

Healthy People 2000

HP
Update

Summary of Alaska's progress in maternal, infant, and child health objectives over the last decade

Over the last decade, Alaska has made significant progress for many of the National Healthy People 2000 (HP2000) goals in the area of maternal and child health. Most noticeable are our achievements in the reduction of infant mortality and maintaining a low prevalence of low birth weight births.

HP2000 Targets Alaska Has Exceeded

Reduce infant mortality to 7 per 1,000 live births

- Reduced infant mortality to 6.1 per 1,000.
- Reduced neonatal mortality to 3.1 per 1,000.

Reduce low and very low birth weight to 5% and 1%, respectively

- Retained historically low prevalence of low and very low birth weight births at 4.4% and 0.7%, respectively.

Increase breastfeeding to 75% during the post-partum period and 50% at six months

- Increased breastfeeding during the post-partum period to nearly 89%.
- Increased breastfeeding at six months to 50.2%.

Where Alaska Needs Work

Reduce prenatal substance use

- No reduction in prenatal cocaine or marijuana use over the last decade.

Increase prenatal care

- No improvement in the prevalence of women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester.

Reduce birth defects

- The prevalences of fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and neural tube defects are higher than the HP2000 targets.

Reduce racial disparities

- No reduction in racial disparities for Alaska Natives in infant mortality, FAS, and first trimester prenatal care.

Significant Improvements — But More Work Ahead

Reduce prenatal tobacco and alcohol use

- Significant reduction in the prevalence of women using alcohol and tobacco prenatally — but Alaska has not achieved HP2000 goals for these indicators.

Reduce post-neonatal mortality

- Despite a significant decline in the number of post-neonatal deaths over the last decade, the HP2000 target of 2.5 post-neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births was not met.

Chapter 14: Maternal and Infant Health					
Healthy People 2000 Objective		Alaska Baseline (Year)	Alaska 2000	HP2000 Target	Goal Met
14.1	Infant mortality ¹ (rate ¹ per 1,000 live births)	9.6 (89-91)	6.1	7.0	✓
	b. Alaska Native*	16.6 (89-91)	9.5	8.5	
	d. Neonatal Mortality	4.3 (89-91)	3.1	4.5	✓
	g. Post-neonatal Mortality	5.3 (89-91)	3.0	2.5	
	i. Post-neonatal Mortality Among Alaska Natives*	10.5 (89-91)	5.3	4.0	
14.2	Fetal deaths ¹ (rate ¹ per 1,000)	5.2 (89-91)	4.7	5.0	✓
14.4	Fetal alcohol syndrome ² (rate ¹ per 1,000 live births)	1.7 (95-97)	1.2	0.12	
	a. Alaska Native*	5.9 (95-97)	4.1	2.0	
14.5	Low birth weight ¹ (percent)	3.8% (91)	4.4%	5%	✓
	Very Low Birth Weight	0.6% (91)	0.7%	1%	✓
14.9	Breastfeeding ^{3,4} (percent)				
	During Early Post-partum period (i.e. ever breastfed) ³	79.1% (91)	88.9%	75%	✓
	d. Alaska Native*	73.3% (91)	83.3%	75%	✓
	At six months ⁴	31.7% (91)	50.2%	50%	✓
14.10	Substance use during pregnancy ³ (percent)				
	Tobacco (during last 3 months)	23.2% (91)	16.8%	10%	
	Alcohol (during last 3 months)	10.3% (91)	5.3%	5%	
	Marijuana	5.8% (91)	4.5%	0%	
	Cocaine	0.6% (91)	0.7%	0%	
14.11	Prenatal care in the first trimester ¹ (percent)	82.6% (91)	80.5%	90%	
	b. Alaska Native*	77.0% (95)	70.4%	90%	
14.17	Spina bifida and other neural tube defects ⁵ (rate ¹ per 10,000 live births)	7.3 (96-98)	6.7	3.0	

¹Rate is expressed as a three-year average for Alaska 2000 data and is comprised of years 1998-2000.

*Alaska Native includes American Indian

Data Sources:

¹ Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics, ² Alaska Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Surveillance Project (FASSP), ³ Alaska Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), ⁴ Ross Labs, ⁵ Alaska Birth Defects Registry