Infant mortality is the number of deaths to infants under one year of age. Neonatal mortality is the number of deaths to infants under 28 days of age. Postneonatal mortality is the number of deaths to infants at 28 days of age, but under one year of age. Because infant, neonatal, or postneonatal deaths are relatively rare events in many counties, the numbers and rates are presented as three-year averages.

Why This Matters:
Infant, neonatal, and postneonatal mortality is one of the most widely used indicators of the health and welfare of a population as it reflects the general state of maternal health and the effectiveness of primary health care systems. Infant, neonatal, and postneonatal mortality rates have declined steadily since the 1970s, primarily due to advances in neonatal care (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2000). However, as of 2000, the United States ranked 27th among industrialized countries that report these rates to the World Health Organization (National Center for Health Statistics, 2004).

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Data Provider:
NYS Department of Health

Data Source:
NYS Department of Health; Bureau of Biometrics - death certificates
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