

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 2012,

the number of births to Newark women receiving late or no prenatal care has declined, from more than 1,700 to roughly 1,400. The number of babies born with low birthweights, however, has remained relatively stagnant since 2010—between 425 and 460 annually.

Women Receiving Late or No Prenatal Care

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	% Change 10-14
Newark	1,659	1,687	1,768	1,549	1,458	-12
Essex	3,090	3,100	3,065	2,714	2,647	-14
New Jersey	19,145	19,127	18,226	17,079	17,109	-11

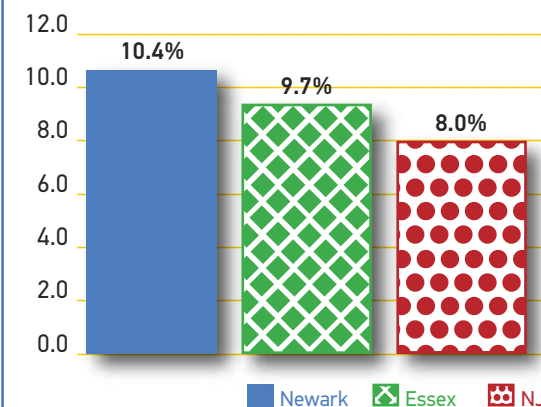
Babies Born with Low Birthweight

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	% Change 10-14
Newark	459	456	428	443	430	-6
Essex	1,088	1,064	963	983	990	-9
New Jersey	8,747	8,901	8,447	8,445	8,250	-6

What is 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.¹

Percentage of Babies Born with Low Birthweight, 2014



Infant Mortality

	#	2010 Rate**	#	2011 Rate**	#	2012 Rate**	#	2013 Rate**	#	2014 Rate**	% Change 10-14 #
Newark	36	8.6	30	6.9	20	4.6	36	8.6	48	11.6	33
Essex	72	6.9	61	5.8	50	4.8	65	6.4	73	7.1	1
New Jersey	513	4.8	528	5.0	454	4.4	464	4.5	455	4.4	-11

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

Child Deaths (Ages 1-14)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Newark	11	14	14	13	12
Essex	18	28	26	25	27
New Jersey	180	196	195	177	193

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 different 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 only reviews select cases of child death in detail, such as when the cause of death may be a result of abuse or neglect or if the cause of death is undetermined.

For more information on the CFNFRB, and to review their annual reports, visit

<http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/boards/fatality/>.

How ACNJ Calculates Infant Mortality Rates

For every 1,000 babies born in Newark in 2014, nearly 12 died before their first birthday, compared to seven out of every 1,000 in Essex and four in every 1,000 babies born in New Jersey. Over the past several years, infant mortality rates for the city of Newark have consistently remained higher than the state as a whole. In order to calculate infant mortality rates, ACNJ uses the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{\# of deaths before an infant's first birthday in year Y}}{\text{\# of live births in year Y}} \times 1,000 = \text{Infant Mortality Rate}$$

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

Children Receiving NJ FamilyCare

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change 12-16
Newark	54,870	55,283	54,867	70,597	69,353	26
Essex	98,398	99,396	99,078	101,112	98,386	0
New Jersey	714,580	727,881	745,990	789,480	785,355	10

Children Under 18 Without Health Insurance

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		% Change 11-15
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Newark	6,903	9.6	4,702	6.5	5,436	7.8	5,365	7.4	4,434	6.5	-36
Essex	14,138	7.3	10,374	5.4	11,783	6.2	10,131	5.3	11,613	6.1	-18
New Jersey	105,165	5.2	102,816	5.1	112,117	5.6	91,842	4.6	74,594	3.7	-29

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 household income between 200-350 percent of 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>.

■ References:

- ¹ March of Dimes. (2014). Low Birthweight. Retrieved January 11, 2017, from <http://www.marchofdimes.org/baby/low-birthweight.aspx>

■ Data Sources and Technical Notes:

Women Receiving Late or No Prenatal Care, 2010-2014. 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 and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Babies Born with Low Birthweight, 2010-2014. The number of babies born weighing less than 2,500-grams as reported by the N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Percentage of Babies Born with Low Birthweight, 2014. 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 and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Infant Mortality, 2010-2014. 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 and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics.

Child Deaths (Ages 1-14), 2010-2014. The number of children between ages one and 14 who died during that year, as reported by the N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics.

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 and Senior Services, Hospital Discharge Data.

Children Receiving NJ FamilyCare, 2012-2016. As reported by the N.J. Department of Human Services. Data are from March of each year. Includes children enrolled in NJ FamilyCare which includes Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Children Under 18 Without Health Insurance, 2011-2015. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community survey chart B27001.