

# Review of: "Analyzing Policy to Address Infant Mortality in High-Risk Populations"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

I strongly argued for your valuable research, and it is well written, which focuses on very important health problems in the globe.

As my opinion, the manuscript has enough evidence for publication.

I put my view for minor amendments below on how the author could improve the manuscript.

COMMENTS:

## Title

1. Please include the setting in the title.

## Abstract

2. Acronyms are not recommended in the abstract. Also, write the acronyms in full when used for the first time.

## Introduction

3. Provide units for the value of 5.6 in this sentence: *With a national infant mortality rate of 5.6, the U.S. found itself positioned at the 33rd spot out of 36 OECD.*

4. Your document should be consistent. For example:

1. U.S. or US
2. 5.6 or 5.6/1000 or 3.9/1000 live births or 5.0 per 1000 births or 5.0 deaths per 1000 births
3. Minor language editing is required. For example, in this sentence: *Geographically, states in the southern region **continue** to exhibit the highest infant mortality rates in 2021.*

## Purpose

5. Replace it with the following statement: *Blacks and rural populations are more significantly disparities affecting the infant mortality rates of states.*

## Aim and Research Questions

6. No need to correct.

## Methods

7. Appropriate and well written.

1. The period or date of publication of the literature searched needs to be indicated:
2. Inclusion and exclusion criteria of the evidence searched could be: the years the evidence was published, English language only, focus areas in the US, type of studies included, etc. Exclusion criteria: other languages, dates of publication excluded, areas or countries excluded.
3. Context of search. Could be included in the keywords.

## Analysis Plan

8. Specify the decades being referred to in this sentence:

*For assessment, it was important to identify the infant mortality rates in the U.S. over the past several periods.*

## Data Sources

9. Dates could include the dates of publication of all the sources mentioned.

## Data Analysis

10. Show how the data was analyzed, including the software used and variables of focus.

## Ethical Considerations

11. All important aspects have been addressed. But, needs ethical clearance reference number and other important characters.

## Results

1. You can clarify why the description is not provided.
2. You should provide this information or clarify why the information is not provided.
3. The specific Aims should also be listed under the Purpose section.
4. Specific Aim 1: include the *"live births"* in this sentence: *"Infant death per 1,000 by ethnicity was..."* and throughout the document whenever infant mortality rates are mentioned to ensure consistency.
5. The author can include a figure or table to simplify the data presented in this section on infant mortality rates for various groups.
6. Specific Aims 2 to 4:
7. The reviewer is unfamiliar with the style of writing where the methods, results, discussion, and recommendations are all combined together. Please clarify if this is the style prescribed by the journal.

8. Please include specific results related to infant mortality rates found under those specific aims before the recommendations are given.

### Discussion

1. Provide a reference for this sentence: *"In addition, the infant mortality rate is particularly higher in the Southern region of the United States."*
2. The Discussion needs to be expanded and supported with relevant sources. The discussion should focus on the interpretation of the results and also a comparison to other contexts or previous findings.

### Strengths and Limitations

1. The author should clarify whether the strengths and limitations refer to the programs or the present study.
2. The information provided under this section is not presented in the Results. This needs to be included.
3. From the sentence below, the author should clarify whether the limitations refer to the present study or intervention programs: If the limitations refer to programs, the author should state what the limitations of the present study were.

### Recommendations

1. The recommendations should be based on the results presented under each specific aim and could include intervention activities. The recommendations should align with the results presented.
2. *"The **evidence** from this policy analysis may be useful for policymakers in the distribution and appropriation of funding to pilot programs to address infant mortality."*
3. The author needs to present evidence that shows the relationship between social determinants of health and infant mortality before it can be recommended that: Additionally, focus should be directed on underlying factors that contribute to social determinants of health that significantly contribute to infant mortality.

### References

1. All included and properly referenced, but needs to include a few updated references.