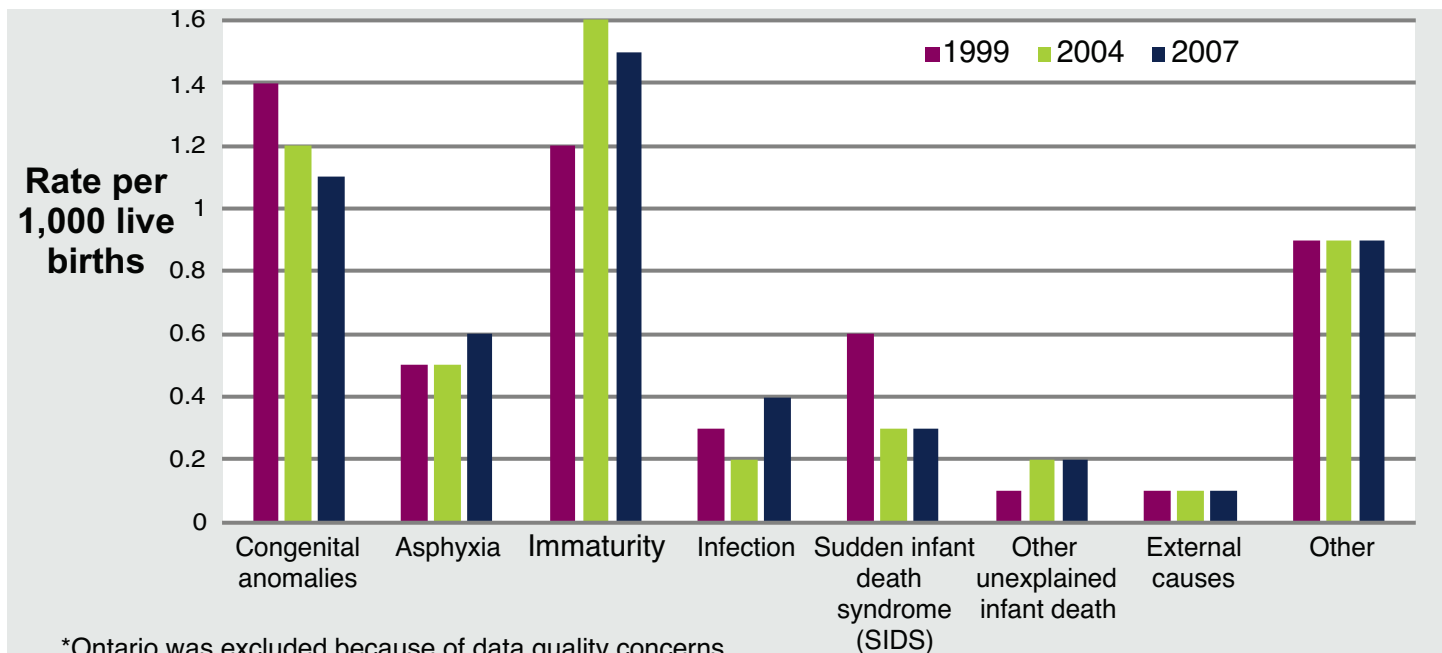




### 5.2.3 Causes of Infant Death, Canada (Excluding Ontario\*), 1999, 2004, and 2007



\*Ontario was excluded because of data quality concerns.

Graphic created by CICH with data from the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Congenital Anomalies Surveillance Network, 2008 (1999 data), and from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Perinatal Health Indicators for Canada 2011. Ottawa, 2012. (data for 2003 to 2007)

Although congenital anomalies are one of the leading causes of infant death in Canada, the rate is decreasing.<sup>1</sup> The Public Health Agency of Canada stated that the decreasing rate of infant deaths is most likely a result of increasing prenatal diagnosis and termination of pregnancies when congenital anomalies are diagnosed.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Public Health Agency of Canada. Perinatal Health Indicators for Canada 2011. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Public Health Agency of Canada and the Congenital Anomalies Surveillance Network, 2008

### Implications

It is important to monitor congenital anomalies for possible associations with environmental factors, as the human genome responds to the environment in a very dynamic fashion.<sup>3</sup> In an effort to facilitate health service planning, methods for collecting information regarding congenital anomalies in Canada could be improved for more accessible and reliable data.

<sup>3</sup> Health Canada. Congenital Anomalies in Canada — A Perinatal Health Report, 2002. Ottawa: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada; 2002

