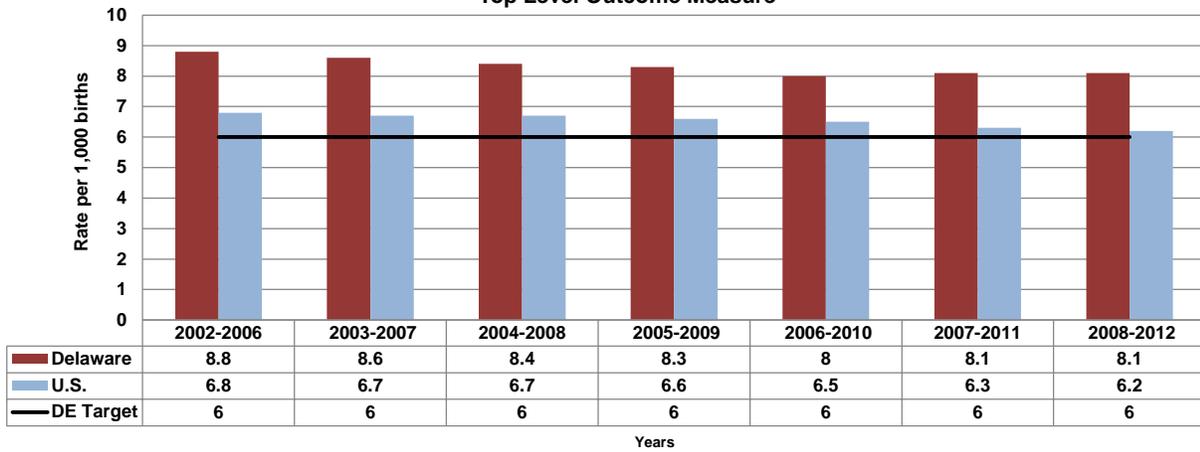




Infant Mortality
Top Level Outcome Measure



Interpretation

Between 2002-2006 and 2007-2011, the infant mortality rate (IMR) in Delaware decreased by 8 percent from 8.8 infant deaths per 1,000 births to 8.1 infant deaths per 1,000 births. The IMR remained relatively unchanged during the most recent reported statistics at 8.1 deaths per 1,000 births (2007-2011 and 2008-2012). The Delaware IMR remains consistently higher than the U.S. rate for the past decade. Delaware established a target IMR of 6.0 infant deaths per 1,000 births, which translates to an average of 16 fewer infant deaths (or a total of 66 infants deaths occurring annually) each year in Delaware.

Addressing the health issue

Multiple community and social service programs are in place (Healthy Women Healthy Babies, Prematurity Prevention Program, Prenatal and Postpartum Care Program) to address maternal and infant health concerns associated with infant mortality. Reproductive health education tools and other educational materials are distributed to women and teens through a statewide education campaign and are available at <http://healthywomende.com/>. Program surveillance provides data on maternal attitudes and experiences. This information is analyzed to assess program performance and to improve the health of infants and mothers.

¹ Infant mortality rate= the number of deaths among children less than one year of age per 1,000 live births.

² Delaware reports five-year moving averages to increase the stability of estimates resulting from a small number of infant deaths occurring annually.

³ The Delaware target was established in DPH's Strategic Plan to be met by 2020 to reflect the Healthy People 2020 goal for this measure. The Delaware target spans prior years as an arbitrary comparison of previous years' rates with the current target.

⁴ Sources: Delaware Health Statistics; National Center for Health Statistics.