

**Vision:** *Newborns, infants and toddlers thrive.*

## Fewer Women Receiving Prenatal Care in Hawaii County

Prenatal care of in the first three months of pregnancy is highly correlated with better outcomes and is a reflection of access to care. A consistently smaller percent of Hawaii County women received first trimester care from 2000 – 2009 compared to the state average. In 2009 only, 76% of Hawaii County mothers received prenatal care compared to 84% for the state (see Figure 41). This may be related to healthcare workforce shortages, as well as more uninsured and cultural differences.

## Higher Infant Mortality in Hawaii County

Infant mortality is defined by an infant’s death within the first year after birth. In general, infant mortality is linked with socioeconomic indicators. Because it is a relatively rare occurrence, rates vary more in smaller populations, such as Hawaii County.

Hawaii County infant mortality rate per 1,000 births has been generally higher than the state. Over time, there does appear to be improvement. In 2009, the Hawaii County infant mortality rate was 6.9 and was higher than the state rate of 5.9 (see Figure 42). According to the Healthy People 2010, “Infant mortality is also an indicator of pregnant women’s access to high quality primary care.”<sup>19</sup>

## Higher Proportion of Mothers with Hawaiian Ethnicity in Hawaii County

As providers work to increase prenatal care and reduce infant mortality in Hawaii County, it may be helpful to reach out to mothers with Hawaiian ancestry who have a higher proportion of births in Hawaii County (see Figure 43).

Figure 41

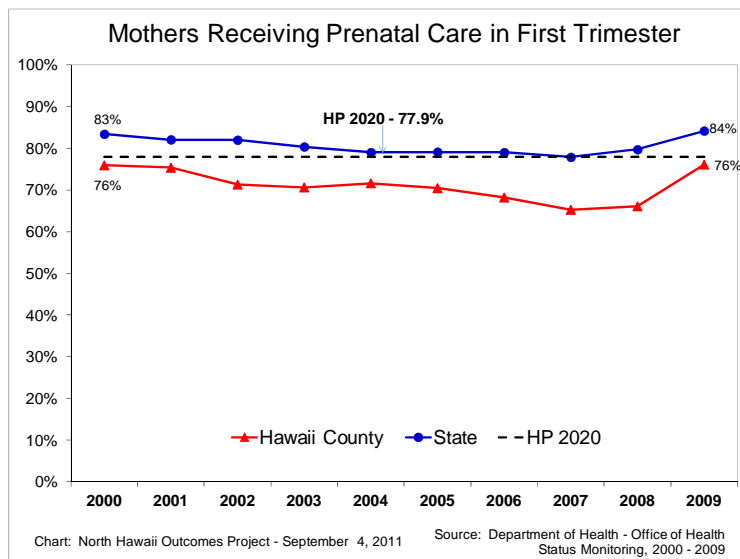


Figure 42

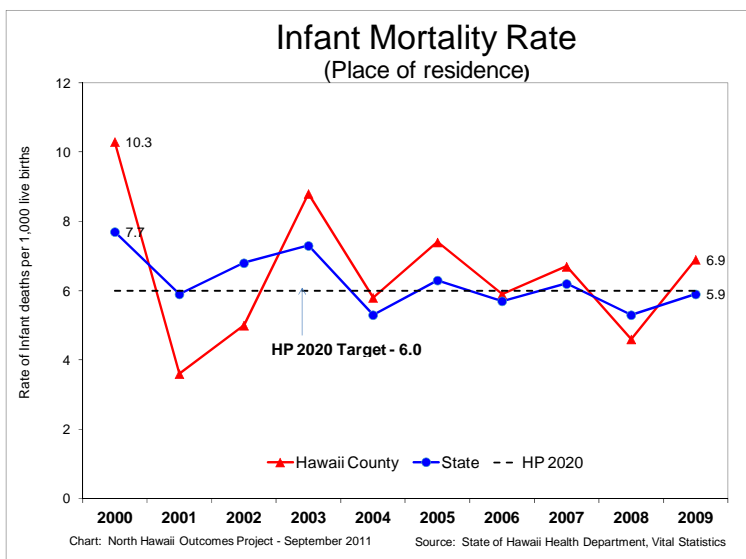


Figure 43

