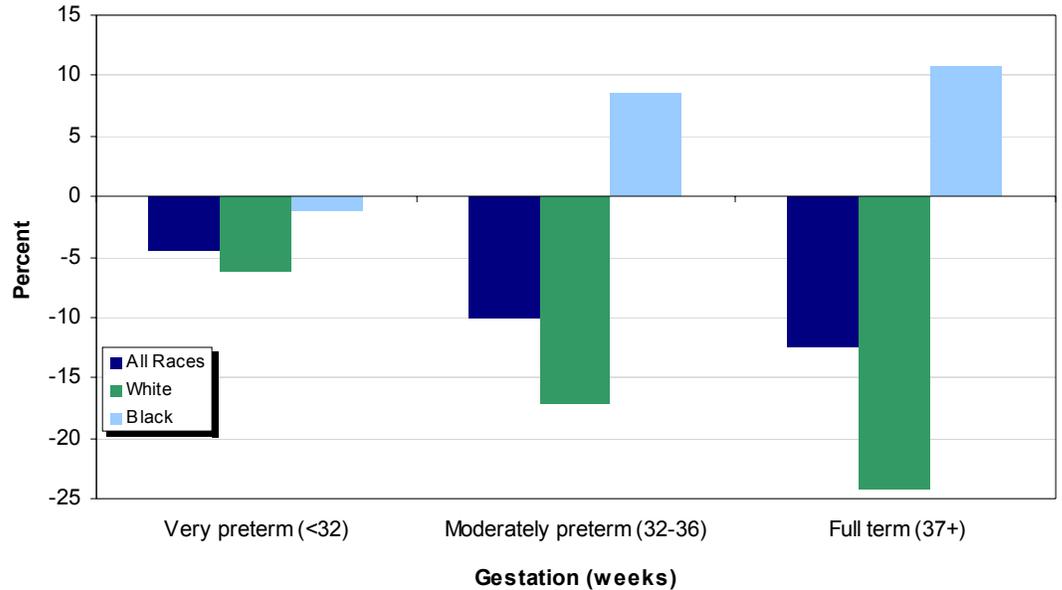
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

INFANT MORTALITY - Live Birth Cohort

The change in IMRs by gestation and race for moderately premature (32-36 weeks) and full-term (37+ weeks) infants followed a pattern similar to that of moderately low and normal birthweight infants.

IMRs for very preterm infants of both races experienced a slight overall decline during the same time period.

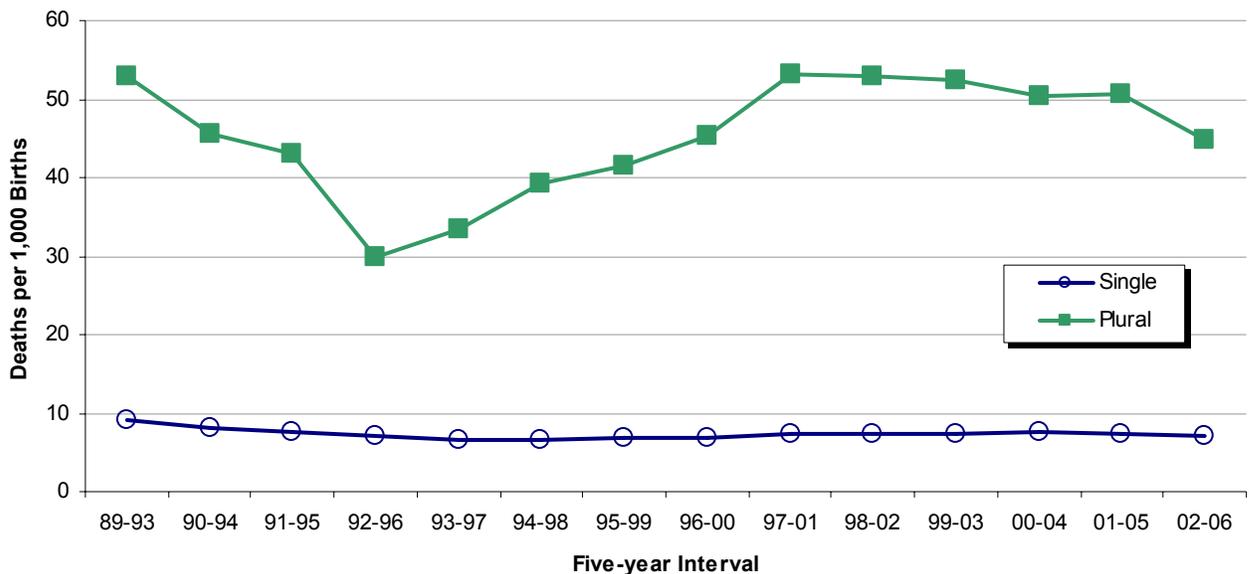
Percent Change in Five-year Average Infant Mortality by Gestation and Race
Delaware, Live Birth Cohort, 1997-2001 to 2002-2006



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

From 1992-1996 to 1997-2001, IMRs for plural births increased 77 percent, to 53.1 deaths per 1000 live births; during the same time, IMRs for singleton births increased by 4 percent. Since then, plural IMRs have decreased a total of 16 percent, with most of that occurring in the most recent time period. The decrease in IMRs for singleton births was slight and occurred only in the most recent time period. In 2002-2006, infant mortality rates for plural births were over 6 times that of singleton births (44.7 vs. 7.0).

Five-year Average Infant Mortality Rates by Plurality
Delaware Live Birth Cohort, 1989-2006



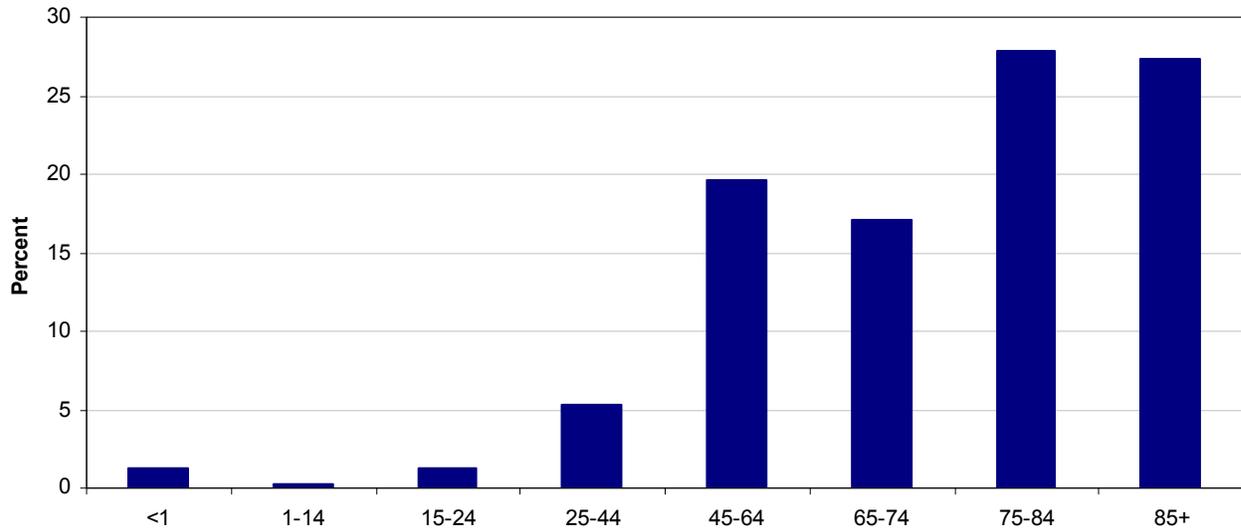
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

MORTALITY

More Delaware residents died in 2007 than in 2006. A total of 7,245 residents died, 90 of which were children under the age of 1. Deaths were split almost equally between males and females. Heart disease and cancer continued to be the leading and second leading causes of death, accounting for 53 percent of all deaths in 2007.

- Just over one quarter of the Delawareans who died in 2007 were 85 or older. Deaths to those 75 and older accounted for more than half of all deaths.

**Percent of Deaths by Age
Delaware, 2007**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

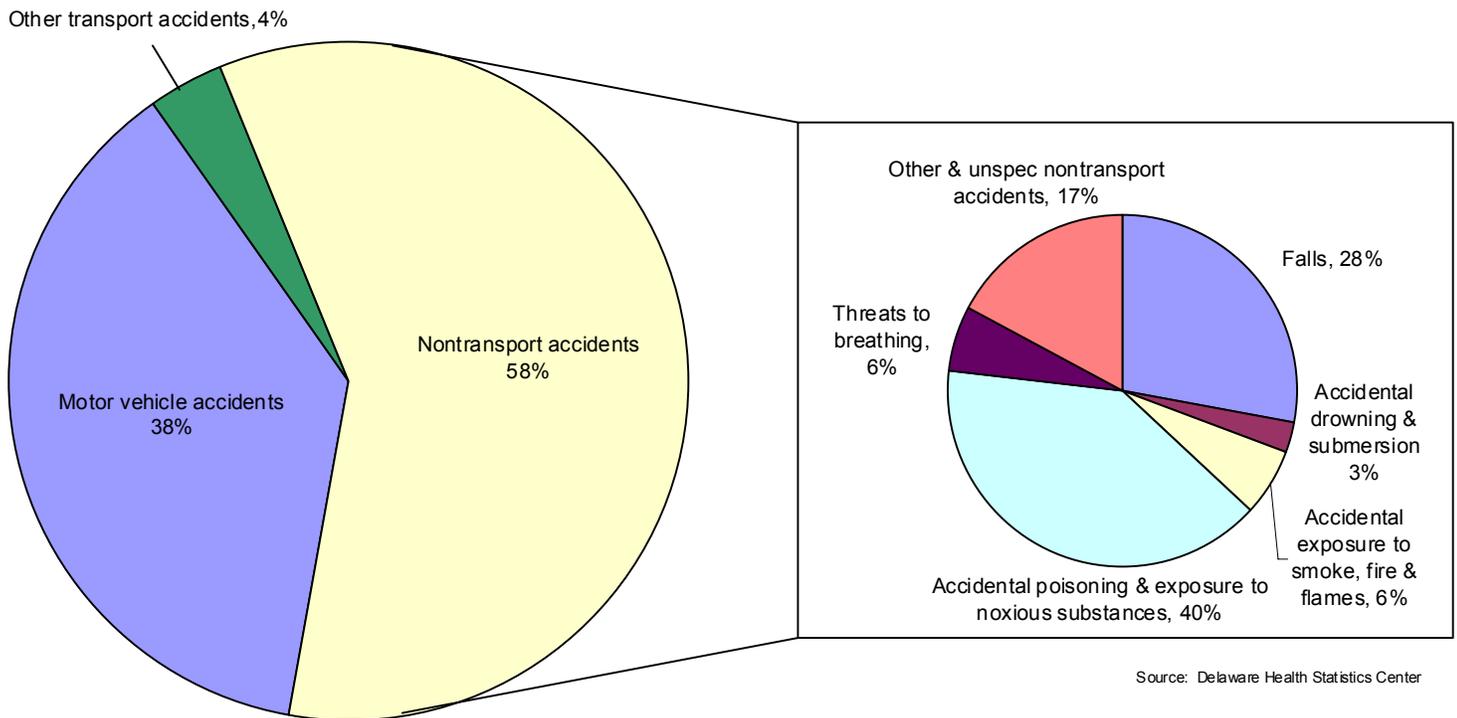
- A Delaware resident born in 2007 could expect to live an average of 78.8 years.
- Life expectancy at birth varied by race and sex; white females had the highest life expectancy (81.9) while black males had the lowest (72.9).
- In 1989, 80 percent of Delaware decedents were buried and 15 percent were cremated, by 2007 those proportions had changed to 58 (burial) and 33 (cremation).
- In 2007, the ten leading causes of death for residents of all ages were almost identical to the top 10 in 2006, with the main difference being movement among the rankings.

Rank	Leading Cause of Death	Number
1	Diseases of heart	1899
2	Malignant neoplasms	1836
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	375
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	366
5	Accidents (unintentional injuries)	304
6	Dementia	302
7	Diabetes mellitus	223
8	Alzheimer's disease	200
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome & nephrosis	162
10	Influenza & pneumonia	113

MORTALITY

- There were 304 deaths due to accidents in 2007; 38 percent of which were due to motor vehicle accidents and 58 percent of which were due to non-transport accidents. Forty percent of the 179 non-transport accidents were caused by unintentional poisonings; the majority (94 percent) of unintentional poisonings were drug poisonings.
- Overall, unintentional poisonings were second only to motor vehicle injuries as the leading cause of unintentional injury deaths in 2007.
 - For white females, poisonings caused the most unintentional injuries, followed by motor vehicle accidents. For white males, and blacks of both sexes, motor vehicle accidents caused the most unintentional injuries.

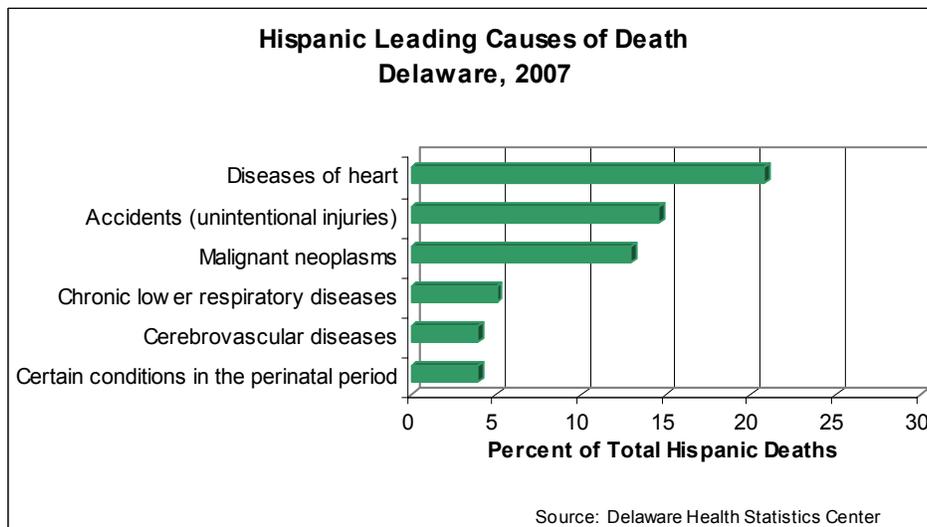
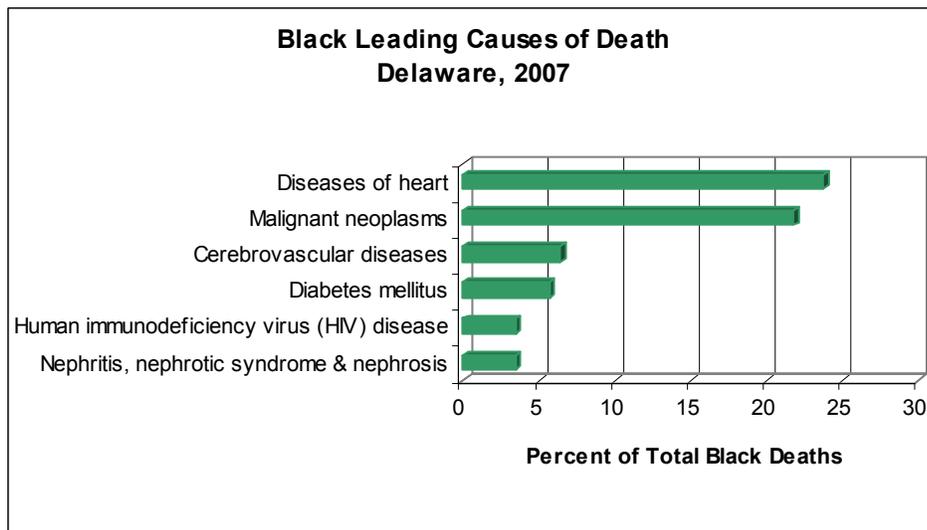
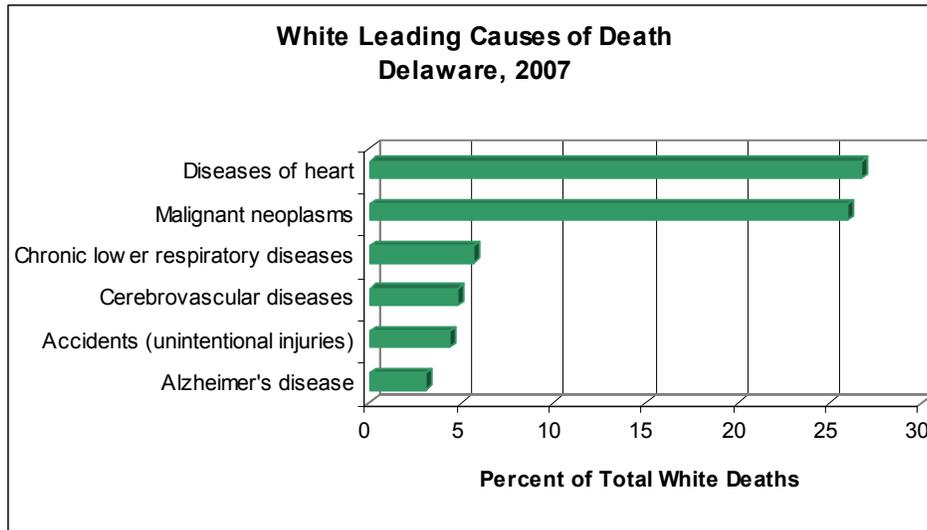
Accidental Causes of Death by Specific Cause of Injury Delaware, 2007



- From 2003-2007, accidents were the number one cause of death for people 1-44 years of age, and were responsible for nearly half of all deaths for people 15-24 years of age. For those ages 15-24, accidents, homicides, and suicides were the three most frequent causes of death (See Table F-11).

MORTALITY

The leading causes of death varied by race and ethnic group. The top five leading causes of death for white, black, and Hispanic Delawareans are shown below.

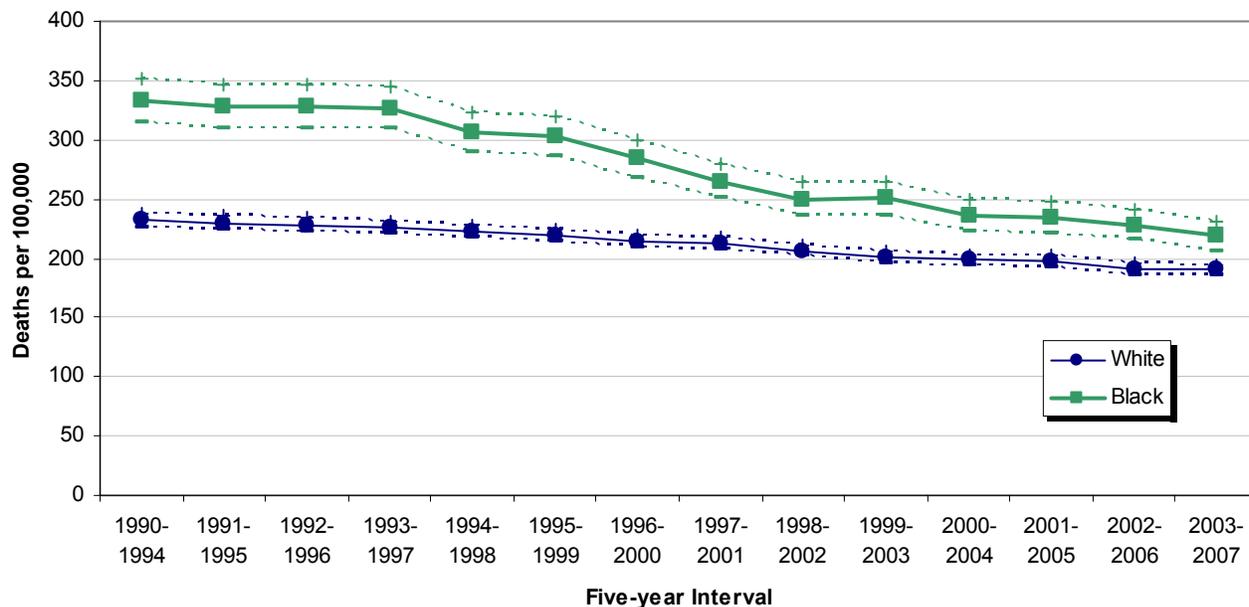


MORTALITY

Cancer mortality rates have been decreasing in all three counties since the early 1990s. In 2003-2007, the 5-year age-adjusted cancer mortality rates ranged from 190.8 in New Castle county to 210.1 deaths per 100,000 population in Kent county. Age-adjusted cancer mortality rates in Kent county and the city of Wilmington were significantly higher than the Delaware rate of 193.3.

Cancer mortality rates for black and white decedents have been decreasing since the early nineties, and while the gap between black and white has been narrowing, black cancer mortality rates in 2003-2007 remained significantly higher than the white rates.

**Five-year Age-Adjusted Cancer Mortality Rates by Race
Delaware, 1990-2007**

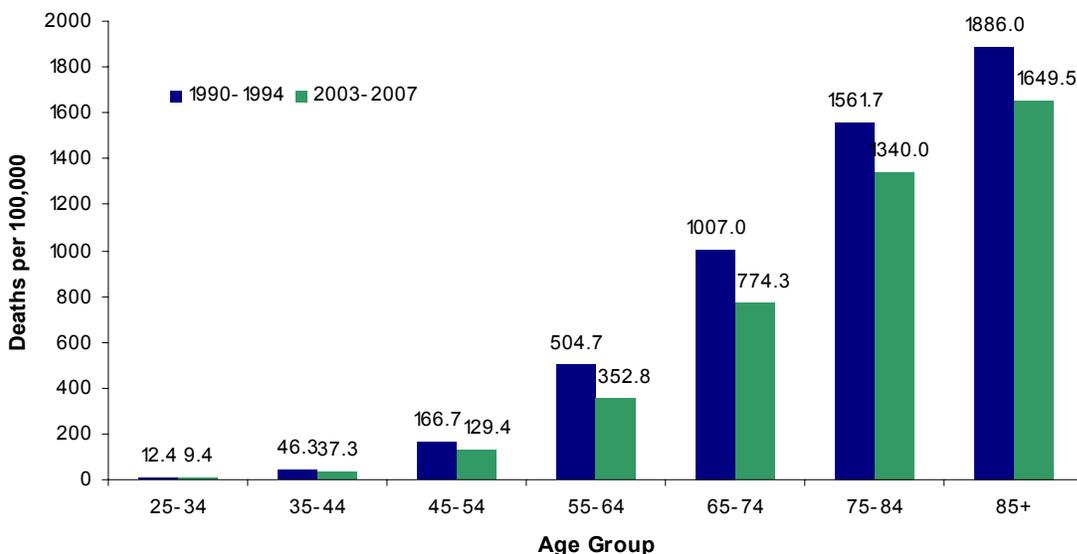


Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

**Five-year Average Age-Specific Cancer Mortality Rates
Delaware, 1990-1994 and 2003-2007**

The same decreases seen in the age-adjusted mortality rates of both blacks and whites were reflected in the age-specific rates as well.

Cancer mortality rates for all age groups 25 and higher declined between 1990-1994 and 2003-2007. The 55-64 age group experienced the largest decrease.

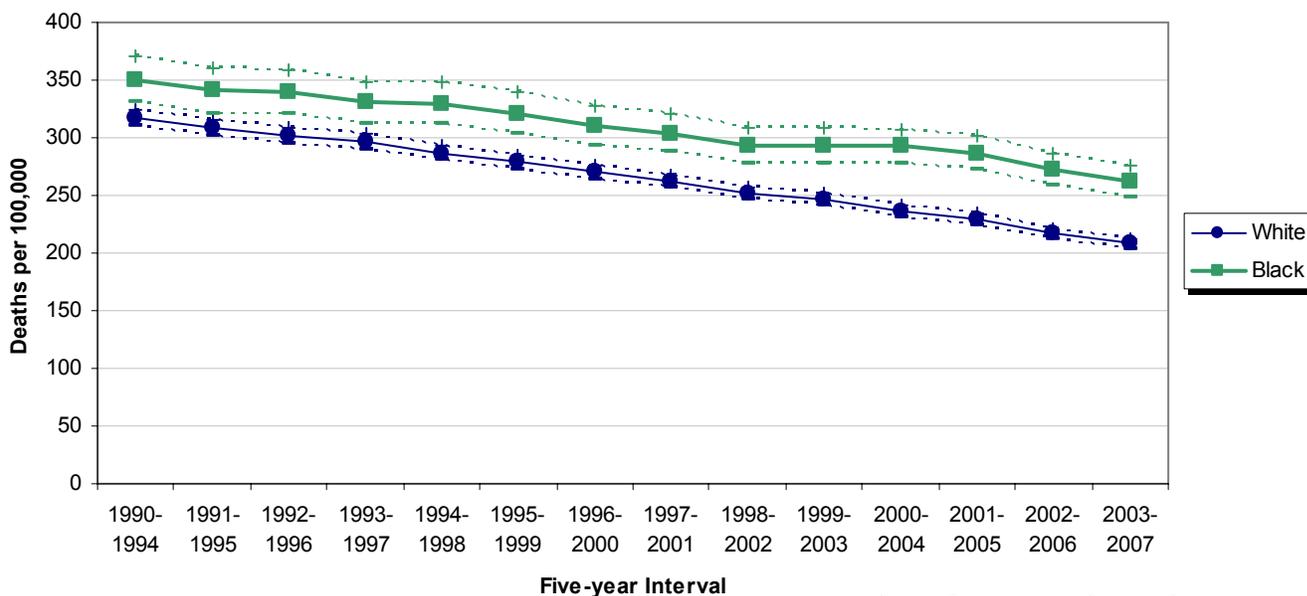


Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

MORTALITY

Heart disease remained the most common cause of death for both black and white Delawareans in 2003-2007. Both black and white heart disease mortality rates have declined significantly since 1990-1994, with white rates declining more (34 versus 25 percent) and creating a wider disparity between black and white rates.

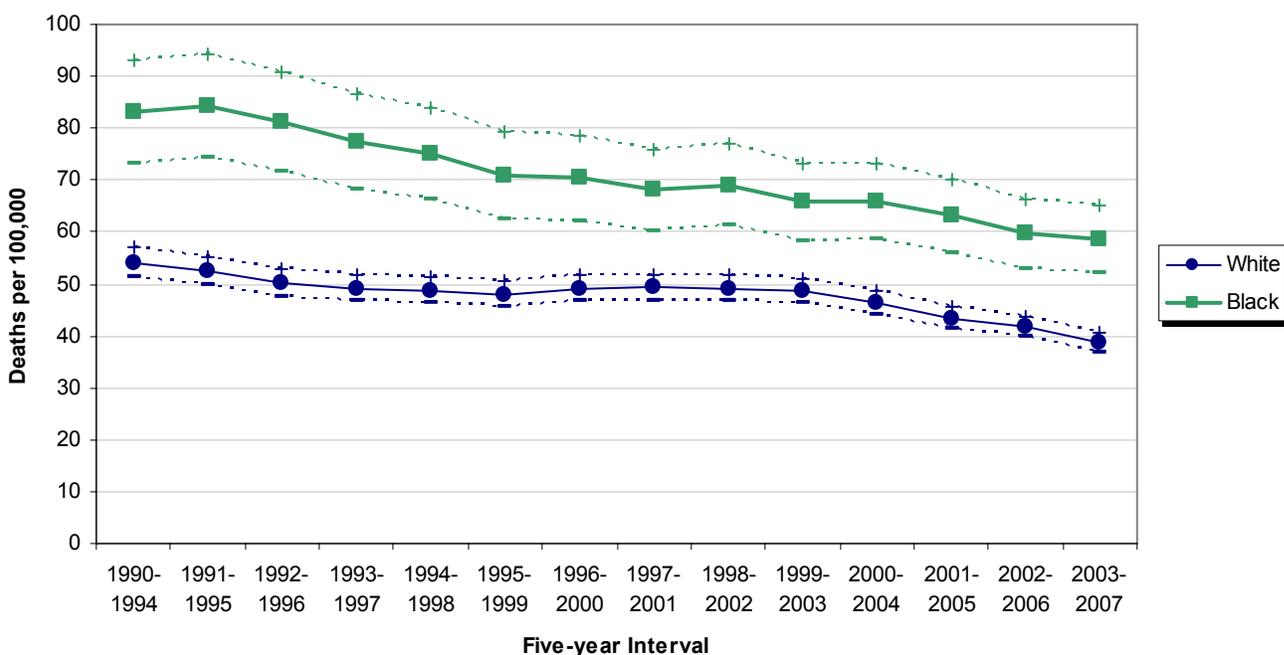
**Five-year Age-Adjusted Heart Disease Mortality Rates by Race
Delaware, 1990-2007**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Stroke mortality rates for both races continued their downward trends, with white rates declining 28 percent and black rates declining 30 percent between 1990-1994 and 2003-2007. Due to the similar decreases in their rates, black rates in 2003-2007 remained approximately 50 percent higher than white rates.

**Five-year Age-Adjusted Stroke Mortality Rates by Race
Delaware, 1990-2007**

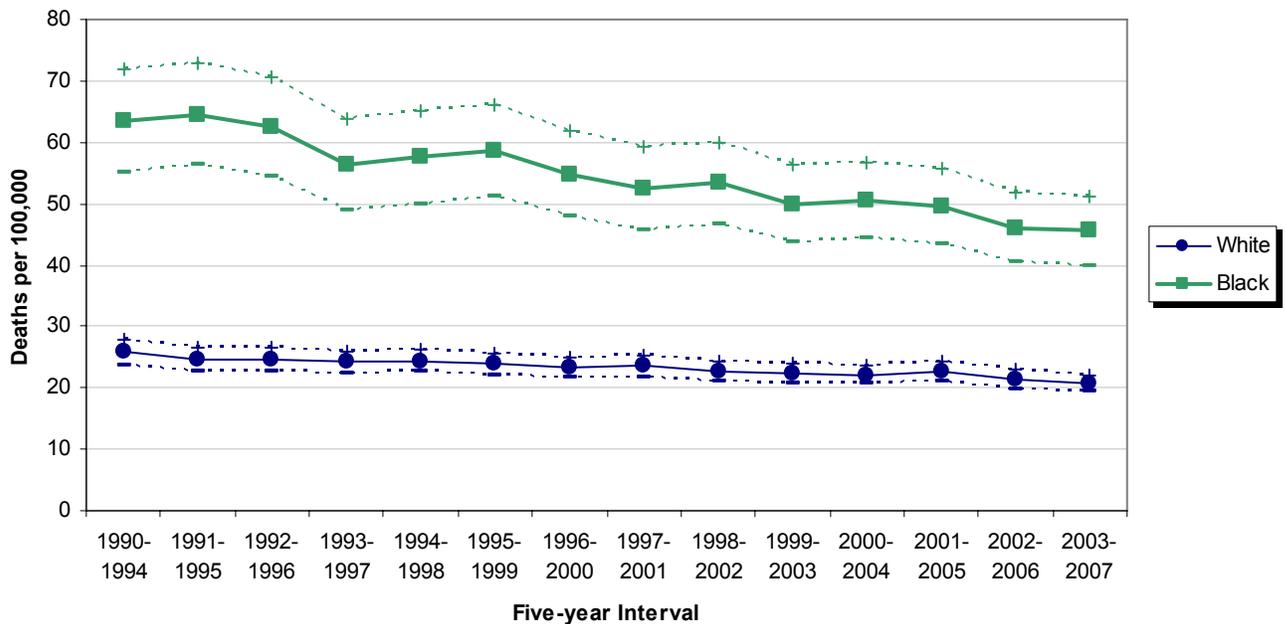


Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

MORTALITY

Though black mortality rates for Diabetes have been declining since 1990-1994, they remained more than twice that of whites in 2003-2007.

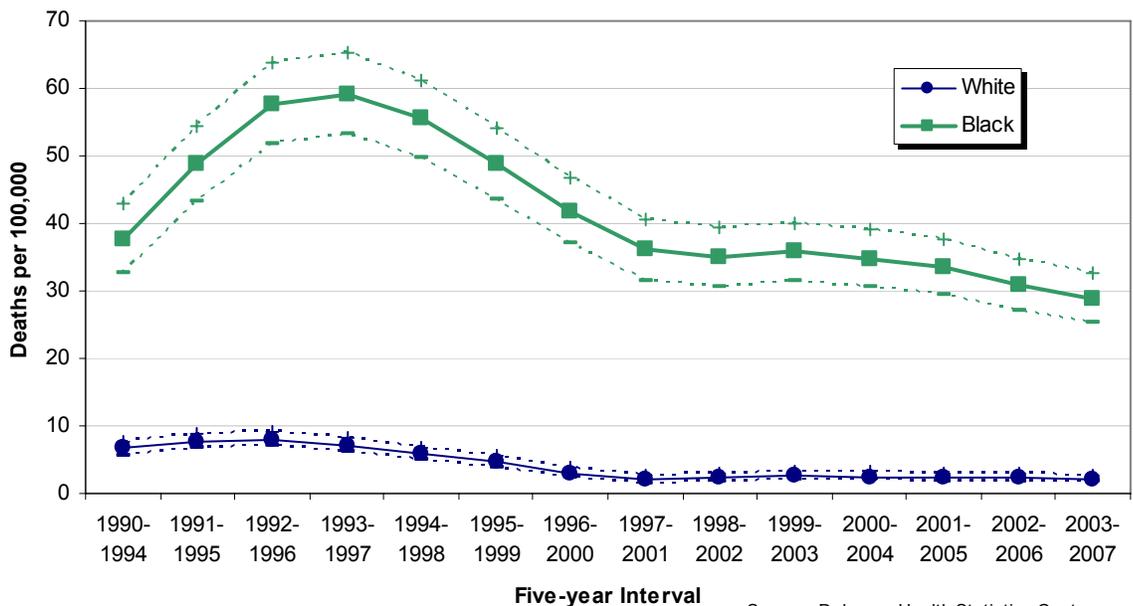
**Five-year Age-Adjusted Diabetes Mortality Rates by Race
Delaware, 1990-2007**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

HIV/AIDS mortality has disproportionately affected Delaware's black population. Despite black HIV/AIDS mortality rates decreasing significantly since the 1993-1997 peak, their 2003-2007 mortality rate of 28.9 deaths per 100,000 was 13 times that of whites. Though they made up only 21 percent of the total Delaware population in 2003-2007, blacks accounted for 78 percent of all deaths due to HIV/AIDS.

**Five-year Age-Adjusted HIV/AIDS Mortality Rates by Race
Delaware, 1990-2007**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

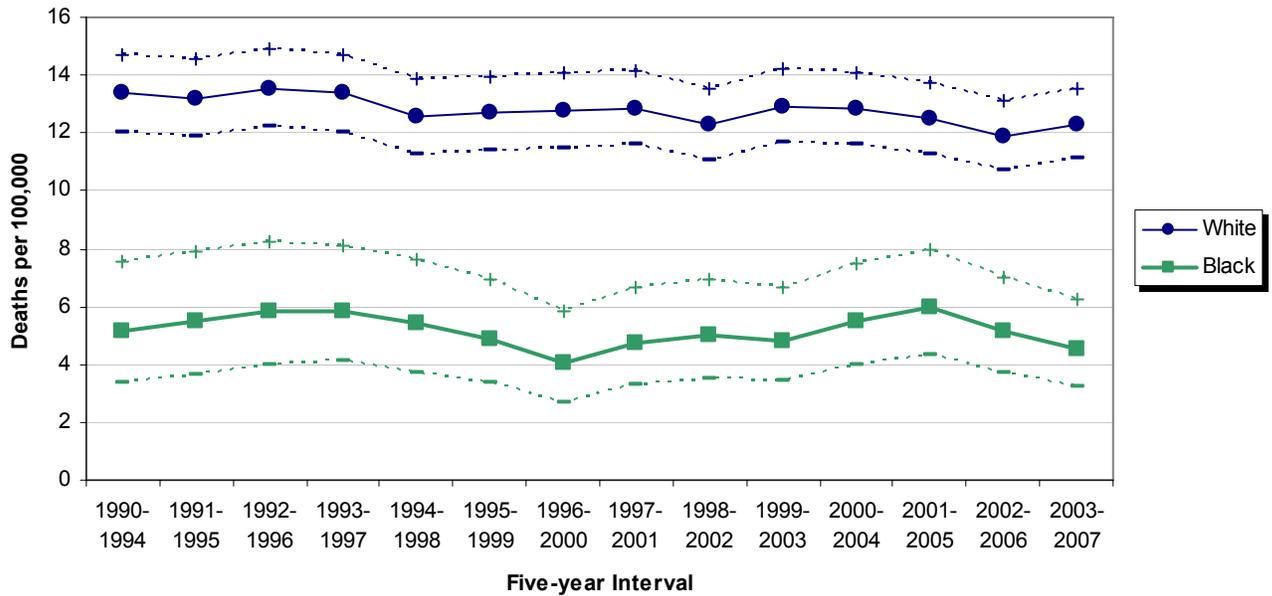
In 2003-2007, HIV was the fifth leading cause of death for black Delawareans; it ranked fourth for black males and fifth for black females.

For black males ages 25-44, it was the fourth most common cause of death, and for black females 25-44 it was the most common cause of death.

MORTALITY

Suicide mortality trends for both black and white populations remained fairly stable from 1990-1994 to 2003-2007, with the white rate (12.3) more than double that of the black rate (4.5).

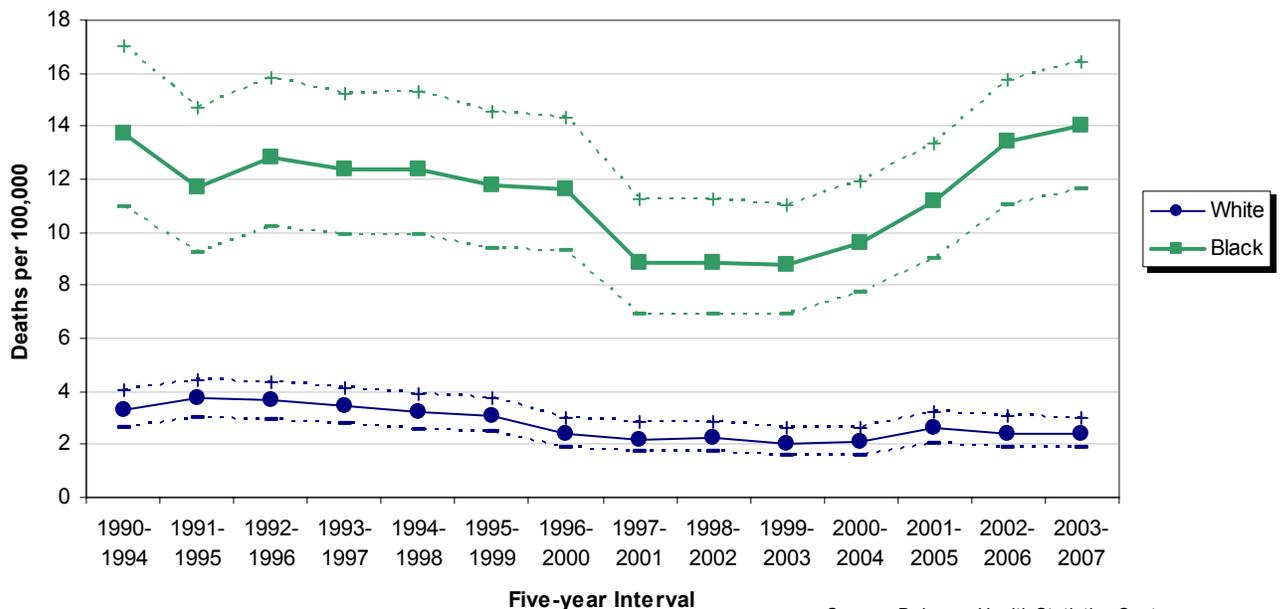
**Five-year Age-Adjusted Suicide Mortality Rates by Race
Delaware, 1990-2007**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Black and white homicide mortality rates declined throughout most of the 90s, reaching their lowest point in 1999-2003. Since then, black rates have risen steadily, and by 2003-2007 they were 60 percent higher. Though white rates had risen as well, the increase was not significant and their most recent trend has been stable. As a result, the 2003-2007 homicide mortality rate for blacks (14) was nearly 6 times that of whites (2.4).

**Five-year Age-Adjusted Homicide Mortality Rates by Race
Delaware, 1990-2007**

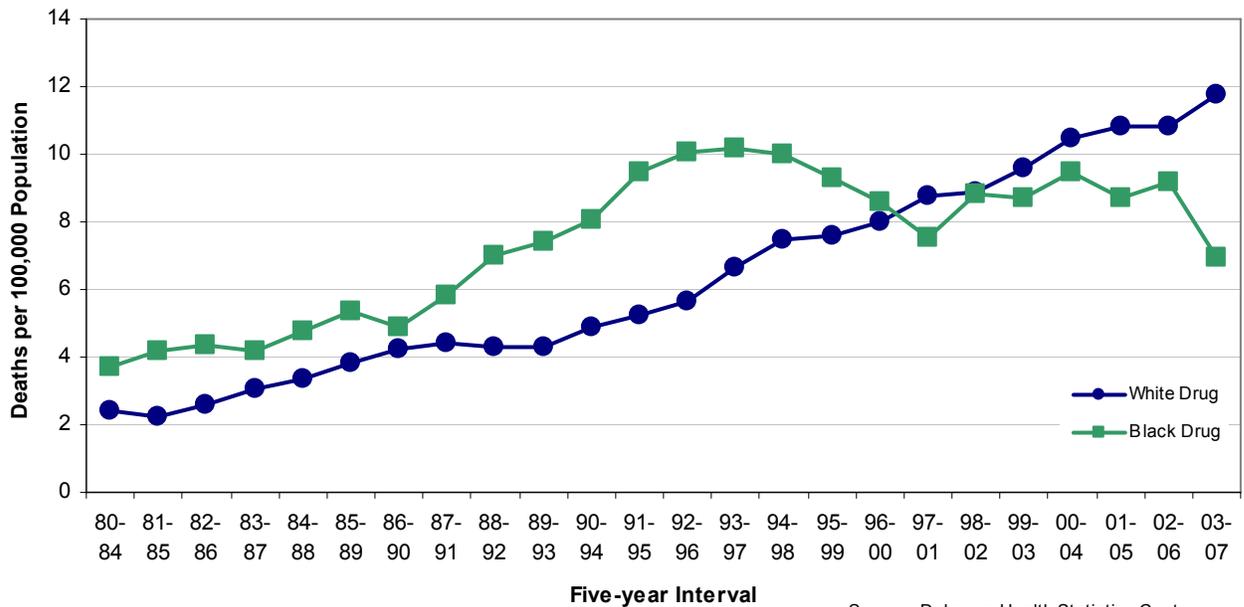


Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

MORTALITY

Though black mortality rates for drug-induced deaths were historically higher than white rates, in 1994-1998 they began a four year decline that moved them just below white rates in 1997-2001. Since then, white mortality rates have remained higher, and in 2003-2007 the white rate (11.7) was 70 percent higher than the black rate (6.9).

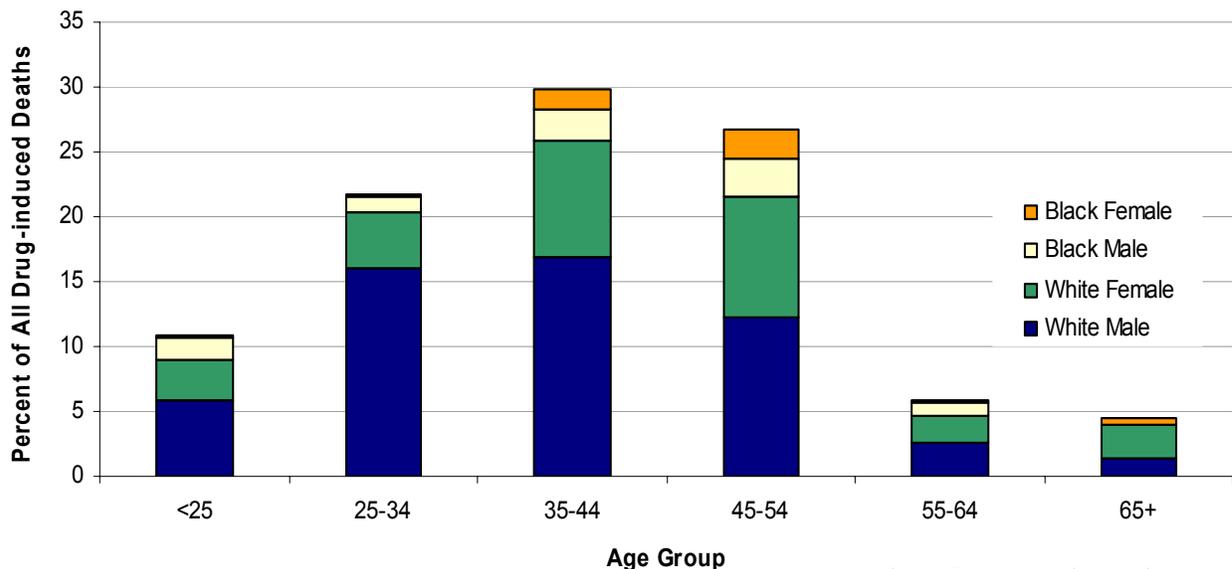
**Five-year Age-adjusted Mortality Rates for Drug-Induced Deaths by Race
Delaware, 1980-2007**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Over half (56 percent) of all drug-induced deaths in 2003-2007 were white males. Of all the race-age groups, white males ages 35-44 were responsible for the single largest proportion (17 percent) of drug-induced deaths.

**Distribution of Drug-induced Deaths by Race, Sex, and Age Group
Delaware 2003-2007**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center