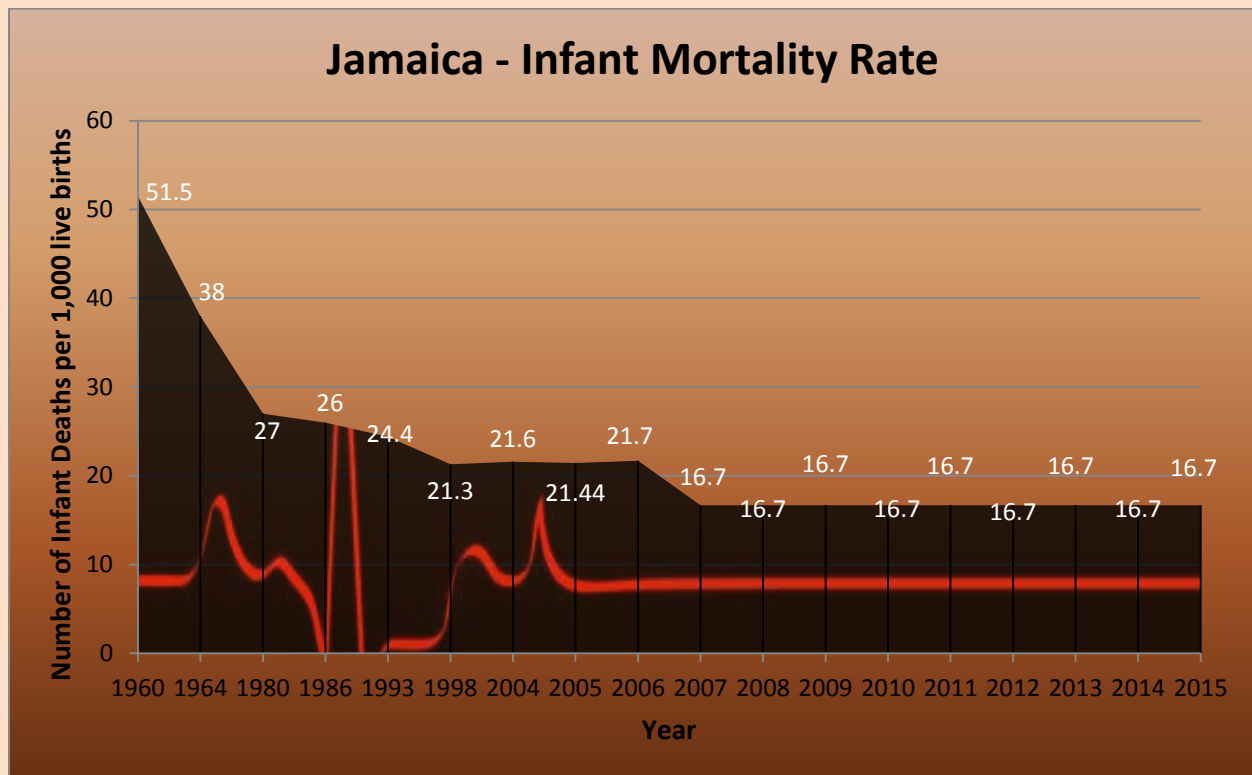


The Infant Mortality Rate

Jamaica's infant mortality rate (IMR), since peaking in the 1960s, has declined over the years. A continuous rate of decline was observed between 1960 and 1998, when the IMR decreased by 58.6 percent, from 51.5 to 21.3 per 1,000 live births.

In 2007, the infant mortality rate fell to 16.7 per 1,000 live births; that is, for every 1,000 live births that occurred within the course of a year, there were 17 infants who died before reaching one year of age.



Definitions

The **infant mortality rate** refers to the number of deaths of infants not yet reaching one year of age, for every 1,000 live births during a given period of time.

Live births refer to any births from the mother that the result had shown any sign of life; for example, a heartbeat or breathing. Contrastingly, **death** is defined as the permanent disappearance of any and all evidence of life after live birth has taken place.