

City Data

The following section compares urban health to the national average for several health indicators. Included are data on low and very low birth weight for infants born in U.S. cities with over 100,000 residents, and infant mortality among infants born in cities with more than 250,000 residents.

These comparisons indicate that the health status of infants living in large U.S. cities is generally poorer than that of infants in the Nation as a whole. In 2006, 8.8 percent of infants living in cities were born at low birth weight, compared to a national average of 8.5 percent. The infant mortality rate showed an even greater disparity, with a rate of 7.5 per 1,000 live births among infants in cities compared to a national average of 6.9 per 1,000.



BIRTH WEIGHT

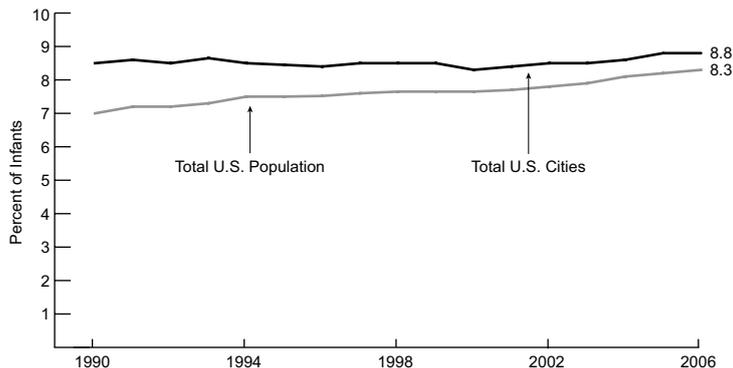
Low Birth Weight. Disorders related to short gestation and low birth weight are the second leading cause of neonatal mortality in the United States. In 2006, 123,230 babies born to residents of U.S. cities with populations over 100,000 were low birth weight (weighing less than 2,500 grams, or 5 pounds 8 ounces); this represents 8.8 percent of infants in U.S. cities. The 2006 percentage of urban infants born low birth weight was 6 percent higher than the percentage

among all U.S. infants (8.3 percent), though this gap has decreased somewhat since 1990.

Very Low Birth Weight. Infants born very low birth weight (less than 1,500 grams, or 3 pounds 4 ounces) are at highest risk for poor health outcomes. In 2006, nearly 1.7 percent of live births in cities with populations over 100,000 were very low birth weight. This exceeded the rate of very low birth weight nationwide by 13 percent.

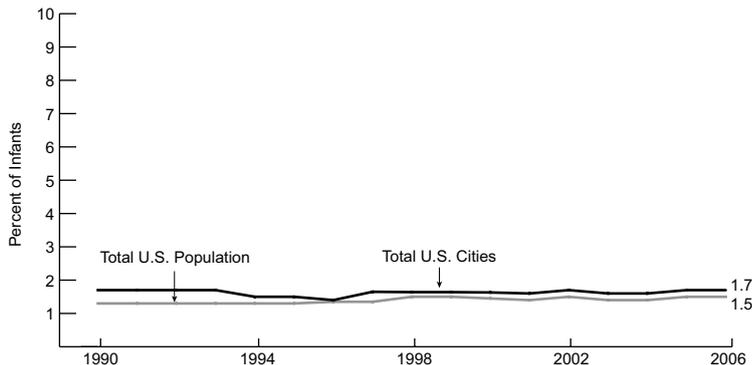
Infants Born Low Birth Weight in U.S. Cities with Populations over 100,000, 1990–2006

Source (II.1): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System



Infants Born Very Low Birth Weight in U.S. Cities with Populations over 100,000, 1990–2006

Source (II.1): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System

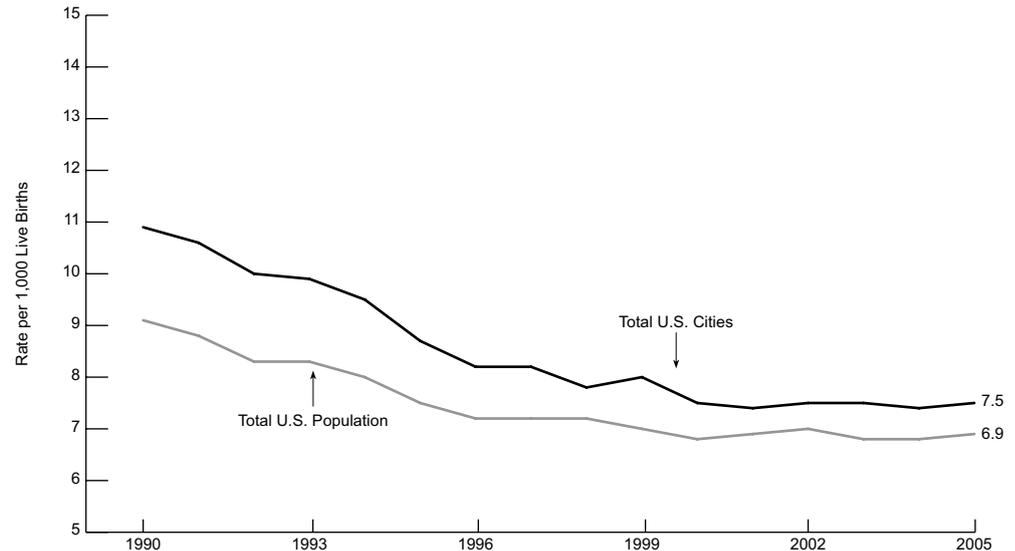


INFANT MORTALITY

In 2005, 6,623 infants born to residents of cities in the United States with populations over 250,000 died in the first year of life. The infant mortality rate in United States cities was 7.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, which was higher than the rate for the Nation as a whole (6.9 per 1,000). Although the infant mortality rate in cities has consistently been higher than the rate nationwide, it declined over the past decade, and the disparity in infant mortality rates between infants in cities and the Nation as a whole decreased by 50 percent. Between 1990 and 2005, the infant mortality rate in cities declined by nearly one-third, while the nationwide decline during the same period was approximately 25 percent. Declines in infant mortality rates since 2000, however, have been relatively small for both cities and the population as a whole.

Infant Mortality Rates in U.S. Cities,* 1990–2005

Source (II.1): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System



*Data for 1990–2002 were for cities with populations over 100,000; data after 2002 reflect cities with populations over 250,000.