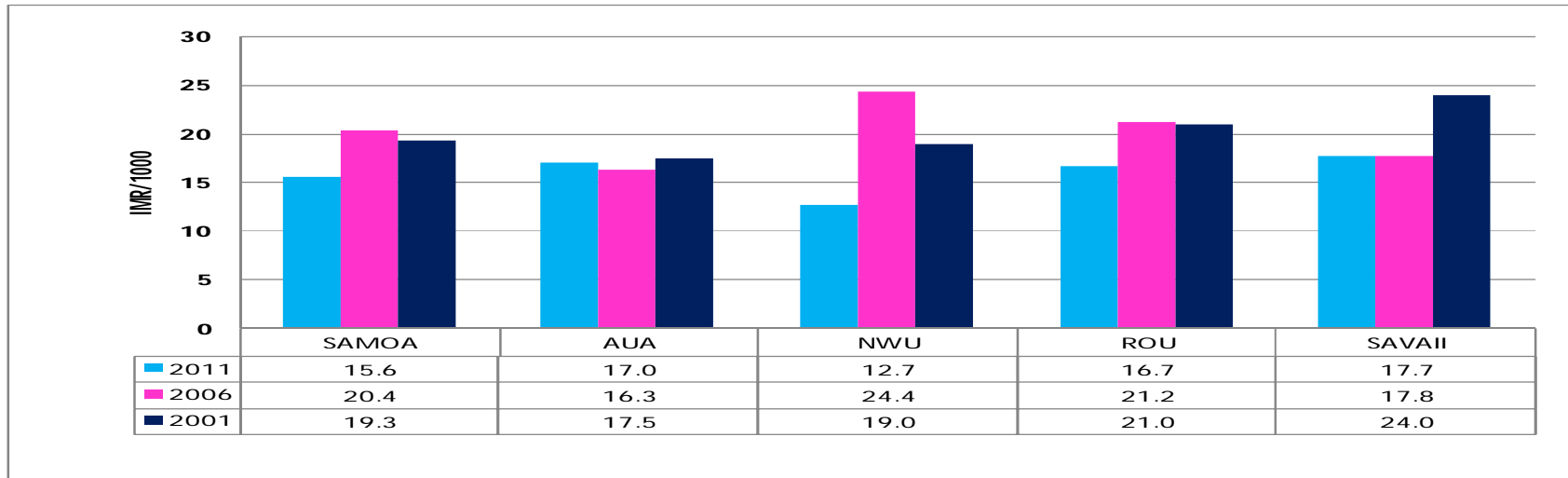


SAMOA'S INFANT MORTALITY RATES BY REGION AND CENSUS YEARS 2001-2011



The **Infant Mortality Rate or IMR** is expressed as *the number of infants/babies that died before they reached the age of 1 during a year, divided by the total number of live births occurring in the same year multiply by 1000 babies*. Figure above shows the IMR by the last three census periods as well as the four statistical regions namely Apia Urban Area (AUA), North West Upolu (NWU), Rest of Upolu (RoU) and Savaii.

When comparing the IMR in 2011 and the one in the last 10yrs (2001), a clear decline from **19-16 infant deaths** is shown. However the great variation of IMR is noticed by regional level when all the three censuses are measured, indicating that the pattern of declining did not follow a smooth decline as expected. Samoa's exposure to great volumes of out-migration per year could account to some extent to the inconsistencies in the overall pattern and levels of Samoa's Infant Mortality Rate in the last ten years. Not only that but the heavy rural-urban migration experienced in the same period could also contribute to different patterns and levels of mortality by region in Samoa. Most importantly, one could not rule out the fact that the impact of health services being made available to mothers and newborn babies and especially the commitment made by mothers to prevent illness to their newborns could also contributed a great deal to the irregular patterns and levels of Infant Mortality Rate in Samoa.

For more information please contact the Samoa Bureau of Statistics at phone: 21373/62000.

