

# STATISTICAL NEWS

PA Department of Health ♦ Bureau of Health Statistics and Research ♦ Vol. 26 No. 3 ♦ May 2003

## Job Satisfaction High Among PA Nurses

*Department of Health Surveying Various Health Professionals*

**A**lmost 84 percent of Pennsylvania active registered nurses are satisfied with their jobs, according to statistics from a recent survey. The Pennsylvania Department of Health, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, is currently in the process of surveying various health professionals who are licensed in the state of Pennsylvania. The Department of State has agreed to include survey forms developed by the Department of Health in the license renewal packages for various categories of health professionals.

The goal of these surveys is to provide accurate, objective data describing the demographic, educational, employment characteristics, and job satisfaction of health professionals in Pennsylvania. Health professions for which surveys are under way include licensed practical nurses, physicians, dentists and dental hygienists. From the survey data, reports will be produced which will provide information for employers, educators, legislators, policy makers and researchers.

**The goal is...to provide accurate, objective data describing the demographic, educational, employment characteristics, and job satisfaction of health professionals...**

Licenses for registered nurses are renewed in four cohorts. In January 2002, approximately 49,280 license renewal applications were mailed out to registered nurses whose license expired in April 2002. The mailing yielded 43,323 renewals, from which 40,667 useable questionnaires were returned. Of the registered nurses responding, 76.5 percent were employed in health care, 10.2 percent noted that they were retired and 6.3 percent noted that they were unemployed and not seeking health care employment (see Figure 1 on Page 6).

The number of registered nurses who responded that they were employed in health care

*Continued on Page 6...*

## 2002 Data on Health Risk Behaviors Available

*Data on Overweight, Smoking, etc. Collected for State Since 1989*

**A**ccording to preliminary results from the 2002 Pennsylvania Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey, 60 percent of Pennsylvania adults were overweight or obese, 24 percent engaged in no leisure-time physical activity, 16 percent reported that their general health was fair or poor, and 25 percent smoked cigarettes.

These and many other health behavioral facts for 2002 are now available upon request from the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research. These data are collected via the BRFSS sample survey which estimates the percentage of Pennsylvania adults at risk due to unhealthy behaviors.

The BRFSS is a cooperative effort of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Each state uses a standard questionnaire to collect data by means of telephone interviews with randomly selected state adult residents. This data collection effort has been conducted in Pennsylvania since 1989.

Some data highlights for 2002 follow.

**...60 percent of Pennsylvania adults were overweight or obese...and 25 percent smoked cigarettes.**

**Overweight/Obese** - The percentage of overweight or obese male adults (68) was significantly higher than the percent-

*Continued on Page 5...*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
... in pursuit of good health

*Edward G. Rendell, Governor*

# Medical Conditions Reported for School Students

## *Asthma and Attention Deficit Disorder Are Most Prevalent Conditions*

Over eight percent of school students in Pennsylvania had asthma during school year 2000/2001 and almost four percent were diagnosed with attention deficit disorder and/or hyperactivity. These statistics and information on other medical conditions among school students are reported each year to the Department's Division of School Health.

All of Pennsylvania's public school districts, comprehensive vocational-technical schools, and charter schools have submitted aggregate statistics every school year since 1997/1998 on the number of students diagnosed with selected medical conditions. This information is collected via the *Request for Reimbursement and Reports of School Health Services (Annual Report)*.

The purpose of this *Annual Report* is to provide a mechanism for schools to document the provision of, and receive partial reimbursement for, health services as required by Article XIV (Health Services) of the Pennsylvania Public School Code and Chapter 23 (School Health) of 28 Pennsylvania Code, Department of Health regulations. This *Annual Report* provides various information about Pennsylvania's school health program, including student health status.

Unfortunately the schools report only a total number for each medical condition; therefore, breakdowns by age, grade, sex, and race are not available. However, these ag-

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**Over eight percent of school students in Pennsylvania had asthma...and almost four percent were diagnosed with attention deficit disorder/hyperactivity.**

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gregate data are available at the county and school district levels. You can access county level statistics throughout four school years on the Department's web site for the following ten medical conditions :

- Arthritis/Rheumatic Dis.
- Asthma
- Attention Deficit Disorder/Hyperactivity
- Birth Defects/Developmental
- Diabetes
- Hearing
- Neurologic Disorders
- Orthopedic Disorders
- Psychiatric Disorders
- Seizure Disorders

Go to [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us) and select "Health Topics A to Z" (in the left top corner) and then scroll down and click on "School Health Statistics." To obtain school district level statistics and for information on other data available from the *Annual Report*, please contact the Division of School Health at 717-787-2390.

The data table on the opposite page shows the statewide numbers and percentages for the ten medical conditions over the last four school years for which data are available. The bar chart below the data table displays the ten percentages for the latest available school year (2000/2001).

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**You can access county level statistics throughout four school years on the Department's web site for... ten conditions...**

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Asthma accounted for the highest percentages throughout the four-year period, increasing from 6.62 percent in 1997/1998 to 8.18 in 2000/2001. Most of the other conditions showed little or no increase over the years.

Attention Deficit Disorder/Hyperactivity (ADD/ADHD) had the second highest figure, with 3.79 percent prevalence reported for 2000/2001. The other eight conditions had percentages of approximately 1.3 or less. The smallest figures occurred for Diabetes (0.26 percent in 2000/2001) and Arthritis/Rheumatic Disease (0.15 percent).

Please note that students with multiple unrelated conditions are counted under each respective condition. Also, some students may move from one school district to another, or from one school entity to another; therefore, there may be some duplication in counts.

As mentioned above, please contact the Division of School Health at 717-787-2390 for more information on these school health statistics.

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## UPDATE: Health Statistics Interactive Web Site

The Bureau of Health Statistics and Research is making substantial progress in creating a new web site that will offer data users the ability to interactively create their own statistics, charts, and maps using birth, death, population, and cancer incidence data sets

at the state and county level (and at the municipality level for population). More than ten years of data will be available for single and multiple-year calculations, charting, and mapping.

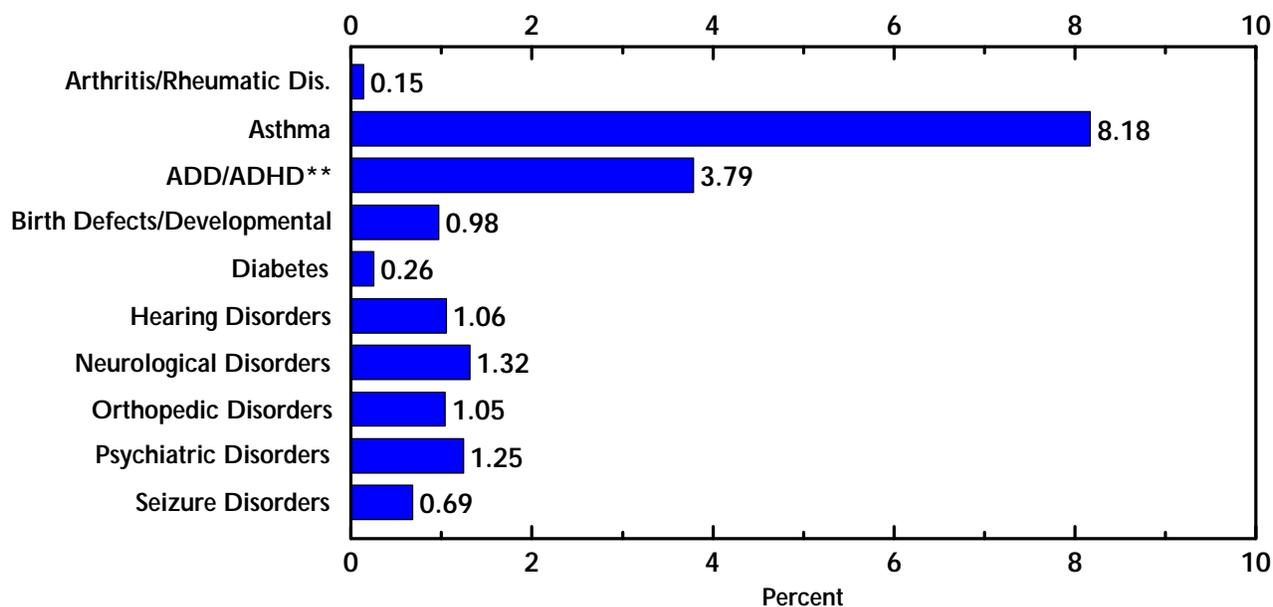
We hope to have this new interactive health statistics

web site (EpiQMS or Epidemiologic Query and Mapping System) online by the end of June or maybe sooner. Look for more news about this new web site in the July issue of *Statistical News* or keep checking our home page at [www.health.state.pa.us/stats](http://www.health.state.pa.us/stats).

**Selected Reportable Medical Conditions Among School Children\*  
Number and Percent, Pennsylvania School Years 1997/98-2000/01**

Condition	2000/01		1999/00		1998/99		1997/98	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Arthritis/ Rheumatic Dis. ....	3,037	0.15	3,003	0.15	2,957	0.14	3,039	0.15
Asthma .....	168,796	8.18	160,762	7.82	148,000	7.16	137,792	6.62
ADD/ADHD** .....	78,269	3.79	76,260	3.71	72,097	3.49	70,506	3.39
Birth Defects/ Developmental .....	20,234	0.98	19,793	0.96	18,525	0.90	18,330	0.88
Diabetes .....	5,406	0.26	5,466	0.27	4,885	0.24	4,824	0.23
Hearing Disorders .....	21,935	1.06	22,479	1.09	23,128	1.12	23,104	1.11
Neurological Disorders .....	27,192	1.32	25,078	1.22	23,292	1.13	22,316	1.07
Orthopedic Disorders .....	21,754	1.05	21,027	1.02	19,299	0.93	19,299	0.93
Psychiatric Disorders .....	25,846	1.25	23,493	1.14	20,250	0.98	18,236	0.88
Seizure Disorders .....	14,335	0.69	13,497	0.66	13,039	0.63	12,587	0.60

**Percent of Selected Reportable Medical Conditions Among Pennsylvania School Children\*  
School Year 2000/01**



\*Public, vo-tech, and charter schools \*\*Attention Deficit Disorder/Hyperactivity

# E-Guide to Health Statistics and 2001 Death Statistics Added to Department's Web Site:

## Large Volume of 2001 Death Statistics Now Accessible Online

A large volume and variety of data tables with 2001 death statistics, including data for all counties and municipalities in Pennsylvania, have been added to the Health Statistics web pages at [www.health.state.pa.us/stats/](http://www.health.state.pa.us/stats/). To access the 2001 data, click on **Vital Statistics** and then select **Birth and Death Statistics 1990-2001**.

To access the 2001 data...go to [www.health.state.pa.us/stats](http://www.health.state.pa.us/stats) and...click on **Vital Statistics** and then select **Birth and Death Statistics 1990-2001**.

Each year when a new final birth, death or cancer incidence annual data file is finalized and released, staff in the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research create and update tens of thousands of pages of numerous crosstabulations that are used to respond to the thousands of data requests we receive every year. These data tables are also created in PDF file format (requires the free software Adobe Acrobat Reader) and are added to the Health Statistics web pages to provide all data users with an abundant variety of health statistics. You can now easily access the latest available single-year (2001 for births and

deaths and 2000 for cancer incidence) and five-year (1997-2001 for births and deaths and 1996-2000 for cancer incidence) data tables.

In most cases, you will find exactly what you are looking for since these data tables have helped us answer at least 95 percent of all our requests for birth, death and cancer statistics in the past.

Examples of mortality data available at this web page include deaths by age, sex, race, and cause for all counties and municipalities. Additional statistics are also available on specific ICD codes, month of death, method of disposition, and autopsy status. In addition, there are separate data tables on infant deaths and suicides.

...including data for all counties and municipalities in Pennsylvania.

Most data files are available back to 1990. We do have some limited data tables available prior to 1990 in electronic format. Please contact us for more information about the availability of these files. We also have some additional data tables that are not on the web site, primarily very large files such as deaths by ICD code by county.

## E-Guide Provides Links to Various Health Statistics Available Online

The Bureau of Health Statistics and Research has added the *E-Guide to Health Statistics* on our web pages at [www.health.state.pa.us/stats](http://www.health.state.pa.us/stats). This new web page offers the user an alphabetical index of over 300 health statistical topic areas with hyperlinks to web pages that provide statistics.

Internet addresses with embedded hyperlinks and instructions as well as name, address and telephone number are provided for each data/web site source. Many topic areas have more than one data source listed. In addition, we provide information on the geographic detail of the data available (state, county or municipality level), report titles, and a description of the major contents of these online reports.

Health topics range from Animal Bites to Yellow Fever and include some of the following as examples:

- Ambulance (Hospital Services)
- Bicycle Injuries
- Cancer Screening
- Domestic Violence
- Exercise & Physical Activity
- Flu Shots
- Glaucoma
- Health Care Costs
- Infant Health
- Juvenile Delinquency
- Kidney & Renal Dialysis
- Learning Disabilities
- Mental Health
- Notifiable Diseases

This new web page offers the user an alphabetical index of over 300 health statistical topic areas with hyperlinks to web pages that provide statistics.

- Osteoporosis
- Pregnancies
- Rural Health
- Substance Abuse
- Tuberculosis
- Unintentional Injuries
- Vision Impairments
- Water Pollution

The above are just some of the over 300 health topic areas covered in the *E-Guide to Health Statistics*. Whether you are looking for statistics on a specific topic or have need for some general statistics for a certain geographic area, the *E-Guide* will serve as an efficient and concise source. Please take some time to check it out.

We also ask users to please report any broken links, errors, or potential new data sources or topic areas that can be added to this web page. You can e-mail us directly from the site. Updates to the *E-Guide* will be done as often as needed and we appreciate any and all feedback from our data users.

## 2002 Data on Health Risk Behaviors Available...

age (51) for female adults in 2002. Non-Hispanic black adults also had a significantly higher percentage (70) than non-Hispanic whites (60) and Hispanics (57). Percentages for older adults (45 and older) were significantly higher than younger adults. For example, approximately 69 percent of adults aged 45-64 were overweight or obese compared to 58 percent of those aged 30-44 and 41 percent of those aged 18-29. Among the Department's Health Districts, the highest percentages were recorded for the South Central (64) and Northeastern (61) Districts.

**No-Leisure-Time Physical Activity** - A significantly higher percentage of female adults (27) engaged in no leisure-time activity compared to male adults (21) in 2002. The percentages for non-Hispanic

**The percentage of overweight or obese male adults was significantly higher than the percentage for females...and the percentage of male adult smokers was (also) significantly higher...**

blacks (36) and Hispanics (33) were significantly higher than the figure for whites (23). Higher percentages were recorded for older adults, especially those aged 65 and over (35 compared to 24 for those aged 45-64, 21 for those 30-44, and 19 for those 18-29). All but one of the Health Districts had percentages in the range of 24 to 26. The North

Central District had the lowest figure (19).

**Fair or Poor Health** - Eighteen percent of female adults reported in 2002 that their health was fair or poor – significantly higher than the 14% for males. The percentage for non-Hispanic whites (15) was significantly lower than the percentages for non-Hispanic blacks (22) and Hispanics (20). As would be expected, older adults reported much higher percentages. The Northwestern Health District had the highest percentage (20) while the North Central and Southeastern Districts had the lowest (13 each).

**Smoking** - The percentage of male adult smokers (26) was significantly higher than the percentage for females (23) in 2002. There were no signifi-

cant differences associated with the smoking percentages among non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanics. However, the percentages for those aged 45-64 (24) and 65+ (10) were significantly lower than the rates for adults aged 30-44 (31) and 18-29 (33). There were no significant differences among the six Health Districts in the state.

A table of the 2002 data broken down by age, sex, race/ethnicity, and Department of Health District appears below. An annual report of BRFSS statistics for 2002 will probably be published by this summer. A copy of the report should be on the Health Statistics web page ([www.health.state.pa.us/stats](http://www.health.state.pa.us/stats)) even sooner.

If you have any questions regarding the 2002 BRFSS data, please contact the Bureau at 717-783-2548.

**Percent Prevalence (with 95% confidence limits) for Selected Behavioral Health Risks By Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity, and Health District, Pennsylvania Adults, 2002**

	Overweight or Obese	No Leisure-Time Physical Activity	Health Fair/Poor	Smoke Cigarettes
All Adults .....	60% (58-61)	24% (23-25)	16% (15-17)	25% (24-26)
Males .....	68% (66-70)	21% (20-22)	14% (13-15)	26% (25-28)
Females .....	51% (50-53)	27% (26-29)	18% (17-19)	23% (22-24)
Non-Hispanic White .....	60% (58-61)	23% (22-24)	15% (14-16)	24% (23-25)
Non-Hispanic Black .....	70% (65-74)	36% (32-41)	22% (18-26)	29% (24-33)
Hispanic .....	57% (49-64)	33% (26-40)	20% (15-26)	25% (18-31)
Ages 18-29 .....	41% (38-45)	19% (16-21)	6% (5-8)	33% (30-36)
Ages 30-44 .....	58% (56-60)	21% (19-23)	10% (9-12)	31% (29-33)
Ages 45-64 .....	69% (67-70)	24% (22-26)	17% (16-18)	24% (22-25)
Ages 65+ .....	65% (63-67)	35% (33-38)	31% (29-33)	10% (8-11)
SE Health District .....	58% (56-60)	24% (22-26)	13% (11-14)	23% (22-25)
NE Health District .....	61% (58-64)	25% (22-28)	18% (15-20)	26% (23-29)
SC Health District .....	64% (62-67)	24% (22-26)	17% (15-19)	23% (21-26)
NC Health District .....	54% (48-59)	19% (15-22)	13% (10-16)	24% (18-30)
NW Health District .....	60% (56-64)	26% (23-30)	20% (17-23)	26% (22-29)
SW Health District .....	60% (58-63)	25% (23-27)	18% (16-20)	26% (24-29)

## Job Satisfaction High Among PA Nurses.....

and employed in Pennsylvania was 24,564. This may be thought of as about a quarter of the Pennsylvania workforce of registered nurses. The demographic makeup of this population is white (95.1 percent), female (94.4 percent), and employed in an urban county (85.2 percent). Their average age was 45.9 years.

**Health professions for which surveys are under way include licensed practical nurses, physicians, dentists and dental hygienists.**

One of the issues of great interest with regard to registered nurses is job satisfaction. The questionnaire asked "How satisfied are you with nursing as a career?" and "How satisfied are you with your current primary job?" Of those registered nurses who were employed in health care and employed in Pennsylvania,

81.7 percent responded that they were "somewhat satisfied" or "very satisfied" with nursing as a career. When asked how satisfied they were with their current primary job this figure increased to 83.9 percent for those employed in health care and employed in Pennsylvania (see Figure 2 below).

FIGURE 1

EMPLOYMENT STATUS of RNs RESPONDING to SURVEY of REGISTERED NURSES, PERCENT DISTRIBUTION, PENNSYLVANIA, APRIL 2002

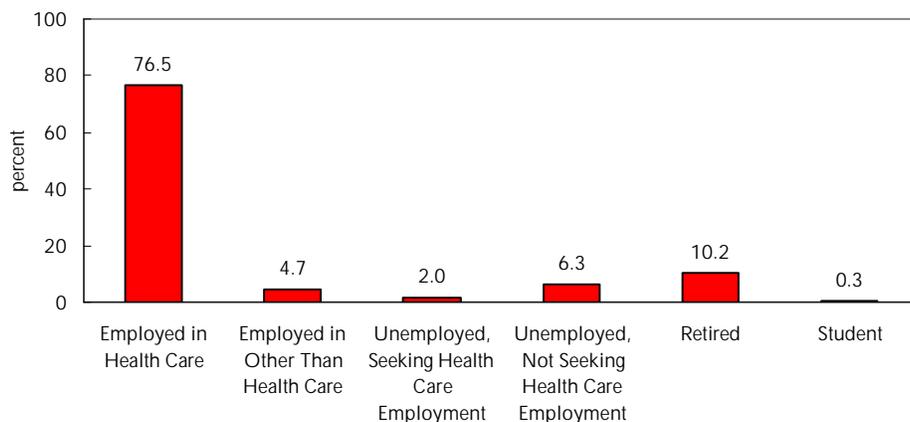
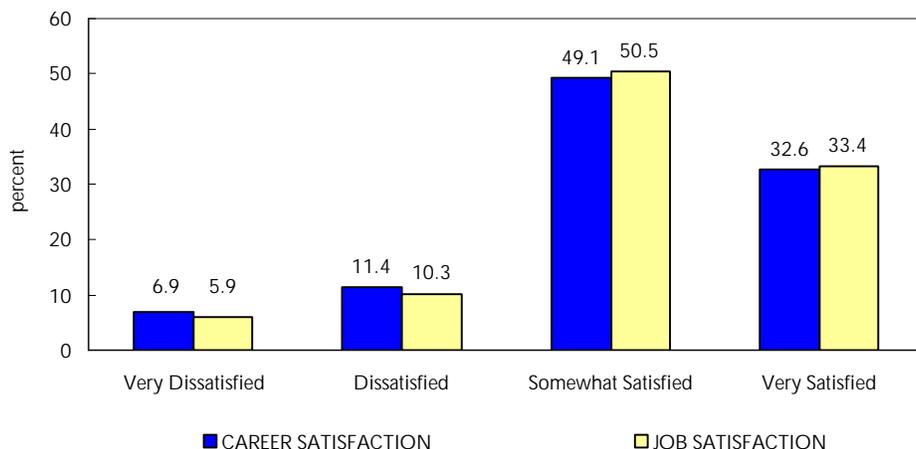


FIGURE 2

CAREER / JOB SATISFACTION OF RNs EMPLOYED IN HEALTH CARE IN PENNSYLVANIA, PERCENT DISTRIBUTION, APRIL 2002



**...81.7 percent responded that they were "somewhat satisfied" or "very satisfied" with nursing as a career...and... with their current primary job... 83.9 percent...**

All of these data are abstracted from a report entitled *Special Report On The Characteristics Of The Registered Nurse Population In Pennsylvania, A Report On The April 2002 Survey of Registered Nurses*. This report contains eight major topics of interest and may be accessed in its entirety by logging onto the following url address:

[http://webserver.health.state.pa.us/health/lib/health/RNDATABOOK\\_402.pdf](http://webserver.health.state.pa.us/health/lib/health/RNDATABOOK_402.pdf)

If you have any questions about the data presented in this article or the ongoing surveys of health professionals in Pennsylvania, please contact the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research at 717-783-2548.

# Update: Healthy People 2010 Objectives

## Focus Area 16 - Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

### 16-01c - Reduce infant deaths.

**2010 Target:**  
4.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births

#### All Infant Deaths and by Sex:

Infant death rates for all Pennsylvania residents as displayed in the first graph on the right show that the figure had been on the decline between 1997 and 2000 but increased in 2001. There were 1,038 infant deaths among residents in 2001 for a rate of 7.2 per 1,000 live births, compared to 1,023 and 7.0 in 2000. This is the first increase in Pennsylvania's infant death rate since 1989. The 2001 infant death rates by sex showed a decline for males but an increase for females.

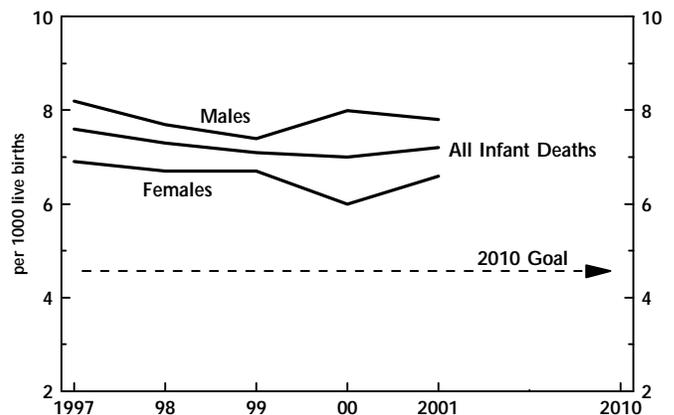
The infant death rate for Pennsylvania declined by 12.2 percent, from 8.2 in 1997 to 7.2 in 2001. To reach the national 2010 goal of 4.5, the rate will have to decline by 38 percent and the 2001 increase should be of concern. The rates for males and females also will need very significant declines to reach the 2010 goal.

#### By Race and Hispanic Origin:

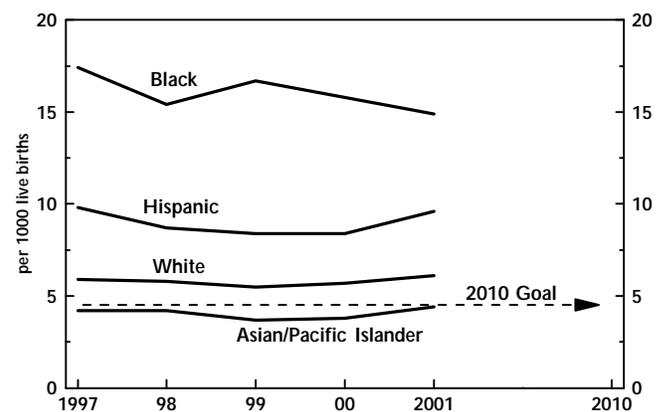
The second graph on the right depicts infant death rates by race and Hispanic Origin for 1997-2001 and large differences can easily be seen. The rates for black residents are three to four times higher than the rates for whites and Asians/Pacific Islanders. The rates for Hispanics, while lower than the rates for blacks, are still somewhat higher than the rates for whites and Asians/Pacific Islanders. However, the 2001 rate for blacks declined while the rates for whites, Asians/Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics rose.

The 2001 infant death rate for Asians/Pacific Islanders is just below the 2010 goal of 4.5 and the rates for whites are also low. However, the rate for Hispanics increased sharply in 2001 and, even though the rate for blacks continued to decline, it is still far from the 2010 goal.

Infant Death Rates, Total and By Sex  
Pennsylvania Residents, 1997-2001



By Race and Hispanic Origin, Pennsylvania, 1997-2001



Infant Death Rates\*  
By Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin  
Pennsylvania Residents, 1997-2001

	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
All Infant Deaths .....	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.3	7.6
Males .....	7.8	8.0	7.4	7.7	8.2
Females .....	6.6	6.0	6.7	6.7	6.9
White .....	6.1	5.7	5.5	5.8	5.9
Black .....	14.9	15.8	16.7	15.4	17.4
Asian/Pacific Islander .....	4.4	3.8	3.7	4.2	4.2
Hispanic** .....	9.6	8.4	8.4	8.7	9.8

\*per 1,000 live births  
\*\*Hispanic can be of any race

#### HP2010 State and County Data on the Web

To access the Department of Health's web page of Healthy People 2010 statistics for the state and counties, go to [www.health.state.pa.us/stats](http://www.health.state.pa.us/stats). The latest available statistics as well as trend data are shown. You can view data for the state, all counties, a specific demographic element (age, sex, race, etc.) or just for a specific county. Complete data sets for the state and counties can be downloaded. There is also a link to the national HP2010 web site.

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