Infant mortality (the death of an infant during its first year) has dramatically declined over the past 60 years in the U.S. This decline is largely due to medical advances and hospital care of premature infants. Nationally, the leading causes of infant death are birth defects, prematurity/low birth weight, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

In Oregon in 2012, 5.3 infants died per 1,000 live births among Oregon residents, down from 2000 when 5.6 infants died per 1,000 live births. Oregon’s infant death rate has been lower than the U.S. for more than 20 years but racial and ethnic disparities persist.
**Additional Resources:** Oregon Perinatal Data Book, pp.14-15

**About the Data:** Oregon data is from the Oregon Linked Birth & Death Certificate Data (from the Center for Health Statistics of the Oregon Health Authority) and U.S. data is from the National Center for Health Statistics. Data include infants born alive who die within the first year of life.

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