

**Outcome:
Babies Are
Born Healthy**

**Indicator:
% of Low Birth Weight Babies**
(<5.5 lbs or 2,500 grams)

Where Is Santa Fe Now?

-  Worse than State & Nation
-  No/Minimal Change

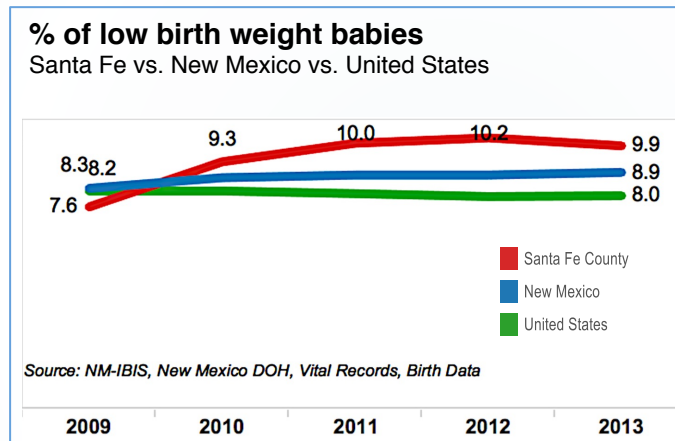
Why Is This Important?

Babies born at low birth weight are at an increased risk of infant mortality. Low birth weight babies require intensive care at birth, may develop chronic illnesses, and later may require special services due to delayed motor or social development or learning disabilities. Health care costs and length of hospital stay are higher for low birth weight infants.

Low birth weight is influenced by a number of factors: substance abuse, nutrition, general health, teen pregnancy, obstetric intervention earlier in pregnancy, older maternal age at childbearing, and greater use of fertility therapies that result in more multiple births.

How Are We Doing?

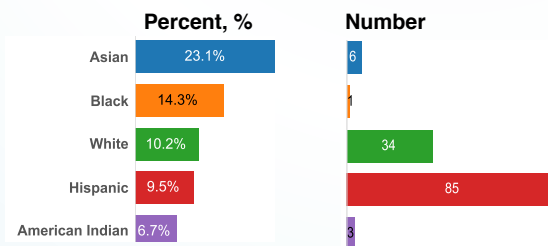
Santa Fe has a **higher rate** of low birth weight babies compared to state and national averages.



9.9% or **129**
of total **1,310** live
Births in Santa Fe in 2013
were low birth weight Babies.

The rate has changed minimally over the past few years and is higher than the **national target of 7.8%** - even after adjusting for multiple births (typically lower birth weight). See Appendix 1a.


**Race/Ethnic breakdown of low birth weight babies
% and Number, 2013***



Source: NM-IBIS, New Mexico DOH

Race / Ethnic Disparities:

85 Hispanic babies make up the majority (66%) of the total low birth weight babies in Santa Fe due to the large number of total Hispanic births (891 births).

 **Appendix 1.** % of low birth weight babies in Santa Fe 2010-2014: All vs. Single births

*Numbers of births for Blacks and Asians in Santa Fe County are so small that percentage data cannot be considered reliable for identifying problems or trends.

 APPENDIX: Early Childhood Success

Appendix 1. % of low birth weight babies in Santa Fe 2010-2014: All vs. Single births

Year	All live births	Single births Only (excluding multiples)
2013	9.9%	8.7%
2012	10.2%	8.0%
2011	10.0%	8.6%
2010	9.3%	8.1%

Source: NM-IBIS, New Mexico DOH