

FILLING MORE CASKETS THAN CRIBS : A COMPARISON OF INFANT MORTALITY IN MILWAUKEE AND COSTA RICA

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Background

- Infant mortality definition
- It's a social measurement
- WI ranks 19th place, 3rd best to 2nd worst
- Milwaukee is 7th worst
- Global Public Health differs in developed vs. developing countries
 - Social epidemiology factors
 - -Race & poverty: public housing → Asthma
Poor access to food → diabetes, obesity, poor prenatal nutrition affects breastfeeding, little folic acid
 - -Working in agriculture vs. living by the highway
 - Health determined by social capital

Hypotheses

- An analysis controlling for race will reveal new contributing factors such as economic change leading to high infant mortality rates.
- Infant mortality in Milwaukee is due to preventable causes. Revealing new factors about infant mortality rates can help tackle the shockingly high rates with policy intervention and address broader economic factors.

Infant mortality in Milwaukee

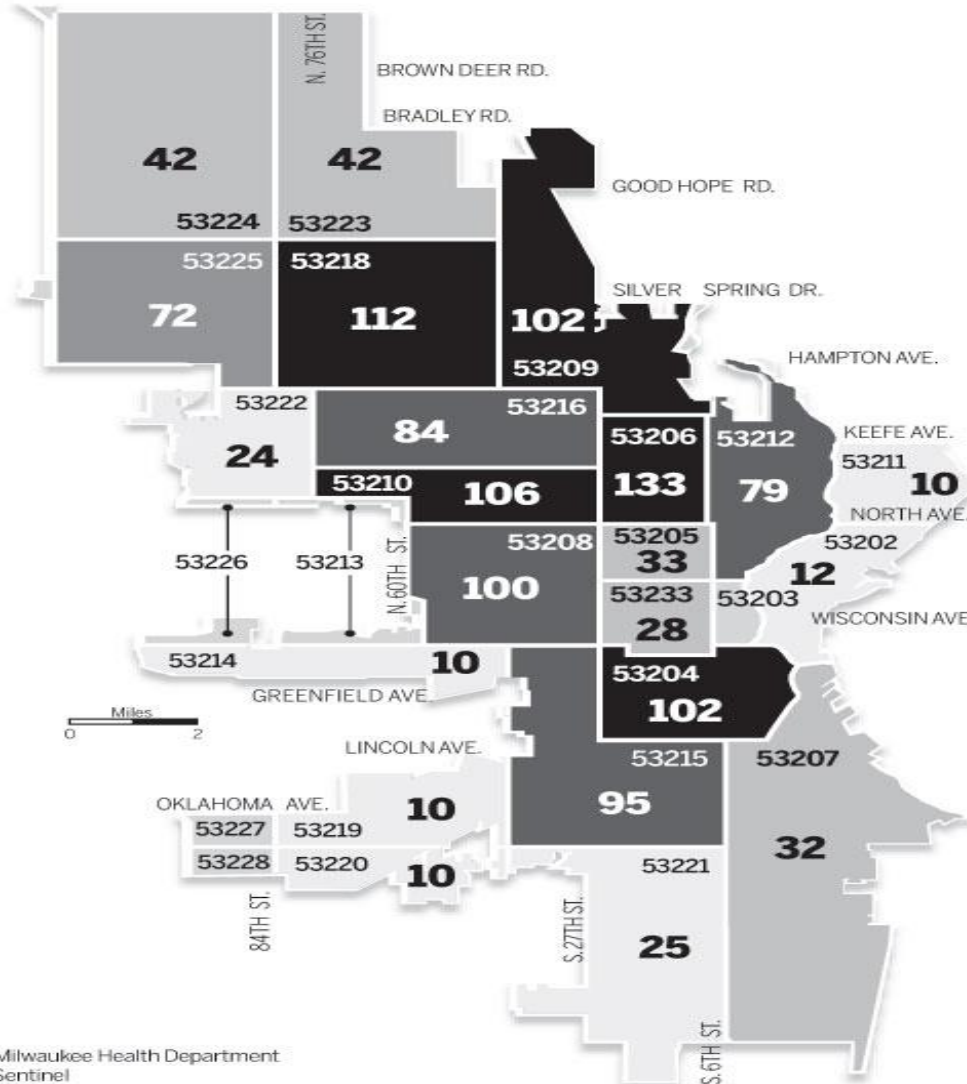
- **9.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, 14.5 for A.A**
- Top 3 causes
 - #1 Preterm Births, 53.7% of all Infant deaths 2005-2008
- The joyful 1950's-1960's
- 1970's-1990's Deindustrialization
- 2005-2008
- Blacks vs. Whites Unique factors of stress
 - Institutionalized discrimination
 - Segregation
 - Incarcerations
 - Poverty

Baby deaths

In some ZIP codes in Milwaukee, a baby has a lesser chance of making it to his or her first birthday than a baby in sub-Saharan Africa. From 2000-2009, there were 555 infant deaths combined in five of the worst ZIP codes.

City of Milwaukee infant deaths by ZIP code from 2000-2009

100+
 76-100
 51-75
 26-50
 0-25



Source: Milwaukee Health Department
Journal Sentinel

Policy

- Medicaid provided to all pregnant women
- WI 5th worst reimbursement policies
- 1980-2006 decline in employer provided health insurance, leading to less doctor visits
- Medicaid inequalities
 - have lower rates of immunizations, hypertension and diabetes control-both that can lead to preterm birth, and timeliness of prenatal care

Access to health care

- Hospitals are right next door
- Fear
- Low health literacy
- Loss of autonomy
- More Medicaid patients than providers
- Dental care is a major concern

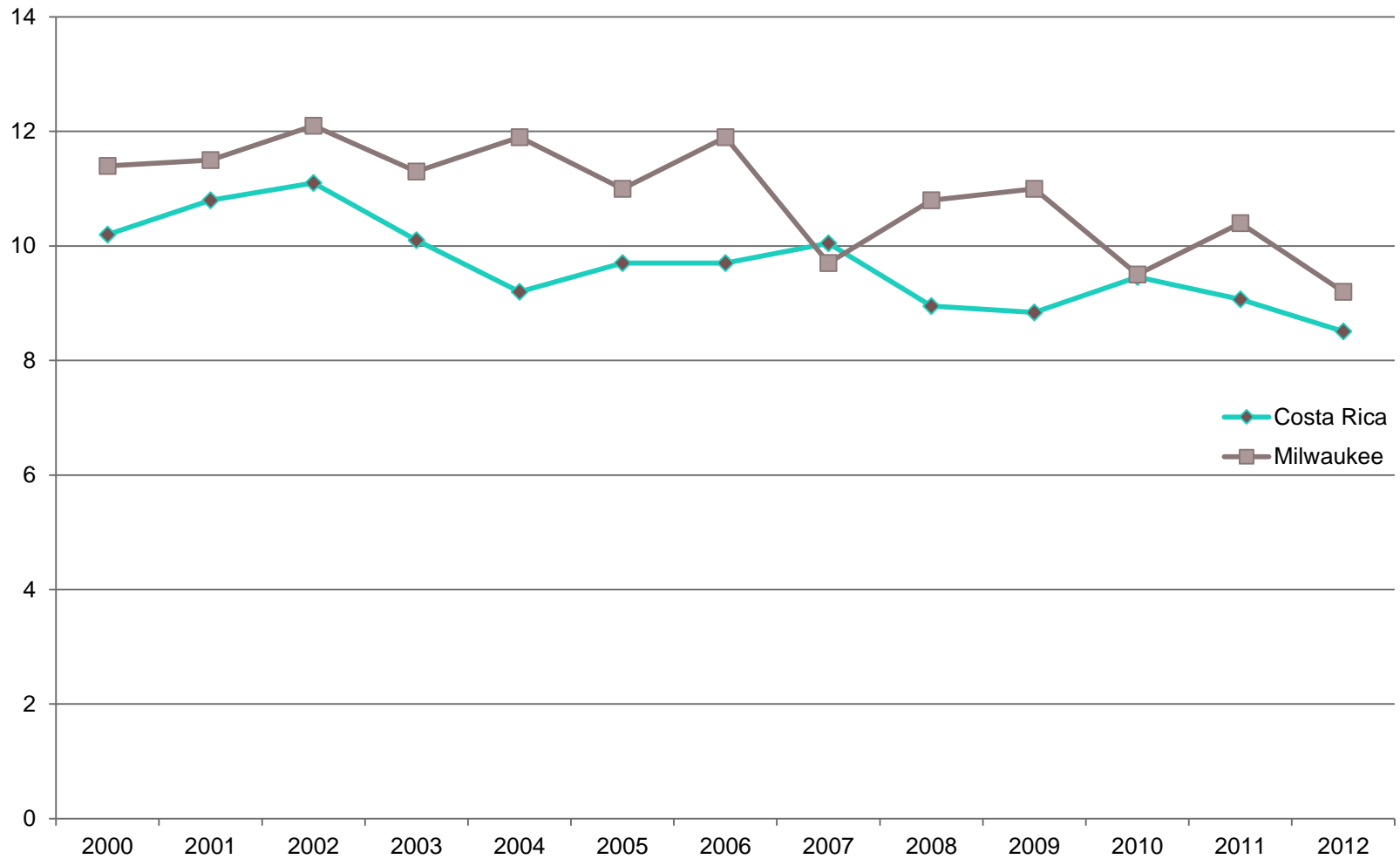
Costs

- As of 2006, the annual cost for premature birth is \$26.2 billion
- \$81 Million charged to BadgerCare in 2010
- Costs include: NICU, and future consequences

Infant Mortality in Costa Rica

- **8.5 deaths per 1,000 live births**
 - **Cartago** 11.7 deaths per 1,000 live births (2010)
 - **Puntarenas** 10.71 deaths per 1,000 live births (2010)
- Homogenous culture
- Social stability without economic stability
- Implemented social programs such as universal health care access for all

Costa Rica vs. Milwaukee IMRs



Findings: Differences

Milwaukee

- Marginalization in demographics by categorizing according to “race”
- Segregation
- Institutionalized racism
- Dysfunctional health care system
- Reliance on manufacturing jobs, especially AAs since unskilled and high-paying
- Penal system
- Political infighting
- Lacks social support of broader community

Costa Rica

- Homogenous race and culture so official policies of nondiscrimination
- Social stability
- Universal Health Care
- Reliance on agriculture
- Community

2012 RATES	MILWAUKEE, WI	COSTA RICA
UNEMPLOYMENT	7.4%	7.9%
PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LINE	29.4%	20.6%
INCARCERATIONS	877/100,000	314 /100,000

What is being done or already done?

- **Milwaukee**

- Addressed only downstream interventions rather than broader interventions
- “Empty Cradles” Series
- Strong Baby Campaign
- Cribs for Kids
- Breastfeeding Center
- BMO Harris Bank and United Way give money for health programs like promoting immunizations

- **Costa Rica**

- First addressed simpler public health (sanitation) 1970's
- Addressed broader upstream interventions like universal health care and fertility
- *Ministerio de Salud* continues to implement programs
- Promote breastfeeding
- Better Universal Health Care
- Adopting advance Medical technologies
- Addressing increasing levels of crime



YOUR BABY SLEEPING WITH YOU CAN BE JUST AS DANGEROUS.

Babies can die when sleeping in adult beds. Always put your baby to sleep on his back, in a crib. If you can't afford a crib, call (414) 286-8620.



What still needs to be done?

- Eliminate sleep-related deaths completely
- Women need empowerment
- Attack preventable stress factors
- Raise awareness of unintentional inequalities in health care settings
- Implement broader economic and social interventions
 - Organized health policy
 - Better living conditions in high risk zip codes
 - More jobs

I want you to know...

- Health and social ills from economic change are significant including stress and physiological changes in pregnant mothers and harmful behaviors
- Racism and geographical segregation are masked causes in Milwaukee
- This can begin to become an issue with Latinos
- You are affected too just remember the costs
- This study found distinct factors involved with infant mortality in both areas. Factors include:
 - race/ethnicity
 - poverty-causing issues (unemployment)
 - Community
 - breast-feeding practices
 - Access to health care
- Harsh effects of deindustrialization contributed to stress