



AN ACT RELATIVE TO CONDUCTING FETAL AND INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW (FIMR)

SPONSOR:
REP. JEFF SANCHEZ

BILL NUMBER:
HB1219

JOINT COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC HEALTH

INFANT MORTALITY IN
MA BY RACE:

BLACK: 7.1
(EQUAL TO OK WHICH RANKS
41ST)

HISPANIC: 5.6
(EQUAL TO HI WHICH RANKS
20TH)

WHITE: 3.8

ASIAN: 3.1

Sources:

www.NFIMR.org
AmericasHealthRankings.org



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Massachusetts has an Infant Mortality Rate of 4.2 deaths per thousand live births, the lowest in the country. But the state's overall success in this area is not shared equally across communities. Low income communities and communities of color have infant mortality rates that are two or even three times the statewide average.

- Boston Infant Mortality Rate – 5.8
- Brockton Infant Mortality Rate – 7.9
- Worcester Infant Mortality Rate – 5.9
- Springfield Infant Mortality Rate – 8.8

Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMRs) is a public health process that allows local communities to identify the causes behind unequal rates of fetal and infant death. The multi-part FIMR process supplements the big picture we get from state birth records with detailed information from individual record reviews by medical professionals and in-home interviews with women about their experiences prior to loss.

During 2015, 174 jurisdictions conducted Fetal Infant Mortality Reviews in US states and Puerto Rico. While some hospitals do chart reviews in Massachusetts, no community conducted a process aligned with federal FIMR guidelines. Allowing Massachusetts communities to carry out FIMR processes in line with best practices will bring new insight, helping us lower the mortality rate in communities whose rates now exceed the state average.

Every fetal loss, every infant death is a tragedy for one family. Massachusetts has made great strides in reducing our overall rate of infant death. Now it is time to dig deeper, looking closely at what each of those individual tragedies reviews about the gaps that remain.

Passage of bill would: Require the Department of Public Health to establish a process and criteria for local public health entities to become "FIMR approved." Approved communities would then have access to Vital Statistics data and other information, such as physician and hospital records, required for the FIMR process.