The Healthy People 2010 objective is to reduce the infant mortality rate to no more than 4.5 per 1,000 live births.

The infant mortality rate for Los Angeles County has remained stable around 4.9 to 5.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births between 2000 and 2007.

The infant mortality rate for African Americans in Los Angeles County is about twice as high as the overall Los Angeles County rate, and three times that of White babies. African American comprised 8% of all births and 16% of all infant deaths in 2007.

In 2007, more than 16% of both African American babies and Native Americans babies were born preterm.

Low birthweight and very low birthweight are the leading cause of infant mortality. Almost 3% of all African American babies were born very low birthweight and an additional 10% were born with low birthweight.

SPA 6 has the highest rate of preterm births, and SPAs 1 and 6 have the highest rate of low and very low birthweight.