

# Child Health

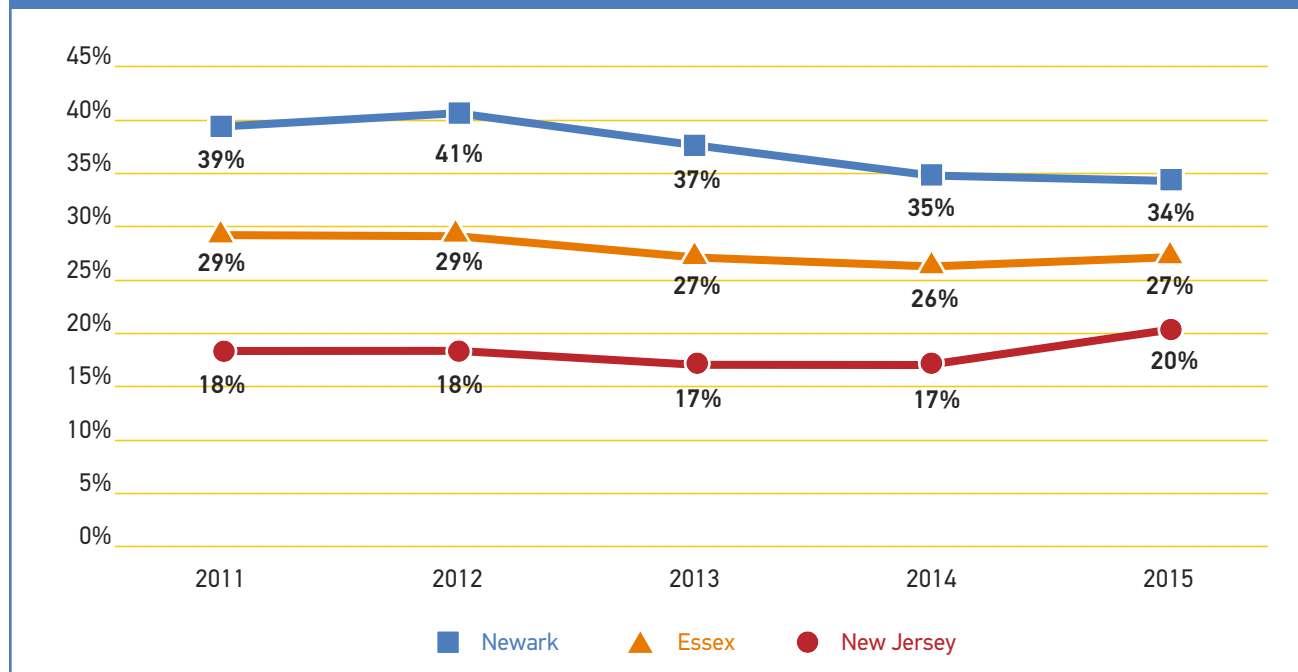
## Infant Health

Healthy starts for Newark infants begin with quality prenatal care early in a mother’s pregnancy. Women who receive late prenatal care—or who do not receive prenatal care entirely—expose their babies to a greater chance of health problems later in life. Newark moms have made some strides in this area since 2011, with the percentage of births to women receiving late or no prenatal care dropping from 39 percent to 34 percent. However, a higher percentage of Newark moms receive late or no prenatal care than mothers within Essex County or New Jersey overall.

*Women Receiving Late or No Prenatal Care*

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change 11-15
Newark	1,687	1,768	1,549	1,457	1,448	-14
Essex	3,100	3,065	2,714	2,647	2,783	-10
New Jersey	19,127	18,226	17,079	17,117	20,506	7

*Percentage of Women Receiving Late or No Prenatal Care*



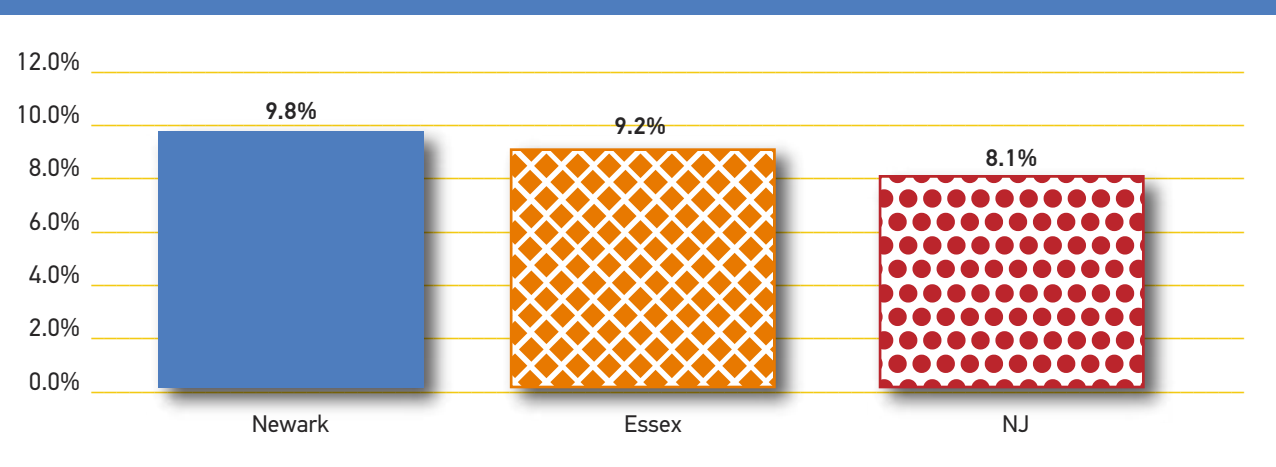
## What is a Low Birthweight?

A low birthweight baby is any infant born weighing less than 2,500 grams, or roughly 5.5 pounds. Low birthweight babies may be more likely to develop certain health problems, such as respiratory distress syndrome, than infants born with normal birthweights. Long term, low birthweight babies may be at a greater risk of developing chronic conditions such as diabetes.<sup>1</sup> In 2015, 9.8 percent of Newark babies were born with low birthweights, compared to 8.1 percent of babies born statewide—this trend has remained consistent since 2011.

*Babies Born with Low Birthweights*

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change 11-15
Newark	456	428	443	430	414	-9
Essex	1,064	963	983	990	950	-11
New Jersey	8,901	8,447	8,445	8,249	8,241	-7

*Percentage of Babies Born with Low Birthweight, 2015*



*Infant Mortality*

	#	2011 Rate**	#	2012 Rate**	#	2013 Rate**	#	2014 Rate**	#	2015 Rate**	% Change 11-15 #
Newark	30	6.9	20	4.6	36	8.6	48	11.6	32	7.5	7
Essex	61	5.8	50	4.8	65	6.4	73	7.1	64	6.2	5
New Jersey	528	5.0	454	4.4	464	4.5	455	4.4	487	4.8	-8

\*\*Rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

## What is New Jersey's Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board?

The New Jersey Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board (CFNFRB) was formed in 1997 through the New Jersey Comprehensive Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act in an effort to determine the causes of and ways to prevent child deaths and near deaths. The board consists of six different teams, each with their own sets of responsibilities and areas of focus. Team members come from a variety of backgrounds, including law enforcement, medicine, education and the non-profit sector. The board conducts in-depth reviews of select child death cases, such as when the cause of death may be a result of abuse or neglect or if the cause is undetermined. For more information on the CFNFRB and to review their annual reports, visit <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/boards/fatality/>.

*Child Deaths (Ages 1-14)*

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Newark	14	14	13	12	12
Essex	28	26	26	27	25
New Jersey	203	196	182	202	191

*Infants with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome*

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Newark	40	49	35	32	43
Essex	58	62	57	44	60
New Jersey	639	667	692	745	824

## What is Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome?

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) occurs when an infant is exposed prenatally to drugs. Most babies develop NAS as a result of a mother who used opioids while still pregnant, although other types of drugs such as sleeping pills and antidepressants can also lead to NAS.<sup>2</sup> Because opioid-exposed infants are more likely to be born with a low birthweight or suffer from seizures, they tend to remain at the hospital for a prolonged period after they are born.<sup>3</sup> Other signs and symptoms of NAS include fevers, irritability, a distinct high pitch wail and a tendency to gain weight more slowly than infants without NAS.<sup>4</sup>

In 2015, 43 infants in Newark suffered from Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, more than two-thirds of Essex County's cases.

*Asthma Admissions to the Hospital (Ages 0-17)*

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change 11-15
Newark	406	333	234	272	264	-35
Essex	719	623	470	492	453	-37
New Jersey	3,918	4,139	3,684	3,747	2,896	-26

*Asthma-Related Emergency Room Visits (Ages 0-17)*

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change 11-15
Newark	1,533	1,756	1,519	1,497	1,592	4
Essex	2,905	3,190	2,733	2,701	2,826	-3
New Jersey	19,471	20,297	18,547	18,843	18,287	-6

**Asthma-Related Admissions to the Hospital vs. Emergency Room Visits: How Do They Differ?**

Asthma is a chronic health condition affecting many children in the city of Newark. Medication and preventive care can effectively manage asthma, but severe symptoms may require care at a hospital—by visiting the emergency room, or in serious cases, being admitted for in-patient care. Asthma-related emergency room visit data do not reflect child

patients who were later admitted to the same hospital for in-patient care. Since 2011, the number of asthma-related hospital admissions for children under age 18 has declined by 35 percent; yet the number of asthma-induced emergency room visits has been more consistent over time.

*Children Under 18 Without Health Insurance*

	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		% Change 12-16
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Newark	4,702	6.5	5,436	7.8	5,365	7.4	4,434	6.5	5,951	9.1	27
Essex	10,374	5.4	11,783	6.2	10,131	5.3	11,613	6.1	10,052	5.3	-3
New Jersey	102,816	5.1	112,117	5.6	91,842	4.6	74,594	3.7	70,039	3.5	-32

**What is NJ FamilyCare?**

NJ FamilyCare is New Jersey’s publicly funded health insurance program, supported by federal Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) dollars, state funding and premiums paid for children in families with a household income between 200 and 350 percent of the federal poverty level. Qualified state residents of any age may be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance that covers doctor visits, prescriptions, vision, dental care, mental health and substance use services and hospitalization. For more information, visit <http://www.njfamilycare.org>.

*Children Receiving NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid*

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change 13-17
Newark	54,724	53,728	54,071	53,463	56,985	4
Essex	97,911	95,291	96,202	94,684	100,738	3
New Jersey	712,848	708,334	759,360	764,809	772,857	8

## ■ Data Sources and Technical Notes:

**Women Receiving Late or No Prenatal Care, 2011-2015.** Live births for which the mother received late prenatal care (onset in second or third trimester) and no prenatal care, as reported by the N.J. Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Data accessed as of October 10, 2017.

**Number of Babies Born with Low Birthweight, 2011-2015.** The number of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams as reported by the N.J. Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Data accessed as of October 10, 2017.

**Percentage of Babies Born with Low Birthweight, 2015.** The percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams out of the total number of live births. As reported by the N.J. Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Data accessed as of October 10, 2017.

**Infant Mortality, 2011-2015.** The number of infants under one year who died during that year. Rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. As reported by the N.J. Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Death and Birth Certificate Databases. Data accessed as of October 10, 2017.

**Child Deaths (Ages 1-14), 2011-2015.** The number of children between ages one and 14 who died during that year, as reported by the N.J. Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Death Certificate Database. Data accessed as of October 10, 2017.

**Infants with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, 2011-2015.** The number of infants with any listed diagnosis of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, represented by ICD-9 codes 779.5 and 760.72. As reported by the N.J. Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Discharge Data Collection System. Data accessed as of January 29, 2018.

**Asthma Admissions to the Hospital, (Ages 0-17), 2011-2015.** Number of New Jersey inpatient hospital discharges with a primary asthma diagnosis for residents 0-17 years of age. Counts do not include out of state hospitalizations for New Jersey residents. As reported by the N.J. Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Discharge Data Collection System. Data accessed as of October 13, 2017.

**Asthma-Related Emergency Room Visits (Ages 0-17), 2011-2015.** Number of New Jersey emergency department discharges with a primary asthma diagnosis for residents 0-17 years of age. Counts do not include out of state hospitalizations for New Jersey residents. As reported by the N.J. Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Discharge Data Collection System. Data accessed as of October 13, 2017.

**Children Receiving NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid, 2013-2017.** As reported by the N.J. Department of Human Services. Data are from March of each year and are point in time snapshots that do not reflect any retroactivity. Includes children under age 18 enrolled in Medicaid, which is available to children living in families earning below 133 percent of the federal poverty level and children enrolled in the SCHIP portion of NJ FamilyCare, which is available to children living in families earning between 134 percent and 350 percent of the federal poverty level. Data have been updated for prior years.

**Children Under 18 Without Health Insurance, 2012-2016.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B27001.

## ■ References:

- 1 March of Dimes. (2014). Low Birthweight. Retrieved January 11, 2017, from <http://www.marchofdimes.org/baby/low-birthweight.aspx>
- 2 March of Dimes. (2015) Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). Retrieved October 16, 2017 from [https://www.marchofdimes.org/neonatal-abstinence-syndrome-\(nas\).aspx](https://www.marchofdimes.org/neonatal-abstinence-syndrome-(nas).aspx)
- 3 March of Dimes. (2015) Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). Retrieved October 16, 2017 from [https://www.marchofdimes.org/neonatal-abstinence-syndrome-\(nas\).aspx](https://www.marchofdimes.org/neonatal-abstinence-syndrome-(nas).aspx)
- 4 Kocherlakota, P. (2014). Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. Retrieved October 16, 2017 from [www.pediatrics.org/cgi/doi/10.1542/peds.2013-3524](http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/doi/10.1542/peds.2013-3524).