

Infant Mortality in Singapore

Do you know...

that Singapore’s infant mortality (i.e. deaths of infants under 1 year of age) has improved significantly since 1980. In 1980, about 8 in 1,000 infants did not survive beyond their first year of life. By 2008, this ratio declined to about 2 in 1,000 infants (Chart 1).

Typically, proportionately more infant girls than boys would survive their first year. In 2008, the female infant mortality rate was 1.7 deaths per thousand live-births vis-a-vis 2.6 deaths per thousand live-births for males.

The improvement in infant mortality between 1980 and 2008 was due to reductions in both neonatal deaths (i.e. deaths of infants under 28 days of age) and post-

neonatal deaths (i.e. deaths of infants from 28 days to under 1 year of age).

There were 379 fewer infant deaths in 2008 (at 104) than in 1980 (at 483) (Chart 2). 304 fewer neonatal deaths were recorded in 2008 than in 1980, accounting for 80 per cent of the decline in the number of infant deaths. The remaining 75 fewer infant deaths, or 20 per cent of the decline, during the period was due to post-neonatal deaths.

Singapore’s infant mortality rate compares favorably with those in selected developed countries/regions. Infant mortality rate in Singapore was higher than Hong Kong but lower than Japan, South Korea, Australia, Taiwan, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada and USA (Chart 3).

CHART 1 INFANT MORTALITY RATES, 1980-2008

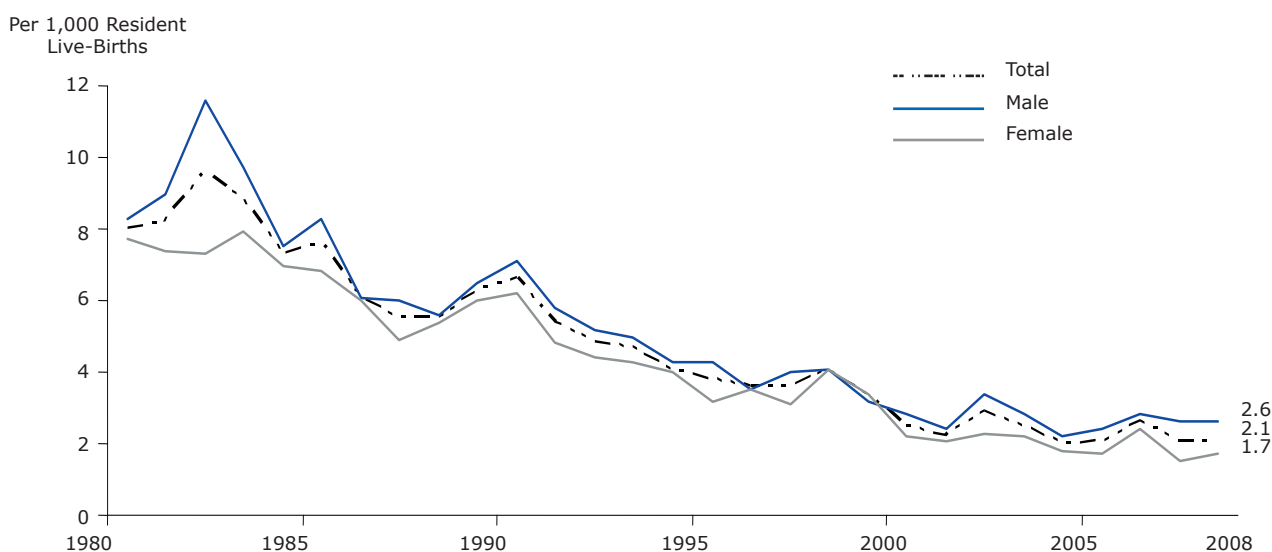


CHART 2 NUMBER OF NEONATAL AND POST-NEONATAL DEATH, 1980-2008

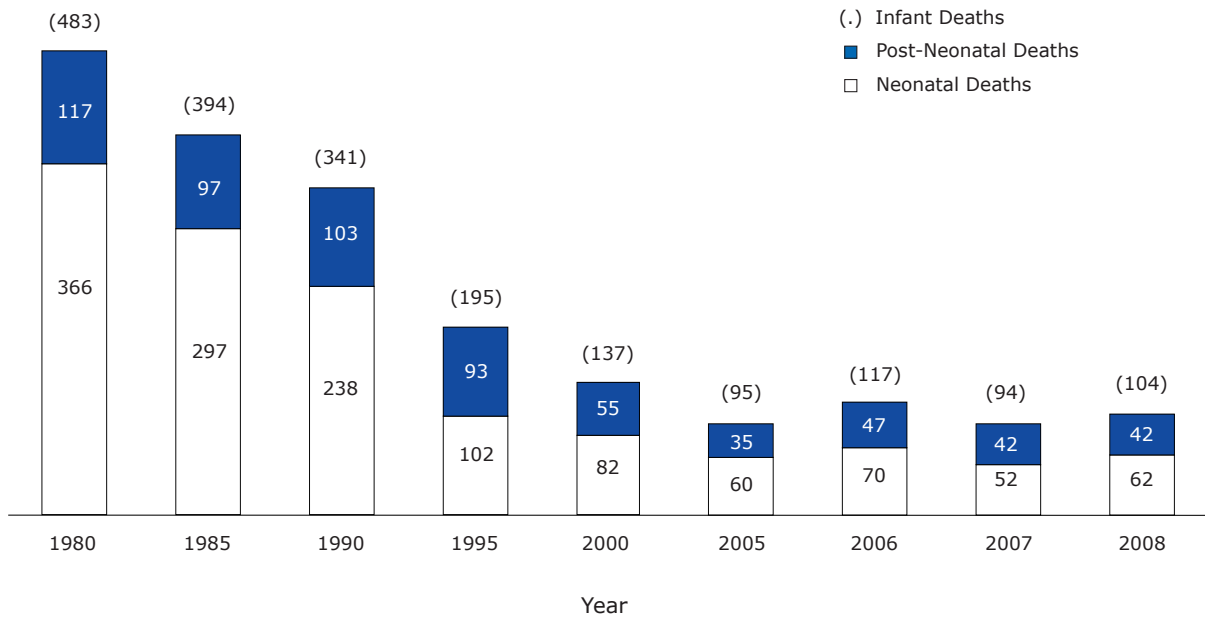
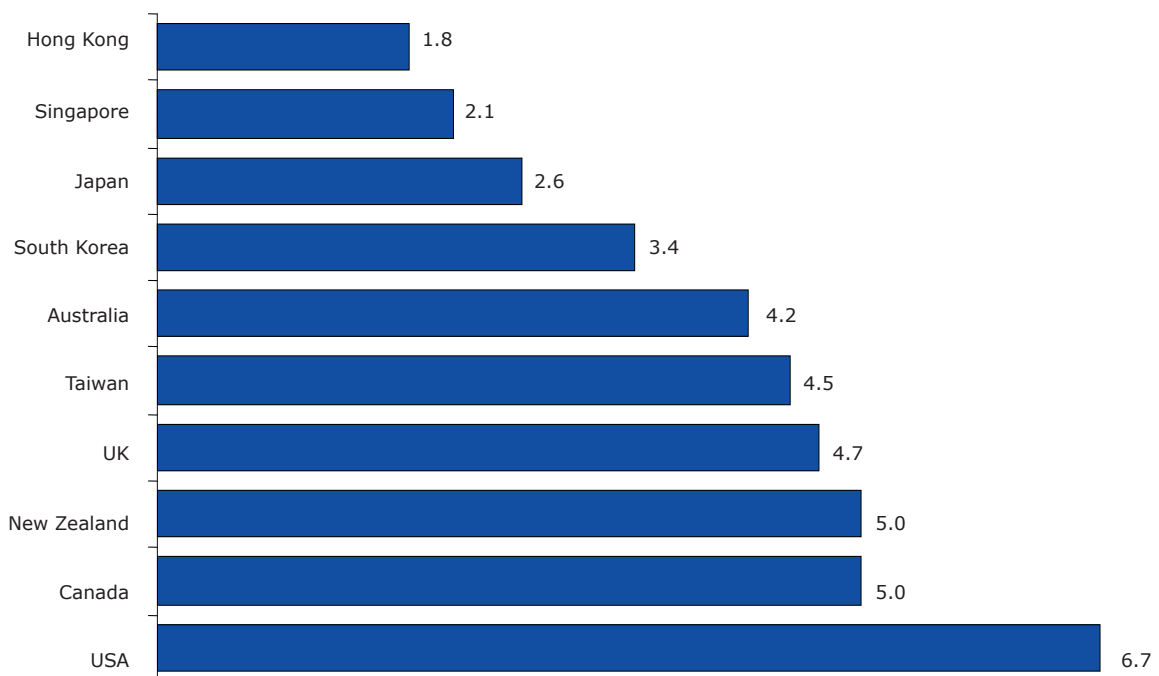


CHART 3 INFANT MORTALITY RATES OF SELECTED COUNTRIES/REGIONS, 2008

Per 1,000 Live-Births



Note: Data for USA and Canada refer to 2006.
 Data for Japan, South Korea and Australia refer to 2007.