

Infant Health in Anne Arundel County

Anne Arundel County Department of Health

Office of Assessment and Planning

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The Anne Arundel County Department of Health works toward the goal that all babies in Anne Arundel County are born healthy and thrive. There are several facets of infant health explored in this report and each is explained below:

Pregnancy in teens comes with increased risk of complications for both mother and baby. Infants born to teen mothers have a higher risk for low birth weight, preterm birth and death than infants born to older mothers.

Early prenatal care initiation reduces the risk of complications during pregnancy. Additionally, infants of mothers who do not get prenatal care are three times more likely to have low birth weight and five times more likely to die than those babies born to mothers who do get care.

Preterm birth and low birth weight not only increase an infant's risk of death in the first days of life, but they also increase the risk of breathing problems, obesity and other diseases as the infant grows up and enters adulthood.

Data Source:
Maryland Vital Statistics Administration, Birth and Death Certificate Files, 2015-2019.

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Births by Race/Ethnicity Anne Arundel County, 2015-2019

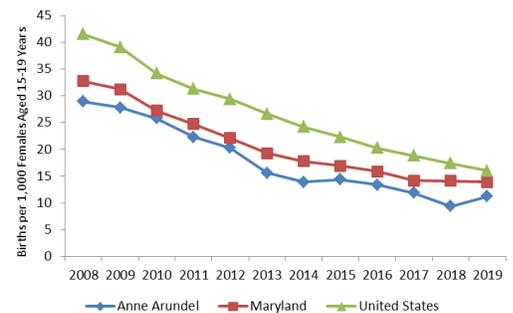
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	6,924	6,994	6,895	6,783	6,830
White, NH*	4,383	4,357	4,242	4,118	3,975
Black, NH	1,259	1,291	1,273	1,251	1,320
Hispanic	847	896	936	1,009	1,070

*NH- Non-Hispanic

The number of births increased from 2018 to 2019 reversing the downward trend in both 2017 and 2018. In 2019, only White, non-Hispanics saw a decrease in the number of births.

Births among Anne Arundel County teens increased for the first time since 2015 to 11.2 per 1,000 teens, driven by an increase in the White, non-Hispanic rate. Our rate is still lower than both Maryland and the United States, however.

Teen (15-19 Years) Birth Rate Anne Arundel County, 2008-2019

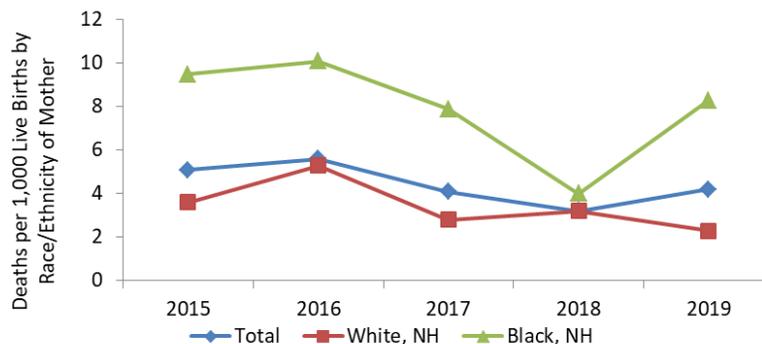


Infant Deaths by Race/Ethnicity Anne Arundel County, 2015-2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	35	39	28	22	29
White, NH	16	23	12	13	9
Black, NH	12	13	10	5	11
Hispanic	3	3	5	3	7

The infant mortality rate among non-Hispanic Black infants increased from 2018 to 2019 and their rate was nearly four times the rate in non-Hispanic White infants (8.3 per 1,000 live births vs 2.3 per 1,000, respectively).

Infant Mortality Rate by Race, Anne Arundel County, 2015-2019

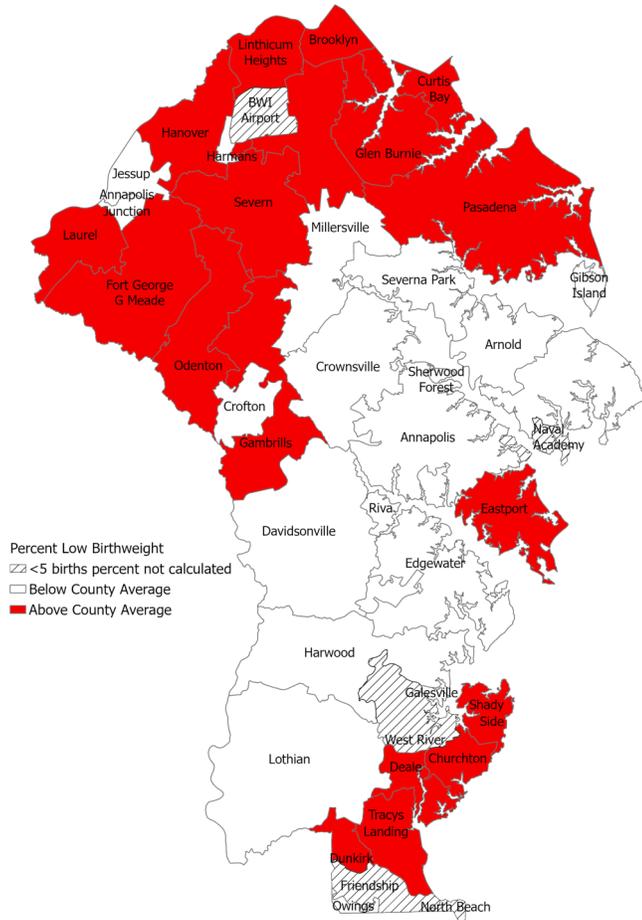


NOTE: Rates are not calculated for Hispanics because rates with <10 events in numerator are unstable.

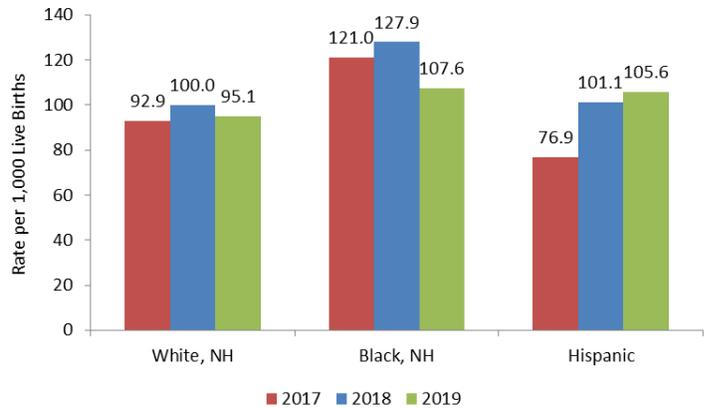
Selected Risk Factors for Infant Mortality

Percent of Low Birth Weight Infants by ZIP
Anne Arundel County, 2015-2019

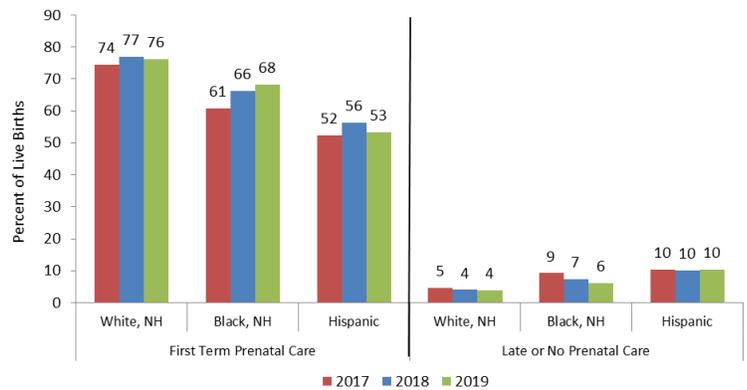
Anne Arundel County Average: 7.7%



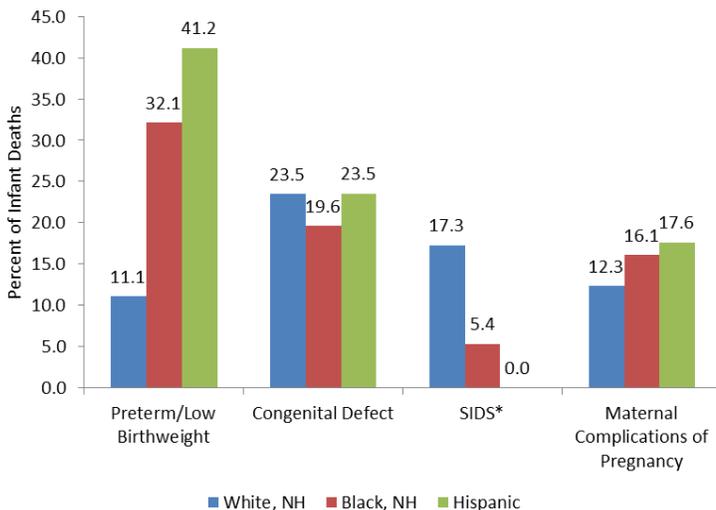
Preterm Birth Rate by Race/Ethnicity
Anne Arundel County, 2017-2019



Prenatal Care Initiation by Race/Ethnicity
Anne Arundel County, 2017-2019



Causes of Infant Mortality by Race/Ethnicity,
Anne Arundel County, 2015-2019



Between 2015 and 2019, the percentage of babies born with low birthweight in the county was 7.7%, but there are many areas above this percentage shown in red on the map above.

In 2019, the preterm birth rate for both White and Black infants decreased while the rate in Hispanic infants increased. The percentage of women initiating prenatal care in the first trimester decreased in both White and Hispanic women but increased in Black women. The percentage of White and Hispanic women with late or no prenatal care remained.

The top causes of infant mortality included preterm/low birthweight and congenital abnormalities. The causes varied significantly between race/ethnicity groups with preterm/low birthweight more common in Black and Hispanic infants and congenital defects more common in White infants.

Note: Preterm infants are born at less than 37 weeks gestation. Low birthweight infants weigh 5.5 pounds or less at birth. Early prenatal care is initiation during the first trimester (1-3 months). Late prenatal care is initiation during the third trimester.