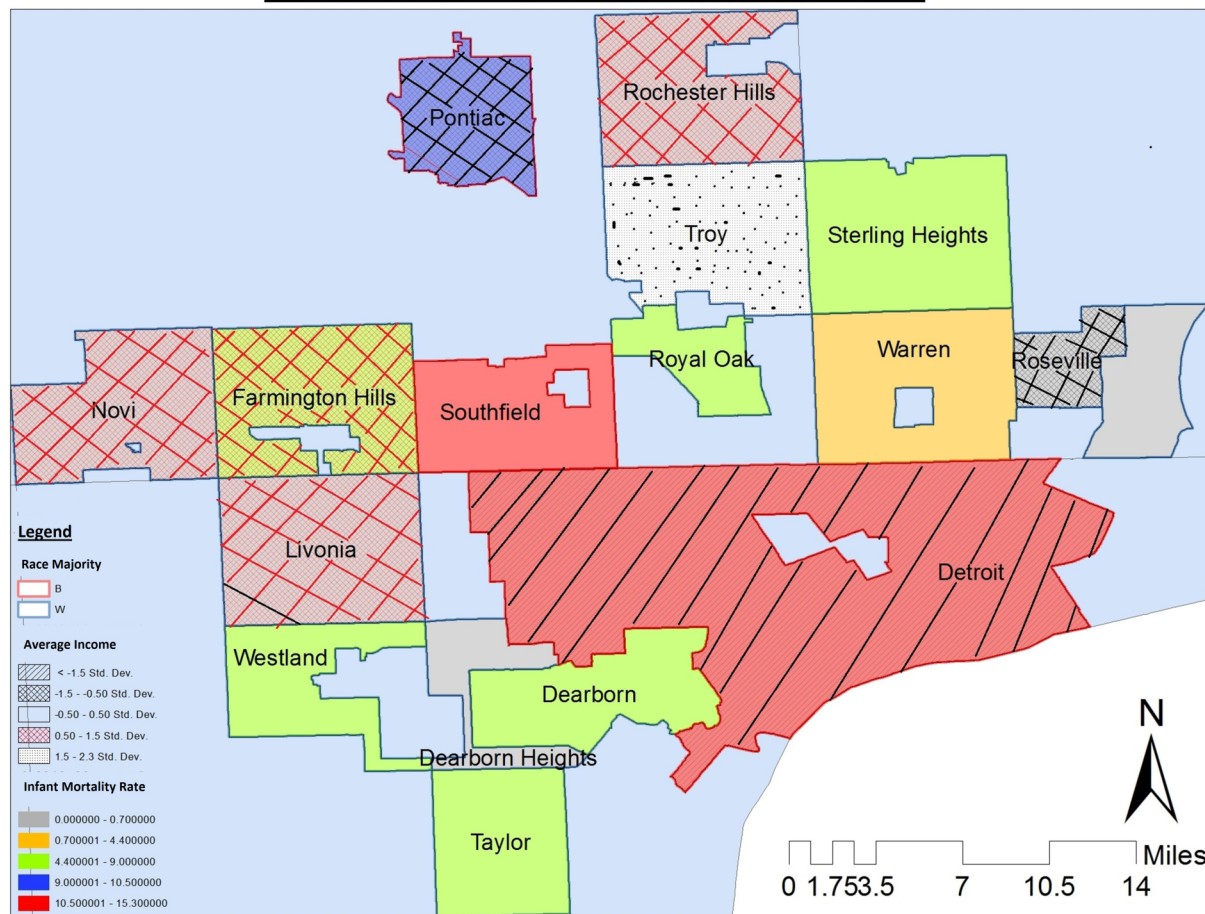


## Infant Mortality Rate Compared to Race and Income

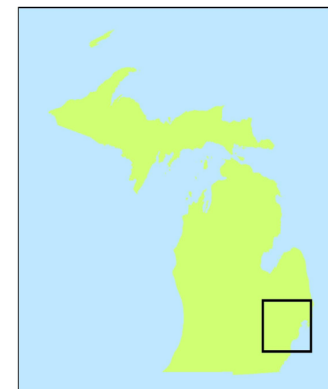


## Commonalities of High Infant Mortality

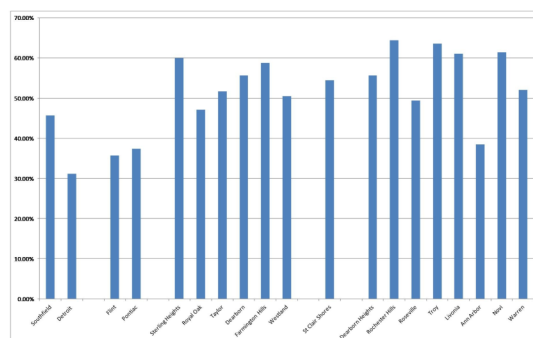
The US has made great strides in decreasing infant mortality rate in the last 60 years, however, there are still populations that are at high risk for high infant mortality. There are several characteristics that cities with a high infant mortality rate have in common. The majority of these cities have an average income that is below \$30,000 per family. This could contribute to IMR (Infant Mortality Rate) by a lesser amount of healthcare and access to healthier food. Education can also have an effect on the income of parents. A higher level of education can better prepare a person for parenthood and teach the necessities of parenthood. Cities with a high IMR tend to have a low percentage (less than 80%) of people with high school educations. This is especially evident in Detroit which has a very high IMR and less than 70% of adults with high school educations. Marriage is also a factor. Cities with low IMR have a higher percentage of married couples than cities with high IMR. This could be due to the support of a spouse in raising a child. Another characteristic of high IMR cities is race. On average, the IMR of African Americans is two times higher than Caucasian Americans. The reasons for this are, on average, African Americans are less likely to receive prenatal care, babies are more likely to be born preterm with low birth weights, and the percentage of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) related deaths is almost twice that of Caucasian babies. Society can also play a part in this issue. Lower income areas will be less likely to have support groups, educational and parenting programs for single parents/young mothers. For example, SIDS can often be attributed to infant suffocation and the majority of the time it is due to unsafe sleeping practices. If mothers had more parental education, she would know the proper way to place a child in bed. A lack of support (community or family) for a mother could have drastic effects on her ability to cope with the stresses of parenthood.

The good thing about this is that the issues have been recognized and can be addressed. More educational programs (including parenting classes in high school) could help teach mothers how to properly take care of themselves and their infants. Support groups could be built in societies so that mothers would have some outlet for their frustrations, and to have the advice from those in the same situation. These programs could also emphasize the importance of prenatal care and the availability of medical assistance (through programs like Medicaid).

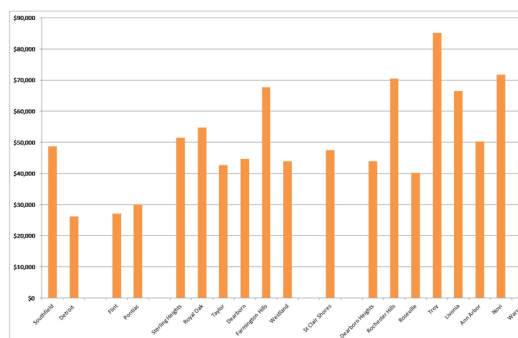
## Michigan Reference Map



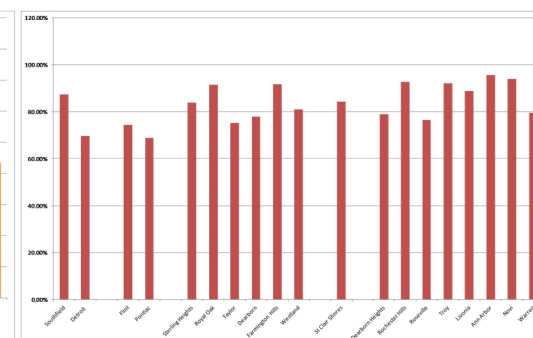
## Percentage of persons over the age of 15 that are married



## Average Family Income



## Percentage of Population over, 25 years, with a High School Education



## Infant Mortality Rate of Michigan Compared to the US Average

Michigan - 7.9  
US Average - 7.13

Michigan ranks as 13th highest in the US

References: <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/mgdi/?rel=ext&action=sext>, <http://www.mdc.state.mi.us/pha/osr/InDxMain/Tab1.asp>, city-data.com, <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/templates/content.aspx?ID=3021>, <http://www.census.gov/statab/ranks/rank17.html>

By: Catherine Rouse and Jennifer Richards