

Racial Disparities in Maternal & Child Health

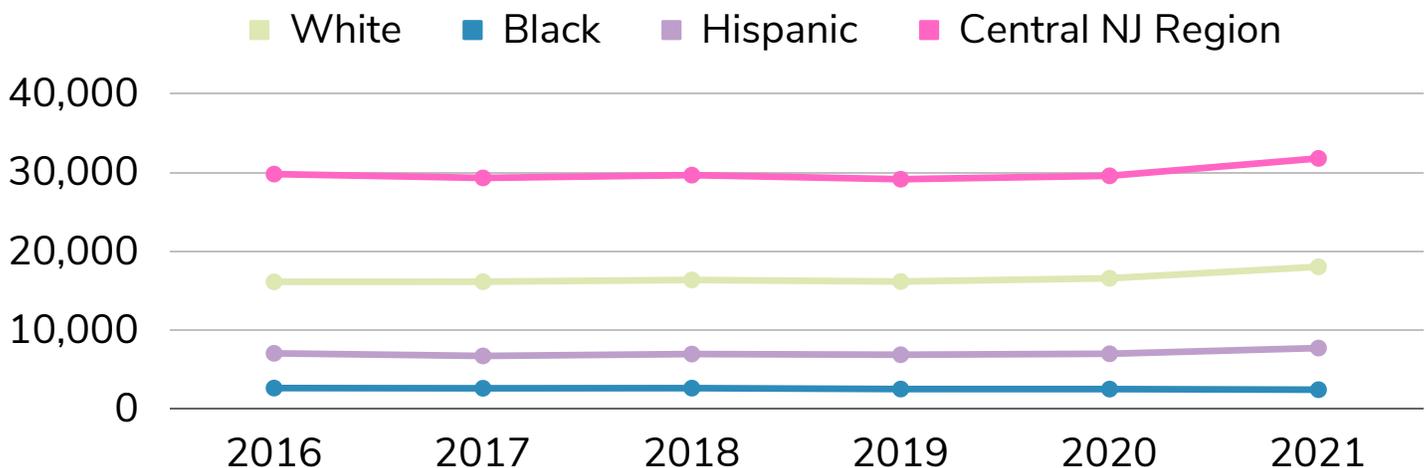


INTRODUCTION

Racial disparities in maternal child health outcomes are a concerning issue in New Jersey.

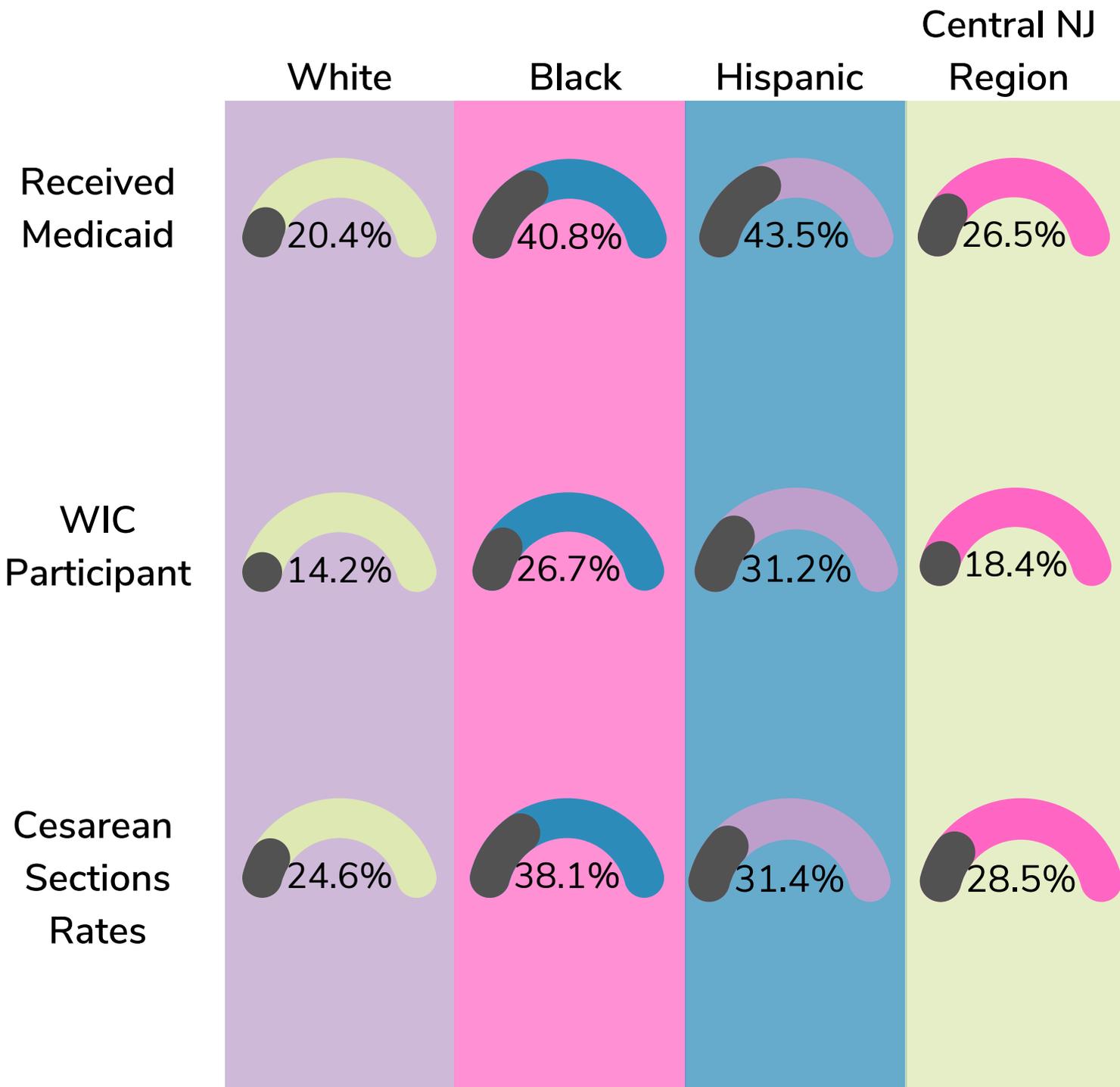
The Central Jersey Family Health Consortium is working to address these disparities within its primary service region (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Somerset Counties) as well as throughout the state. This report provides a summary of racial disparities in Central New Jersey as of 2021.

Live Births by Race/Ethnicity



Black and Hispanic birthing people have higher rates of Medicaid and WIC utilization as well as higher cesarean section rates compared to White birthing people.

Health Care Access, Utilization, & Outcomes

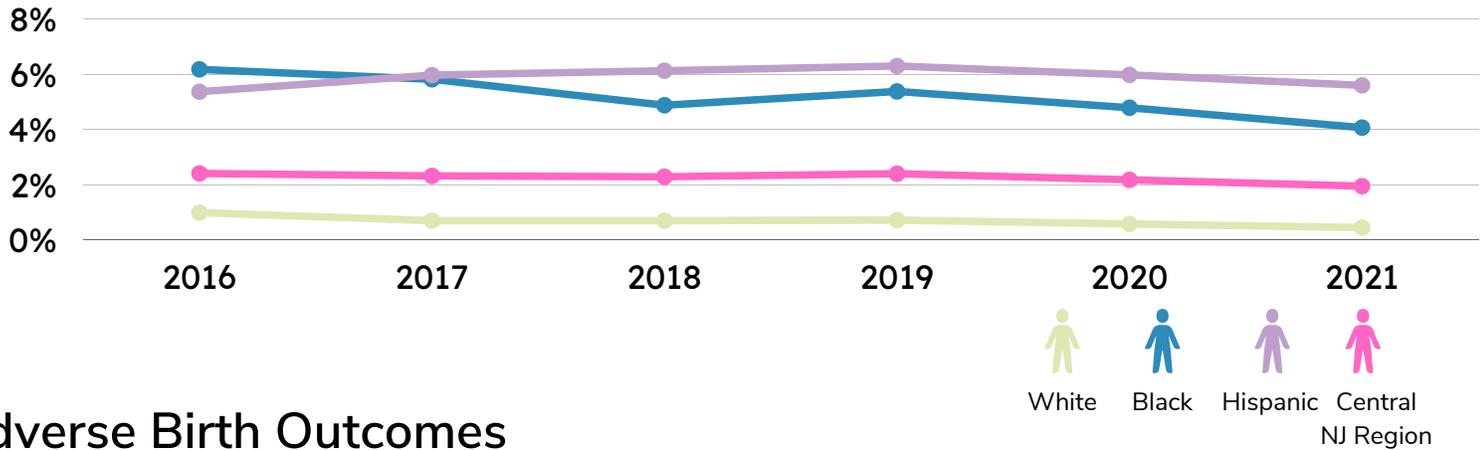


Teen Pregnancy & Adverse Birth Outcomes



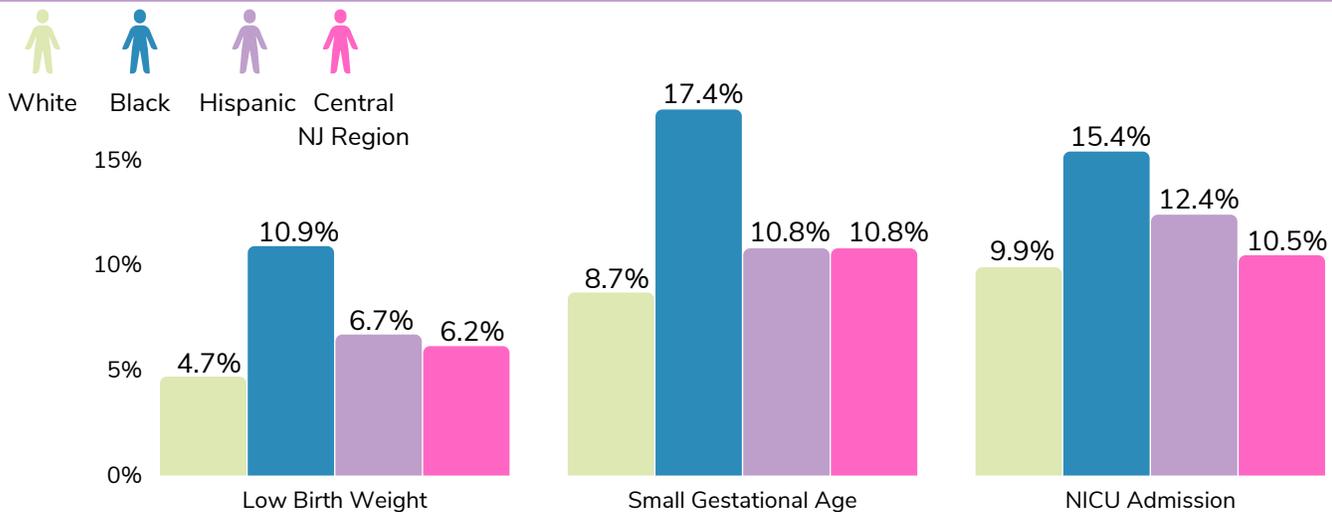
Teen Births by Race and Ethnicity

Although teen pregnancy rates have declined over time, Black and Hispanic youth are at substantially greater risk of teen pregnancy compared to White teens. However, this gap has declined over time.

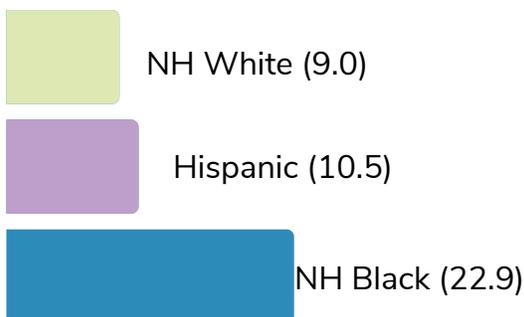


Adverse Birth Outcomes

Adverse birth outcomes impact African American and Black infants at substantially higher rates than their White counterparts. Regardless of outcome, Black infants experience rates 1.5 to 2 times greater. Although Hispanic people have similar socioeconomic standing to other communities of color they still tend to have better birth outcomes.



Fetal and Neonatal Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Births*



*One baby represents ten livebirths



All CJFHC programs include a focus on addressing health disparities within the community. Below are some examples of CJFHC programs and how they help address these disparities.



Healthy Women Healthy Families:

Statewide initiative focusing on improving maternal and infant health outcomes for all women of childbearing age and their families while reducing racial, ethnic and economic disparities. Includes Community Health Workers who are trusted members of targeted communities who serve as bridge between community and providers.

ConnectingNJ:

Addresses birthing peoples' needs by connecting them to valuable resources throughout our communities.



Teen Health Initiatives:

Promotes positive youth development while reducing teen pregnancy, school suspensions, and course failures.

Peer Health Educators:

Training students to provide health education through peer networks.



Family Connects Mercer County:

Provides free at-home nurse visits for patients living in Mercer County to address maternal and infant mortality.