A Call to Action:
New Jersey Infant Mortality

Infant Mortality Rates
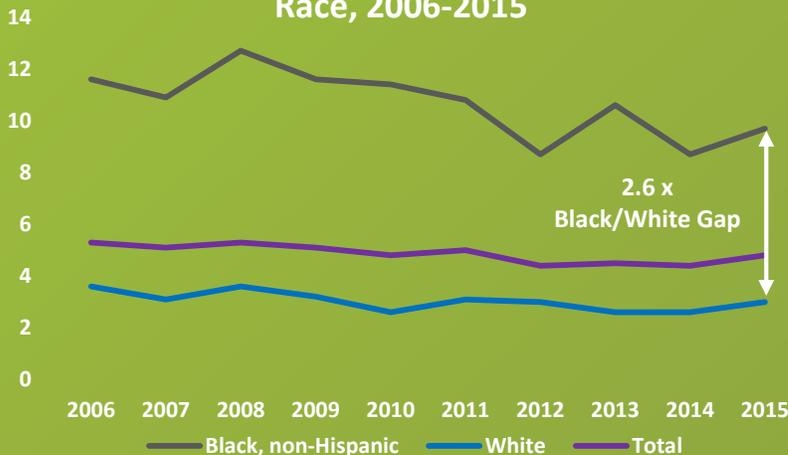
In New Jersey

4.8 infants

In the United States

5.9 infants

out of every 1,000 die each year
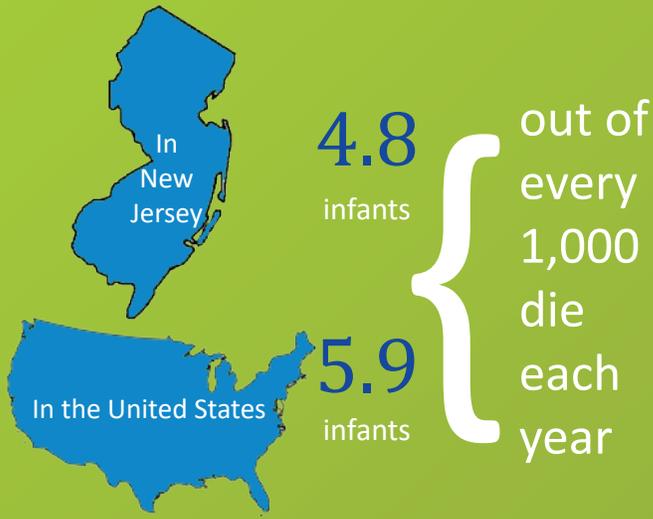
NEW JERSEY NEONATAL AND INFANT MORTALITY, 2006-2015

■ Neonatal Mortality Rate ■ Infant Mortality Rate

Year	Neonatal	Infant
2006	3.7	1.6
2007	3.4	1.7
2008	3.4	1.9
2009	3.6	1.5
2010	3.5	1.3
2011	3.4	1.6
2012	3.2	1.2
2013	3.2	1.3
2014	3	1.4
2015	3.3	1.5
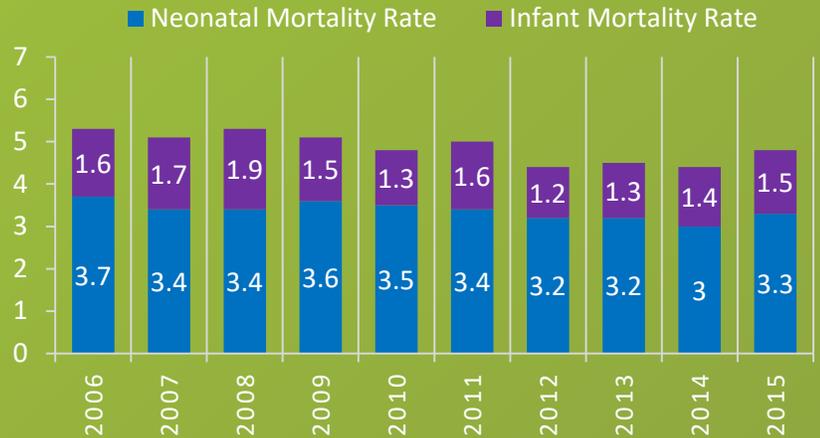
Racial Disparities

New Jersey Infant Mortality Rates by Race, 2006-2015

2.6 x Black/White Gap

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015

— Black, non-Hispanic — White — Total

New Jersey ranks #8 in the nation for lowest infant mortality rates (CDC Wonder); however, the racial gap in infant mortality is one of the highest in the nation, ranking as #5 highest disparity (CDC Wonder). African American women experience an infant mortality rate that is nearly 3 times that of their white counterparts.
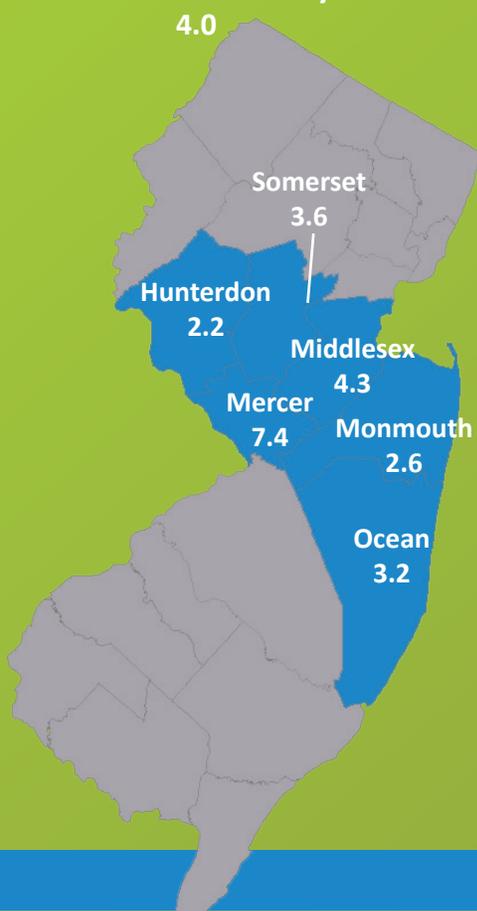
Causes of Death

The leading causes of death for white infants are SIDS (16.1%) and congenital anomalies (15.3%). For African American infants, the leading causes of death are preterm/low birthweight (20.4%) and congenital anomalies (8.8%). Moreover, for African American infants, those born premature are 2.8 times more likely to die than their white counterparts (NJ SHAD).
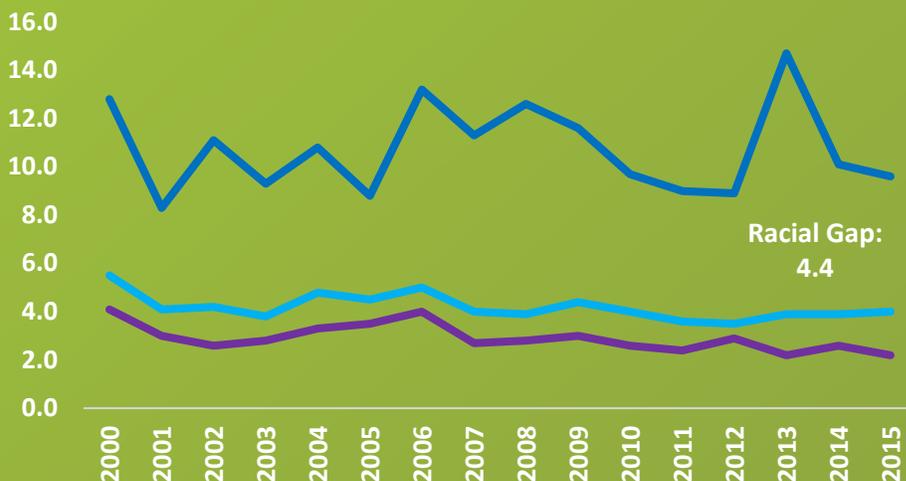
9% SIDS

16% Preterm/Low Birthweight

4% Respiratory Distress

5% Maternal Complications of Pregnancy

18% Congenital Anomalies

48% Other Causes
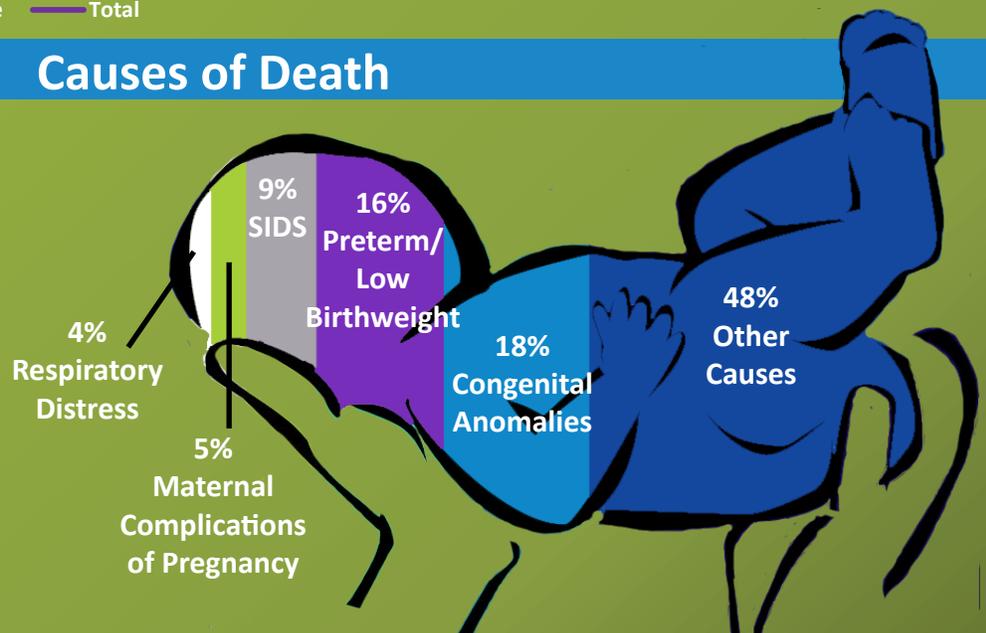
Infant Mortality in the Central Region

Racial Disparities in Infant Mortality

Central New Jersey
4.0

Somerset
3.6

Hunterdon
2.2

Middlesex
4.3

Mercer
7.4

Monmouth
2.6

Ocean
3.2

Infant Mortality Rates by Race: 2000-2015

(line chart, y-axis 0.0 to 16.0, x-axis years 2000–2015)

Racial Gap:
4.4

Nearly 125 infants in Central New Jersey die before their first birthday. Of those, 72% are neonates (less than 28 days after birth). African American women are at dramatically greater risk of experiencing the death of an infant than their white counterparts, such that African American infants die at more than 4 times the rate of white infants (NJ SHAD).

Causes of Death

TOP 5 CAUSES OF DEATH: 2011-2015

■ White ■ Black

(bar chart)

	White	Black
CONGENITAL ANOMALIES	18.4%	8.9%
PRETERM/ LOW BIRTHWEIGHT	13.2%	21.5%
SIDS	9.0%	7.6%
MATERNAL COMPLICATIONS	9.0%	5.7%
PLACENTA/CORD/ MEMBRANE COMPLICATIONS	1.9%	7.6%

References:
- NJ SHAD: New Jersey Birth Certificate Database, Office of Vital Statistics and Registry, New Jersey Department of Health
- CDC Wonder: United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics (DVS), Natality public-use data on CDC WONDER Online Database

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