



Births to Mothers in HUSKY A by Town, 2002

June 2005

In Connecticut, HUSKY A (Medicaid managed care) provides prenatal care and other needed health care to mothers of nearly 10,000 babies born each year.

Pregnant women in families with income below 185% of the federal level are eligible for Medicaid and enroll in HUSKY A health plans during pregnancy and for 60 days postpartum.¹ In towns all across

Connecticut, HUSKY A health plans are responsible for linking expectant mothers with prenatal care providers as early as possible in pregnancy; providing assistance with appointment scheduling, transportation, and other support services; and providing case management and specialized services for high risk mothers.

This report is the third annual summary of data on births by town to mothers in HUSKY A, previously issued by the Children's Health Council, and now issued by Connecticut Voices for Children in 2005.²

Methods

Records of births in 2002 were linked with HUSKY A enrollment data files in order to identify births to mothers who were enrolled in HUSKY A at the time they gave birth.³ Results are shown by mother's town of residence and expressed as a percentage of all births to residents of that town in 2002.

Results

In 2002, there were 41,191 births to Connecticut residents, including 9,775 births (24%) to mothers enrolled in HUSKY A when their babies were born.⁴ Compared to other mothers who gave birth that year, mothers who were enrolled in HUSKY A were younger (average age 25, compared with 31 for other mothers) and far more likely to be teens (21% v. 3% of other mothers). They were more likely to be

Black non-Hispanic (25% v.7%) or Hispanic (32% v. 12% of other births).

In nearly every town in Connecticut, babies were born to mothers whose care was covered by HUSKY A (Table 1).

- Most births to mothers living in Hartford (62%), New Haven (52%) and Bridgeport (44%) were covered by HUSKY A;
- Nearly half of all births in four other large towns (New Britain, New London, Waterbury, and Windham) were babies born to mothers enrolled in HUSKY A.

Discussion

In the year 2002, nearly one in four babies in Connecticut were born to mothers enrolled in HUSKY A at the time of birth. In some cities and towns, HUSKY A covered a far greater proportion of pregnancies. In these communities, the importance of HUSKY A for improving maternal health and birth outcomes cannot be overstated.

Even so, Medicaid coverage alone cannot offset significant sociodemographic and health differences that contribute to greater risk for mothers in HUSKY A. The collaborative efforts of HUSKY A health plans, prenatal care providers, community-based organizations like Healthy Start, and other publicly funded programs like WIC are essential for ensuring that women become pregnant when they chose to, begin pregnancy in good health, begin prenatal care early, and obtain risk-appropriate high quality prenatal care and social support services throughout pregnancy.

Table 1. Births to Mothers I HUSKY A by Town, 2002

| Births in HUSKY A by Town | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | # of births | % of all births |
| ANSONIA | 97 | 40% |
| BERLIN | 11 | 6% |
| BETHEL | 18 | 8% |
| BLOOMFIELD | 38 | 23% |
| BOLTON | 10 | 19% |
| BRANFORD | 40 | 15% |
| BRIDGEPORT | 1,000 | 44% |
| BRISTOL | 181 | 27% |
| BROOKFIELD | 8 | 5% |
| BROOKLYN | 17 | 26% |
| CANTERBURY | 13 | 20% |
| CHAPLIN | 6 | 26% |
| CHESHIRE | 9 | 4% |
| CHESTER | 9 | 17% |
| CLINTON | 33 | 18% |
| COLCHESTER | 32 | 15% |
| COVENTRY | 19 | 14% |
| CROMWELL | 9 | 7% |
| DANBURY | 143 | 13% |
| DERBY | 37 | 25% |
| EAST HADDAM | 11 | 10% |
| EAST HAMPTON | 21 | 14% |
| EAST HARTFORD | 232 | 35% |
| EAST HAVEN | 92 | 28% |
| EAST LYME | 26 | 16% |
| EAST WINDSOR | 21 | 19% |
| ELLINGTON | 13 | 8% |
| ENFIELD | 97 | 24% |
| ESSEX | 6 | 8% |
| FAIRFIELD | 18 | 3% |
| GLASTONBURY | 16 | 4% |
| GREENWICH | 13 | 2% |
| GRISWOLD | 35 | 30% |
| GROTON | 118 | 19% |
| GUILFORD | 8 | 4% |
| HAMDEN | 125 | 20% |
| HAMPTON | 6 | 40% |
| HARTFORD | 1,341 | 62% |

| Births in HUSKY A by Town | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----|
| HARWINTON | 6 | 14% |
| HEBRON | 7 | 6% |
| KILLINGLY | 84 | 45% |
| LEBANON | 8 | 13% |
| LEDYARD | 30 | 16% |
| LISBON | 8 | 22% |
| LITCHFIELD | 10 | 13% |
| MANCHESTER | 164 | 26% |
| MANSFIELD | 12 | 11% |
| MARLBOROUGH | 6 | 8% |
| MERIDEN | 306 | 38% |
| MIDDLETOWN | 121 | 22% |
| MILFORD | 67 | 12% |
| MONROE | 6 | 3% |
| MONTVILLE | 32 | 17% |
| NAUGATUCK | 88 | 24% |
| NEW BRITAIN | 455 | 47% |
| NEW FAIRFIELD | 14 | 9% |
| NEW HARTFORD | 8 | 11% |
| NEW HAVEN | 1004 | 52% |
| NEW LONDON | 159 | 46% |
| NEW MILFORD | 30 | 10% |
| NEWINGTON | 30 | 11% |
| NEWTOWN | 10 | 4% |
| NORTH BRANFORD | 8 | 7% |
| NORTH CANAAN | 9 | 31% |
| NORTH HAVEN | 20 | 9% |
| NORWALK | 182 | 15% |
| NORWICH | 229 | 43% |
| OLD LYME | 6 | 8% |
| OLD SAYBROOK | 15 | 13% |
| OXFORD | 8 | 6% |
| PLAINFIELD | 60 | 38% |
| PLAINVILLE | 20 | 12% |
| PLYMOUTH | 25 | 19% |
| POMFRET | 9 | 33% |
| PORTLAND | 13 | 11% |
| PRESTON | 6 | 13% |
| PROSPECT | 6 | 5% |
| PUTNAM | 24 | 35% |

| Births in HUSKY A by Town | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-----|
| RIDGEFIELD | 8 | 3% |
| ROCKY HILL | 10 | 5% |
| SEYMOUR | 31 | 18% |
| SHELTON | 35 | 8% |
| SIMSBURY | 8 | 4% |
| SOMERS | 9 | 18% |
| SOUTH WINDSOR | 13 | 6% |
| SOUTHBURY | 10 | 7% |
| SOUTHINGTON | 40 | 8% |
| SPRAGUE | 16 | 47% |
| STAFFORD | 28 | 27% |
| STAMFORD | 201 | 12% |
| STERLING | 12 | 32% |
| STONINGTON | 20 | 18% |
| STRATFORD | 97 | 17% |
| SUFFIELD | 8 | 9% |
| THOMASTON | 21 | 26% |
| THOMPSON | 17 | 47% |
| TORRINGTON | 134 | 34% |
| TRUMBULL | 20 | 5% |
| VERNON | 95 | 30% |
| WALLINGFORD | 43 | 9% |
| WATERBURY | 801 | 50% |
| WATERFORD | 19 | 10% |
| WATERTOWN | 29 | 13% |
| WEST HARTFORD | 59 | 9% |
| WEST HAVEN | 244 | 34% |
| WESTBROOK | 12 | 20% |
| WETHERSFIELD | 23 | 9% |
| WILLINGTON | 8 | 17% |
| WINDHAM | 178 | 52% |
| WINDSOR | 46 | 16% |
| WINDSOR LOCKS | 22 | 20% |
| WINSTED | 51 | 41% |
| WOLCOTT | 14 | 9% |
| WOODBURY | 8 | 9% |
| WOODSTOCK | 10 | 19% |
| TOWN UNKNOWN | 2 | 1% |
| CONNECTICUT | 9,775 | 24% |

In the following towns, there were <6 births to mothers enrolled in HUSKY A in 2000: Andover, Avon, Barkhamsted, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Burlington, Canaan, Canton, Colebrook, Columbia, Cornwall, Darien, Durham, Eastford, Easton, Franklin, Goshen, Granby, Hartland, Kent, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlebury, Middlefield, Morris, New Canaan, Norfolk, Orange, Redding, Roxbury, Salem, Salisbury, Scotland, Sherman, Union, Voluntown, Warren, Washington, Weston, Westport, Willington, Wilton, Woodbridge.

1 Pregnant women (counted as two) are eligible if family income is less than \$23,736 for family of 2 and \$29,767 for family of 3.

2 Connecticut Voices for Children is a non-profit organization that conducts research and policy analysis on children's issues. This report on births in 2002 was prepared under a contract between the Connecticut Department of Social Services and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, with a grant to Connecticut Voices from the Hartford Foundation. Performance monitoring in HUSKY A builds on work begun by the Children's Health Council which was created by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1995 and charged with evaluating the impact of Medicaid managed care on children's health services. Connecticut Voices for Children contracts with MAXIMUS, Inc. for data management and data analysis. This report was prepared by Mary Alice Lee, Ph.D., Senior Policy Fellow. This report is also available at www.ctkidslink.org.

3 Birth data were released to Connecticut Voices for Children with the approval of the DPH Human Investigations Committee. Matching methods and evaluation of the match are described in Children Health Council. Births to Mothers in HUSKY A: 2000. Hartford, CT: CHC, February 2003. (Available on line at www.ctkidslink.org).

³ In 2002, there were an additional 2,153 births to mothers with fee-for-service Medicaid coverage. These births cannot be identified using birth data alone, so they are counted as births to other mothers.