



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

November 9, 2010

Honorable Judith B. Robson
State Senator
122 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Robson:

Please find enclosed the results of the Department of Health Services' data gathering and analysis for the Legislative Council Special Committee on Infant Mortality. The following items are enclosed:

Wisconsin Births and Infant Deaths: These are the most recent data (2008) on births and infant deaths in Dane, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, and Rock counties. In 2008, 94% of births to African American mothers, and 92% of African American infant deaths occurred in Dane, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, and Rock counties. Almost half of all Wisconsin infant deaths occurred in these same 5 counties.

Wisconsin Facts: Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Infant Mortality (January 2010) This fact sheet provides a number of key factors on infant death by race and ethnicity, statewide, using the most recent Wisconsin linked birth and infant death data from 2008.

DHS Response: Data Request from the Legislative Council Special Committee on Infant Mortality: This document and its attached tables include the most recent data available in answer to the questions enclosed with your letter of September 28, 2010.

Once again, we are grateful to the committee for undertaking this important work. Please contact Patrice Onheiber at 266-3894, patrice.onheiber@wi.gov if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen E. Timberlake".

Karen Timberlake
Secretary

Enclosures

Cc: Sandy Breitborde
Jason Helgeson