

Tarrant County Infant Mortality Awareness Summit

2012 Summary



Text4baby is a free mobile health service that provides pregnant women and new moms with important health and safety information they need to give their babies a great start.

Signing up is easy, just text **BABY** (BEBE for Spanish) to 511411.

"Even though I'm an expert in the baby business, text4baby is very informative. Thank you so much for making it easy for busy moms like me to get info through this wonderful service."

-Candance S., text4baby user, community health worker and third time mom

Learn more at www.text4baby.org

Period of PURPLE Crying

See <http://www.purplecrying.info> for more information

Normal infant crying typically increases across the first 3 months of age and peaks around 6-8 weeks. PURPLE crying is an acronym that describes the crying that typically happens at this stage.

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- P** Peaks around 2 months of age
 - U** Unpredictable
 - R** Resistant to soothing
 - P** Pain-like expression on the baby's face
 - L** Long bouts of crying
 - E** Evening crying

Did you know?

Historically, men are more likely to shake or cause damage to the baby, so it is important to educate all caregivers

It is crucial to educate our families and allow them to express their feelings so we can affirm that any fear, inadequacy, or frustration is very normal.

Everyone should have planned methods to cope during the PURPLE period

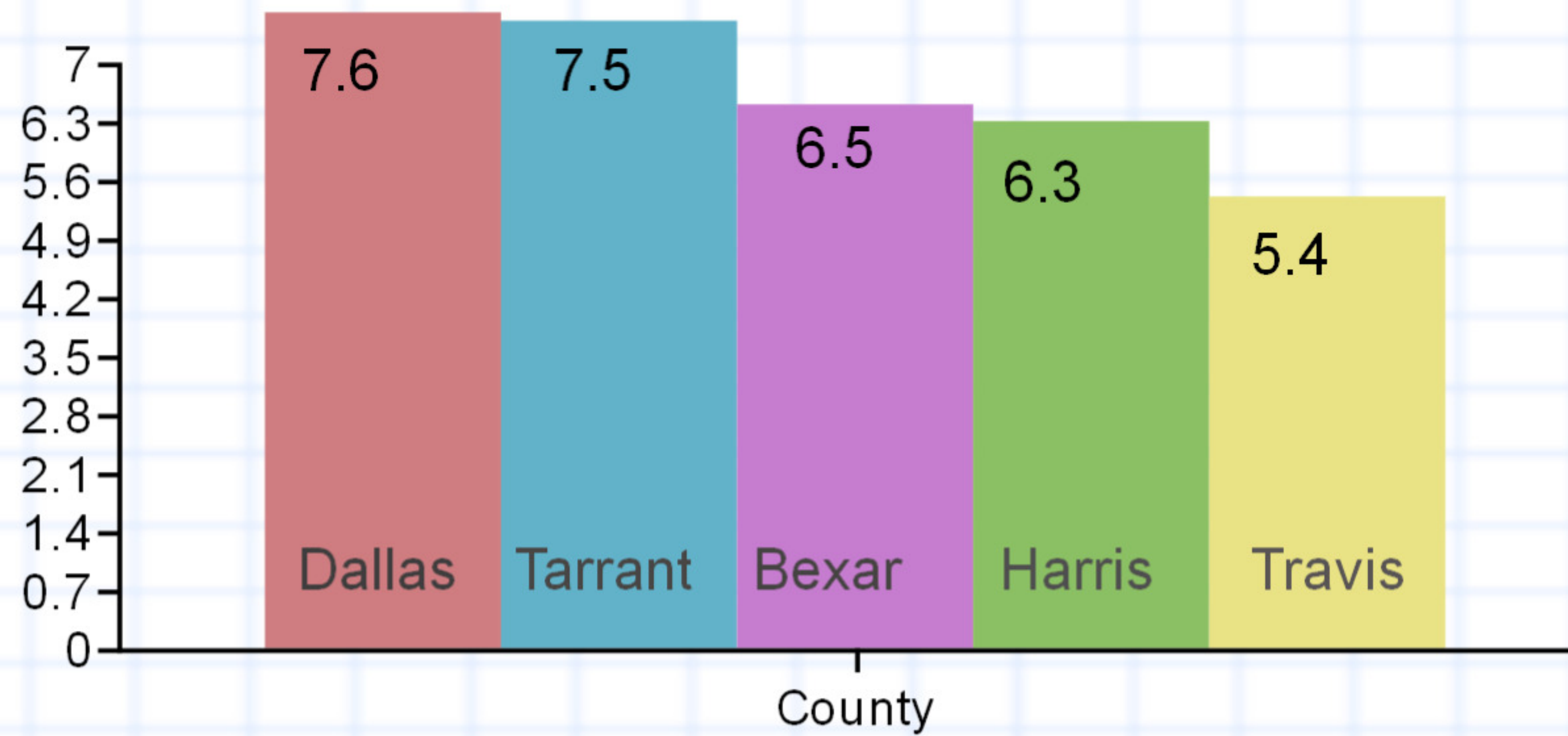
Infant crying is a baby's primary means of communication, and it plays a role in developing the attachment relationship between the baby and the caregiver

Texas Infant Mortality Statistics

In cities with 5,000 or more live births in 2010, the ranking from most births to least is:

1. Fort Worth
2. Arlington
3. Dallas
4. San Antonio
5. Houston
6. Laredo
7. Austin
8. El Paso

Infant Mortality Rates in Counties with 10,000 or More Live Births, 2010

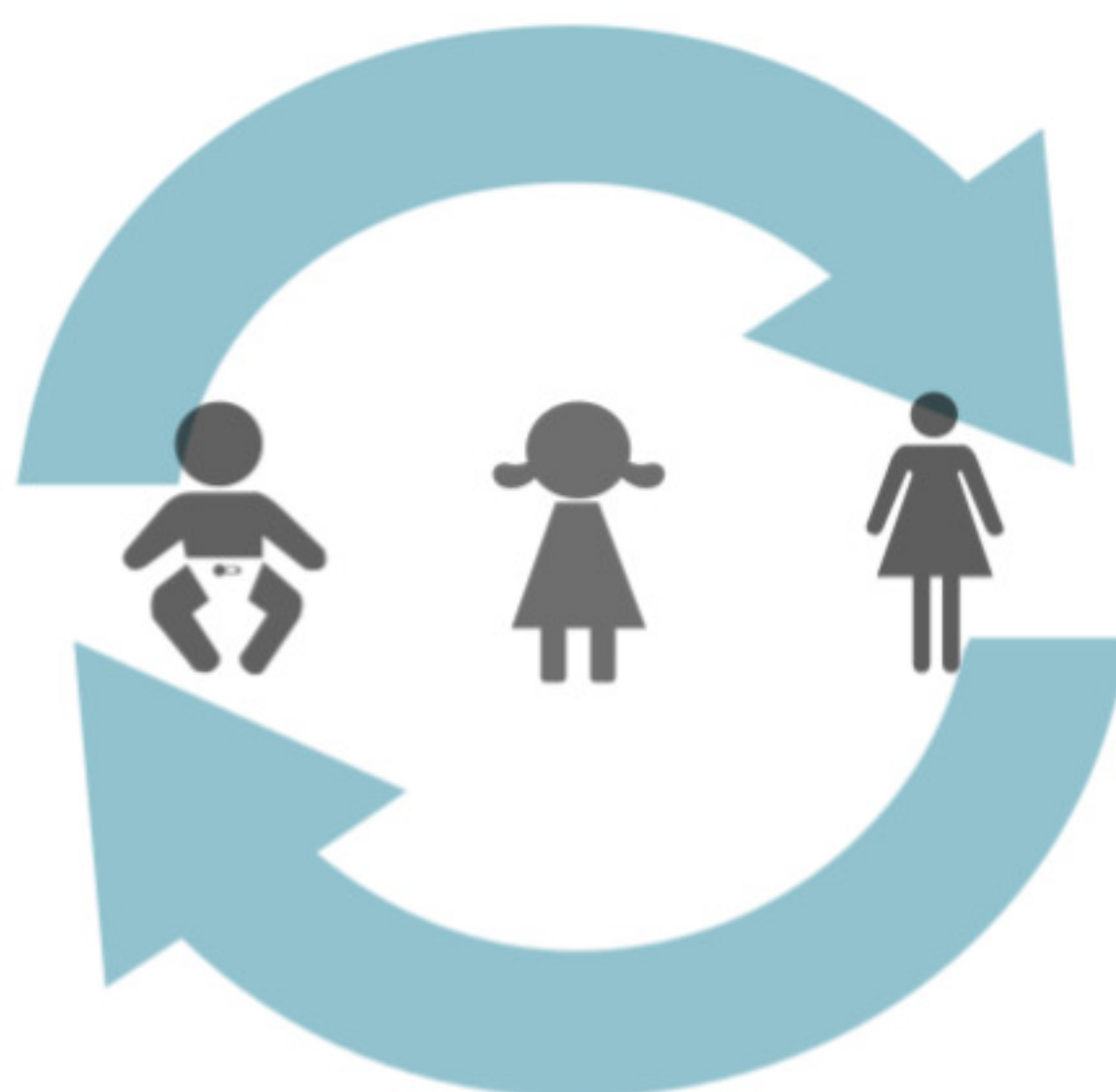


Healthy Texas Babies

An initiative to decrease infant mortality in Texas by focusing efforts based on the Life Course Perspective

Goals

1. To provide local partnership and coalitions with major roles in shaping programs in their communities
2. To use evidence-based interventions
3. To decrease preterm birth rates by 8% over 2 years
4. To save over \$7 million in Medicaid costs over the same 2 years



Currently, there are 11 local coalitions that are working on evidence-based projects focusing on areas such as:

- Breastfeeding
- Access to early prenatal care
- Fatherhood support and mentoring
- Pre- and inter conception health and wellness

Guest Speaker: Dr. Ira J. Chasnoff, MD

Dr. Chasnoff presented on the effects that exposures to toxins during pregnancy (such as alcohol and illicit drugs) and the child's experiences of trauma and neglect in early childhood can have long-term, damaging consequences on that child later in life.

These exposures can damage the child's developing nervous system, and lead to many behavioral problems later in life, such as temper tantrums and physical and sexual violence.

To learn more about Dr. Chasnoff's compelling research in the field of medicine and neuroscience, check out his book, titled:

The Mystery Of Risk: Drugs, Alcohol, Pregnancy, and the Vulnerable Child