



@SJ\_Program  
#SustainableStateNJ

# Health, Equity and Environmental Justice



2016 NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABLE SUMMIT



# PRESENTERS

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- Collette Lamothe-Galette
- Janet M. Currie
- Nicky Sheats
- Joseph Donald
- Stacey Flanagan



# Healthy New Jersey: The State Health Assessment & Improvement Plan June 15, 2016



**Colette Lamothe-Galette**  
Acting Director, Office of Population Health



Cathleen D. Bennett  
Commissioner



# DOH Mission and Strategic Focus



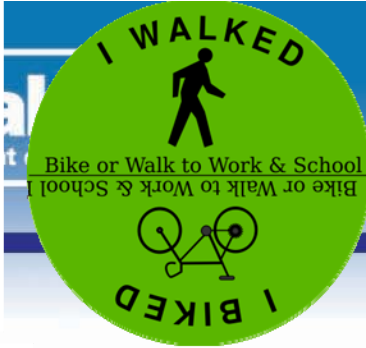
## **Mission:**

**Improve health through leadership  
& innovation**

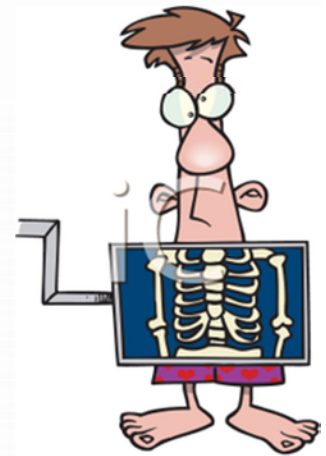
## **Strategic Plan Central Challenge:**

**Improve Population Health by  
Strengthening New Jersey's Health  
System**





*Population health focuses on keeping healthy New Jerseyans well, preventing those at risk from getting sick, and keeping those with chronic conditions from getting sicker.*



*Population health promotes prevention, wellness and equity in all environments, resulting in a healthy New Jersey.*

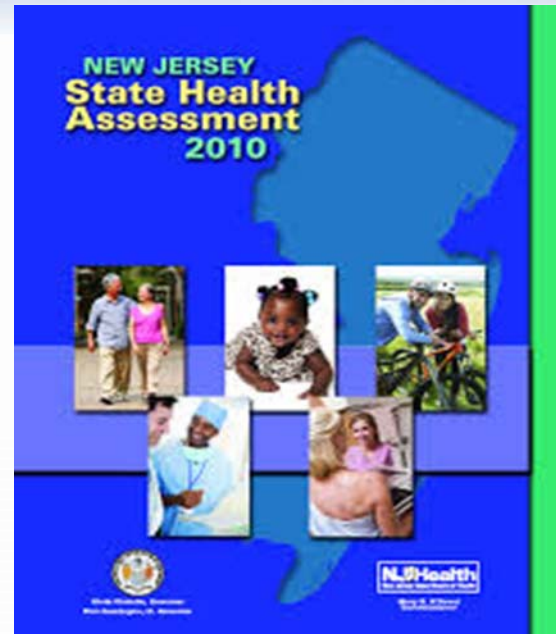


# What is HN2020?

Healthy New Jersey 2020 is the state's health improvement plan and its health promotion and disease prevention agenda for the decade. Click an area of the town below to learn more.

### About Healthy NJ 2020

- Introduction and Overarching Goals
- Topics & Objectives
- About the Data
- History & Development
- Partners
- Contact US



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Home > [About Healthy NJ](#) > [Introduction and Overarching Goals](#) > Introducing Healthy New Jersey 2020

## Introducing Healthy New Jersey 2020

Healthy New Jersey 2020 is the State's Health Improvement Plan and its health promotion and disease prevention agenda for the decade. It is modeled after the federal [Healthy People 2020](#) initiative and is the result of a multiyear process that reflects input from a diverse group of individuals and organizations.

### Vision

A state in which all people live long, healthy lives.



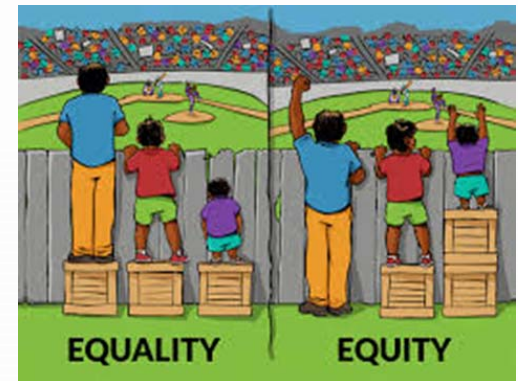
New Jersey

STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2012 - 2015

HEALTHY NEW JERSEY

- **Attain high quality, longer lives free of preventable disease**
- **Achieve health equity, eliminate disparities**
- **Create social and physical environments that promote good health**
- **Promote quality of life, healthy development, healthy behaviors across life stages**



\*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Healthy People 2020. Washington, DC. Available at <http://healthypeople.gov/2020/about/default.aspx>, Accessed November 1, 2011

**To improve health through strengthening policy and practice, Healthy New Jersey will:**

- **Identify statewide health improvement priorities;**
- **Increase awareness of social, cultural & physical impacts on health;**
- **Provide measurable objectives and goals;**
- **Engage multiple sectors to take actions driven by evidence-based practices; and**
- **Identify critical research and data collection needs.**

\*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Healthy People 2020. Washington, DC. Available at <http://healthypeople.gov/2020/about/default.aspx>, Accessed November 1, 2011



# HNJ Topic Areas

- Access to Health Services
- Asthma
- Cancer
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Diabetes
- Environmental Health
- Healthcare-Associated Infections
- Heart Disease and Stroke
- HIV/AIDS
- Immunization
- Injury and Violence Prevention
- Maternal, Infant, and Child Health
- Nutrition and Fitness
- Occupational Safety and Health
- Older Adults
- Physical Activity and Fitness
- Public Health Infrastructure
- Public Health Preparedness
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Tobacco Use
- Tuberculosis



September 2015

## The Leading Health Indicators

### 1. Access to Primary Care

**Measurement:** Increase the proportion of adults with a personal doctor or health care provider  
**Baseline (2011):** 83.5%  
**Target (2020):** 90.0%

### 2. Birth Outcomes

**Measurement:** Reduce the infant death rate  
**Baseline (2007):** 5.1 per 1,000 live births  
**Target (2020):** 4.8 per 1,000 live births

### 3. Childhood Immunization

**Measurement:** Increase the percentage of children aged 19 to 35 months who receive the recommended doses of DTaP, polio, MMR, Hib, hepatitis B, varicella and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV)  
**Baseline (2010):** 51.6%  
**Target (2020):** 80.0%

### 4. Heart Disease

**Measurement:** Reduce the death rate due to coronary heart disease  
**Baseline (2007):** 140.1 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted)  
**Target (2020):** 112.1 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted)

### 5. Obesity

**Measurement:** Prevent an increase in the proportion of the population that is obese  
**Baseline:**

- Adults (2011; 20 years+): 23.8%
- High school students (2009): 10.3%

**Targets:**

- Adults (2020): 23.8%
- High school students (2020): 10.3%

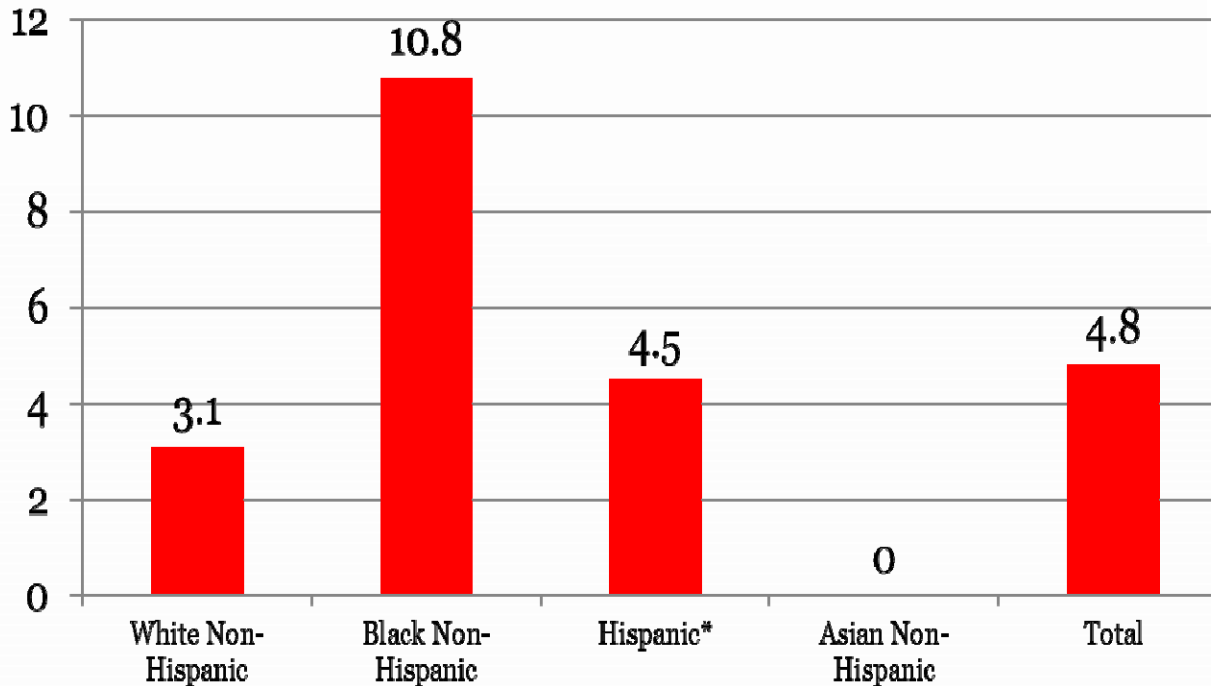
- **Leading health issues facing New Jersey residents**
- **Voted on by state and local health partners**
- **Focus of state health improvement initiatives 2012-current.**



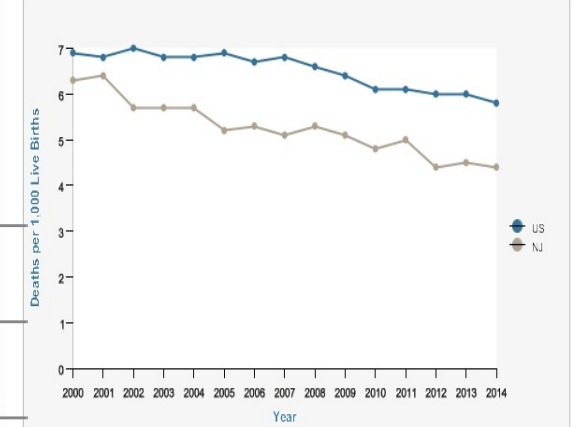


# Reduce the infant death rate to 4.8 per 1,000 live births from 5.1

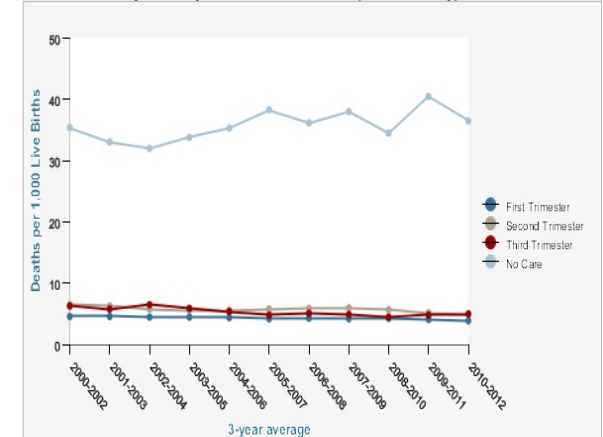
## Infant death rate per 1,000 live births, New Jersey, 2013 (Preliminary Data)



Infant Mortality Rate by Year, New Jersey and the United States, 2000-2014 (preliminary)



Infant Mortality Rate by Prenatal Care Onset, New Jersey, 2001-2012



# Improving Birth Outcomes Strategies

- **Conduct Surveillance**
- **Educate and conduct outreach through MCH Consortia**
- **Implement specific targeted initiative**
  - Improving Pregnancy Outcomes (IPO)
  - Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network (CoIIN)
  - National Governor's Association (NGA) Birth Outcomes Initiative
  - NJ Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative
- **Community Health Disparity Mini-grants**
  - Infant Mortality Prevention Education and Self-Management
- **Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative**





# HNJ Overall Status As of Jan 2016



**63%**  
**(72)**

**8%**  
**(9)**

**29%**  
**(34)**

The New Jersey health disparity priority areas are:

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Hepatitis B/Hepatitis C
- Infant Mortality
- Kidney Disease
- Unintentional Injuries
- Cancer (breast, cervical, prostate)
- Heart Disease
- HIV/AIDS
- Immunization
- Obesity
- Violence



8%



3X

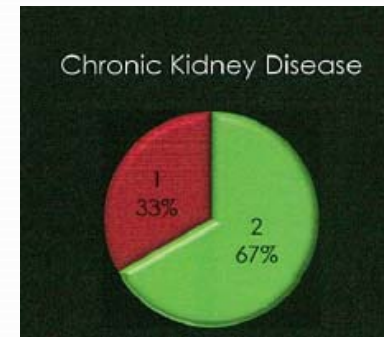
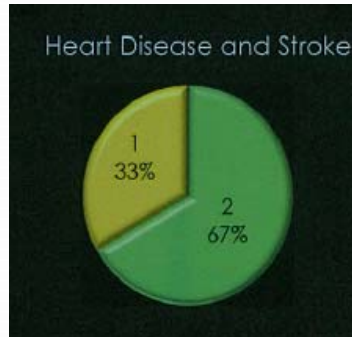
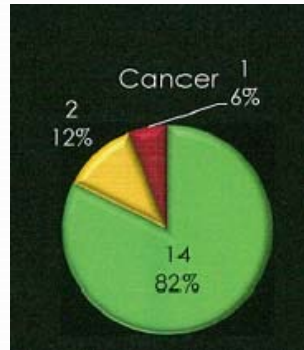
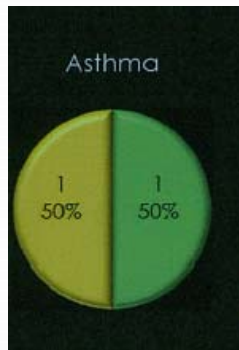


2X



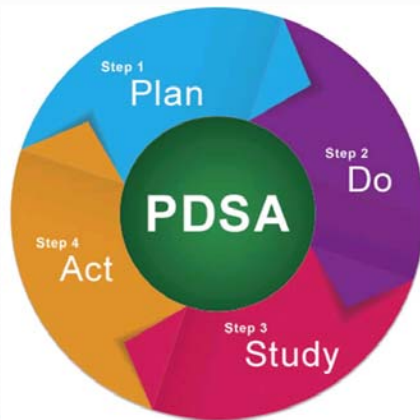
8%

*Even though NJ does better in many health indicators compared nationally, health disparities persist, and are often greater than compared to other state disparity rates.*



# Key Components to Achieving Population Health Improvements

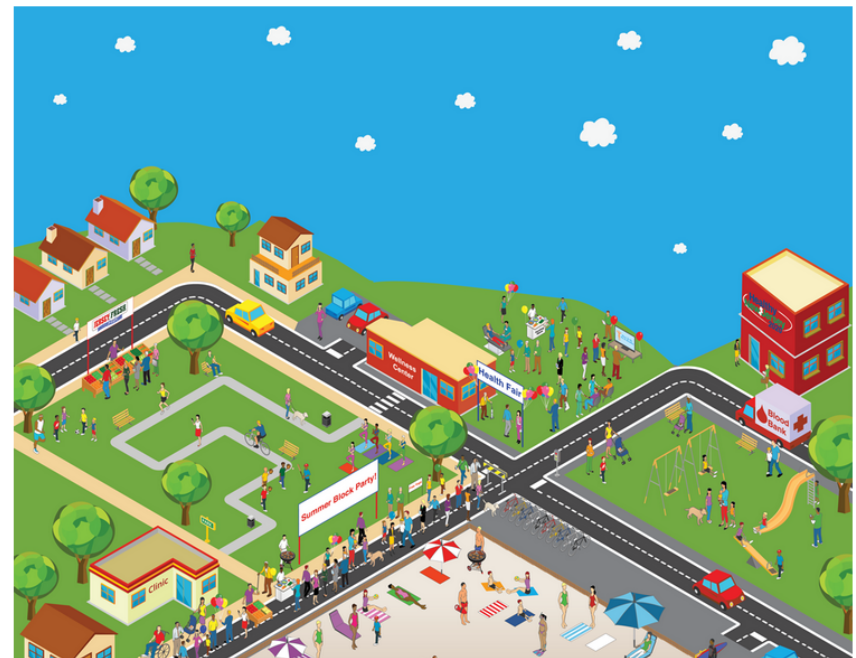
- ✓ **Health Assessment & Health Improvement Planning (HNJ 2020)/ Data Driven Health Action**
- ✓ **Strategic Collaboration & Coordination**
- ✓ **Sharing best practices**
- ✓ **Health Equity**
- ✓ **Health in All Policy making**



- **HNJ Mid-course review**
- **Healthy New Jersey (HNJ) quarterly workgroup(s) engagement**
- **Promotion of best practices in achieving health objectives**
- **Population Health Summit this Fall**



Healthy New Jersey 2020 is the state's health improvement plan and its health promotion and disease prevention agenda for the decade. Click an area of the town below to learn more.



You can also visit the New Jersey Department of Health's State Health Assessment Data



## **Healthy New Jersey (HNJ) 2020 Dashboard**

- [nj.gov/health/chs/hnj2020](http://nj.gov/health/chs/hnj2020)

## **Healthy New Jersey (HNJ) Publications**

- <http://www.healthy.nj.gov>

## **NJ State Health Assessment Data (NJSHAD) Indicator Profiles**

- <http://www4.state.nj.us/dhss-shad/home>

# The Environment and Children's Health

Janet Currie



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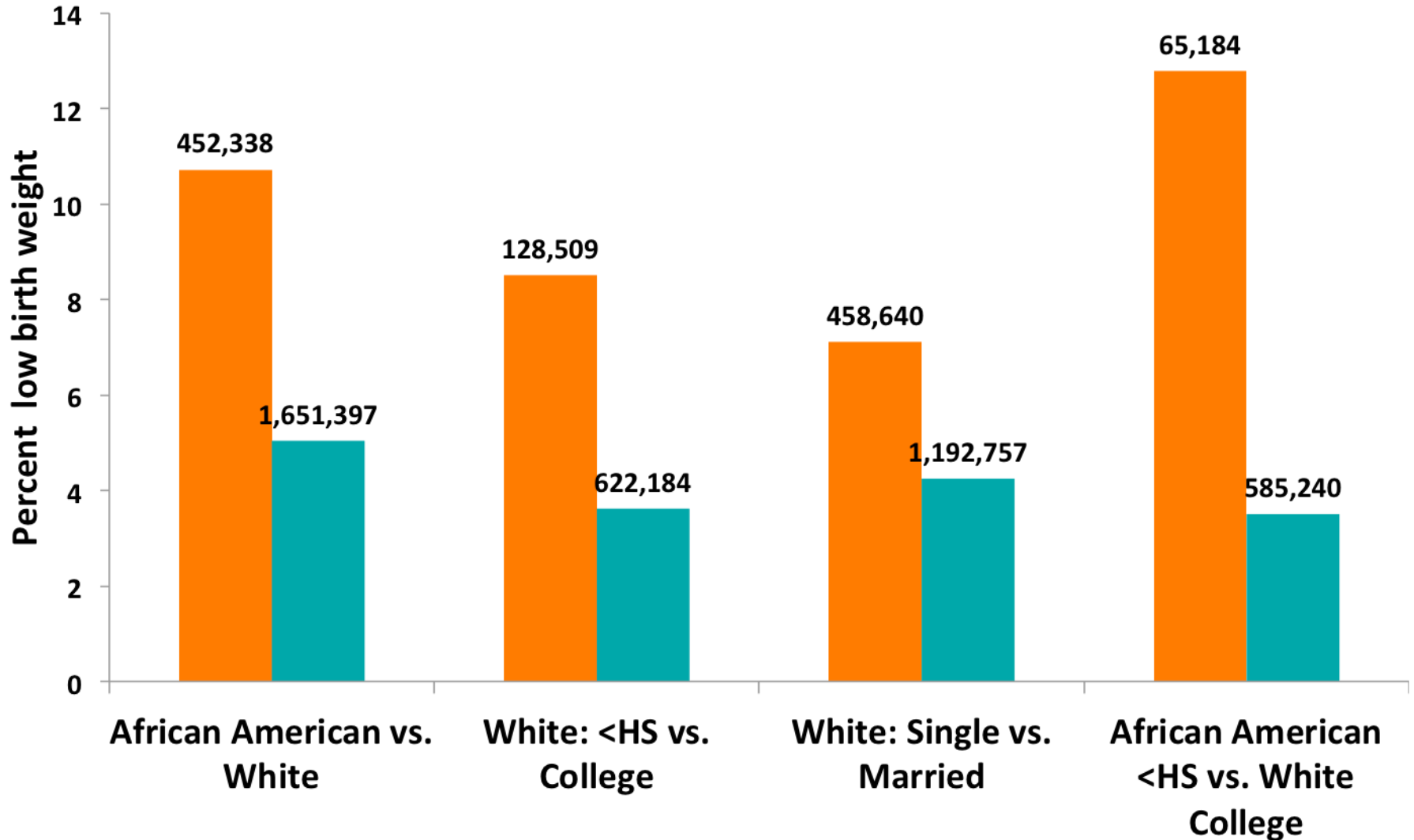


# Pregnancy and Early Childhood are “Critical Periods” for Child Development

- Both nature (genes) and nurture (environment) *and their interactions* are important for child development.
- The environment affects gene expression through setting epigenetic “switches.”
- The environment may serve to either mitigate or reinforce differences.

# Children start with very different health endowments

Percent of U.S. Infants with Birth Weight <2500g, by Maternal Characteristics, 2011  
(36 states, age 19-39, single births only)





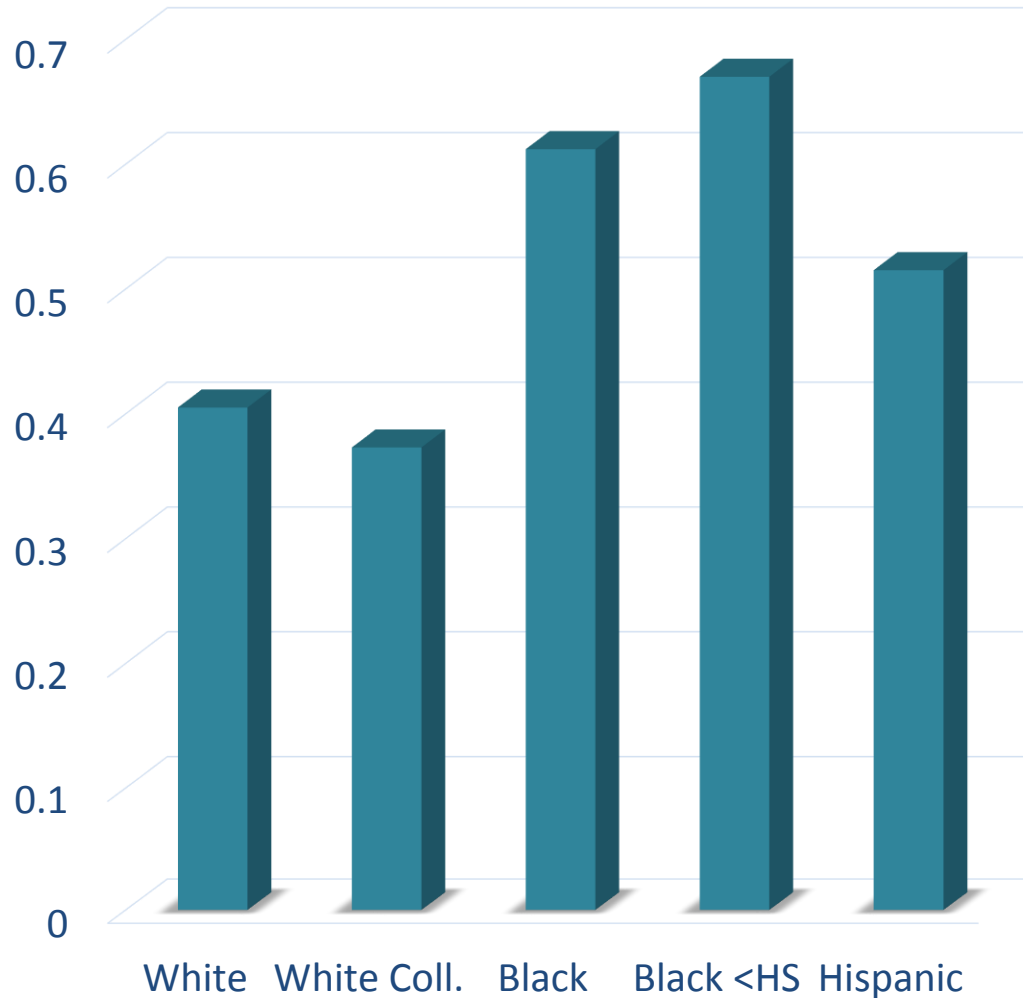
Could these disparities reflect differences in pollution exposure?



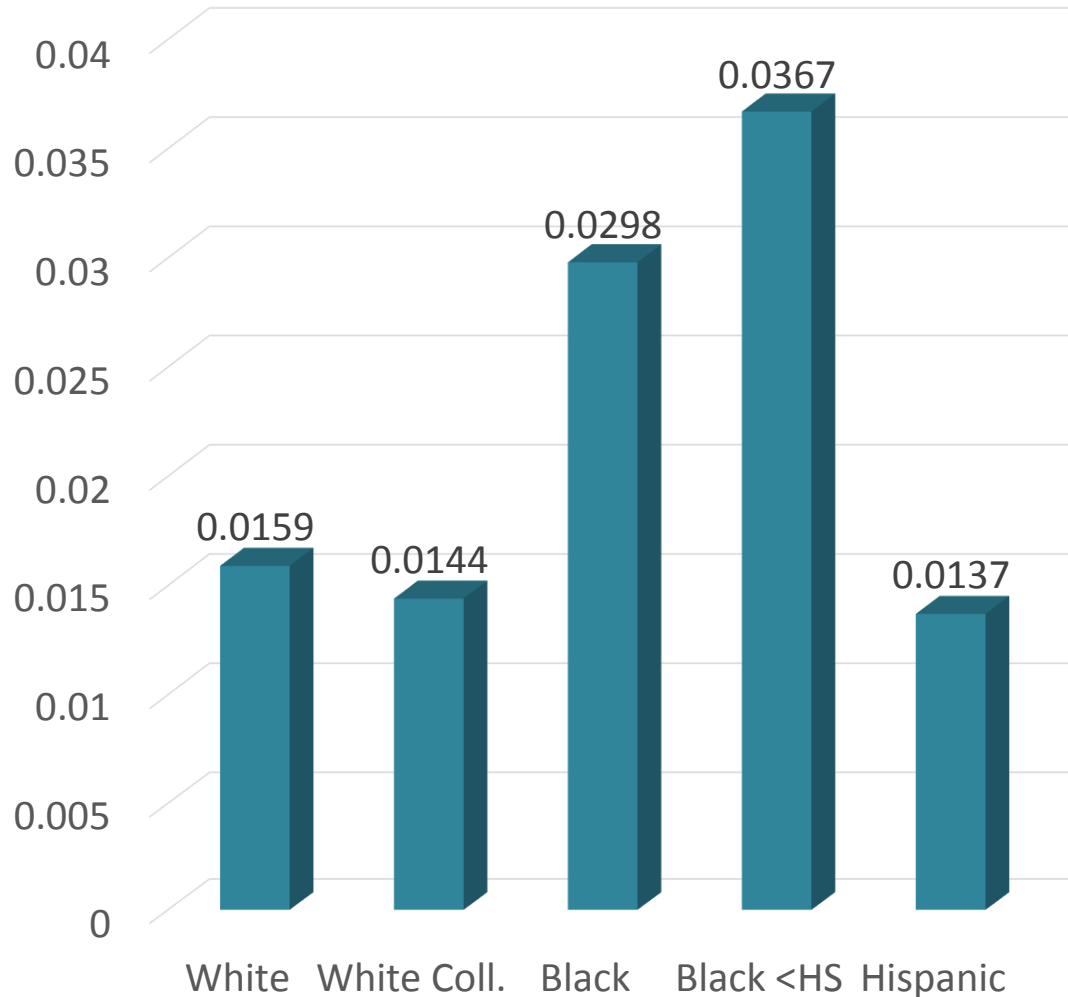
# Disadvantaged mothers are more likely to be exposed to pollution

- More likely to live near busy roads.
- More likely to live near Superfund sites.
- More likely to live near factories that emit toxic releases.
  - E.g. Currie (2011) examines all births in 5 large states and finds that African-American women are more likely to live near these sites.

# There are large differences by race/ethnicity and education in the probability of being <1.24 miles (2000m) from a Toxic Release Inventory site



# And large differences by race/ethnicity and education in the probability of being <1.25 miles from a Superfund hazardous waste site



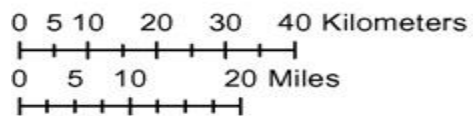
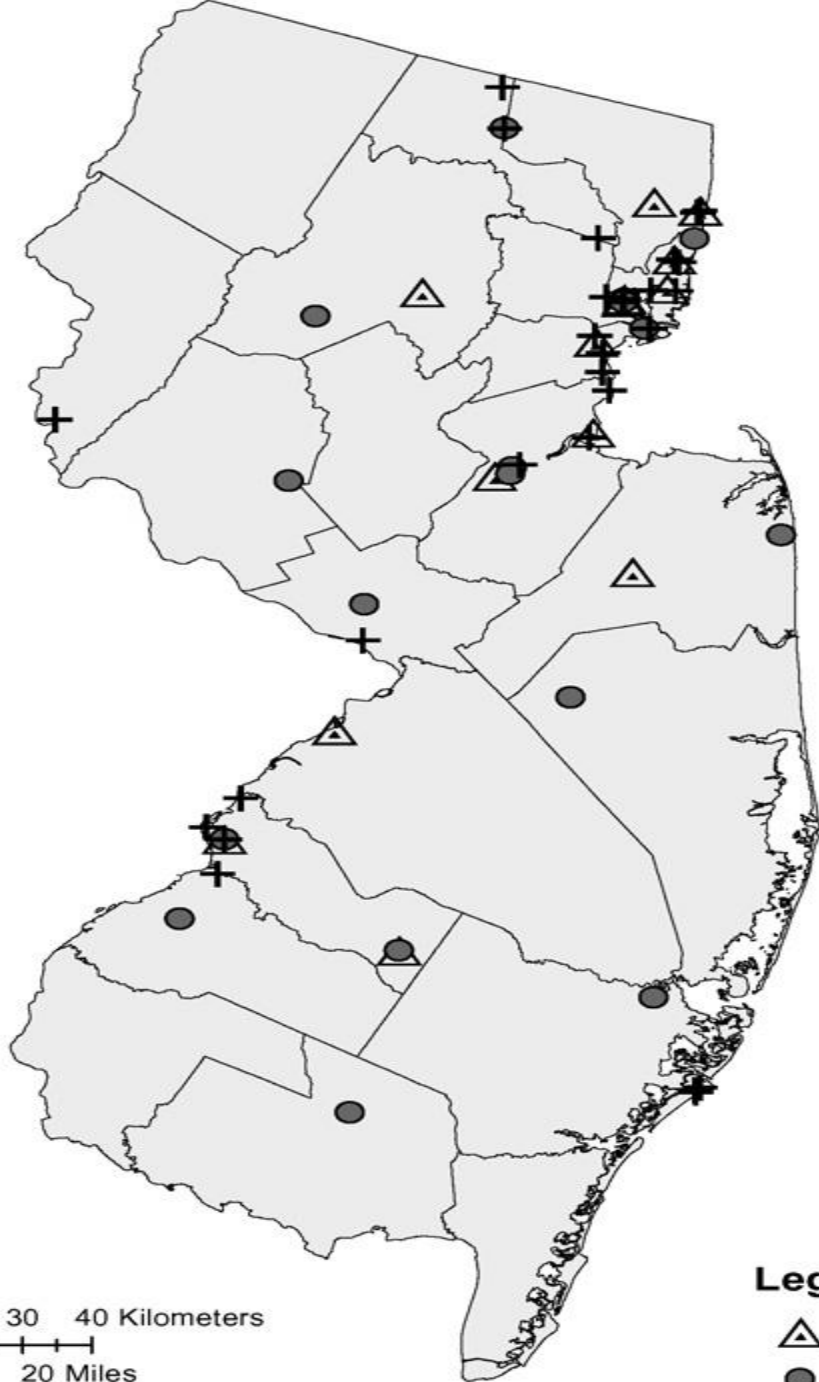
## Rhode Island: Average Lead Levels, School Infractions, Juvenile Detention and Exposure to Traffic by Child Characteristic (birth cohorts 1991-2005)

	Overall	White	Black	Hispanic	Free lunch	Paid Lunch
Lead	3.70	3.33	5.04	4.34	4.39	2.94
Meters of road within 50m (median)	364	259	836	1022	648	211
Share Any Infraction	0.22	0.18	0.36	0.31	0.32	0.11
Share Juvenile Detention (birth cohorts 1991-1997 only)	0.010	0.005	0.034	0.019	0.019	0.001



# Pollution has been linked to infant health

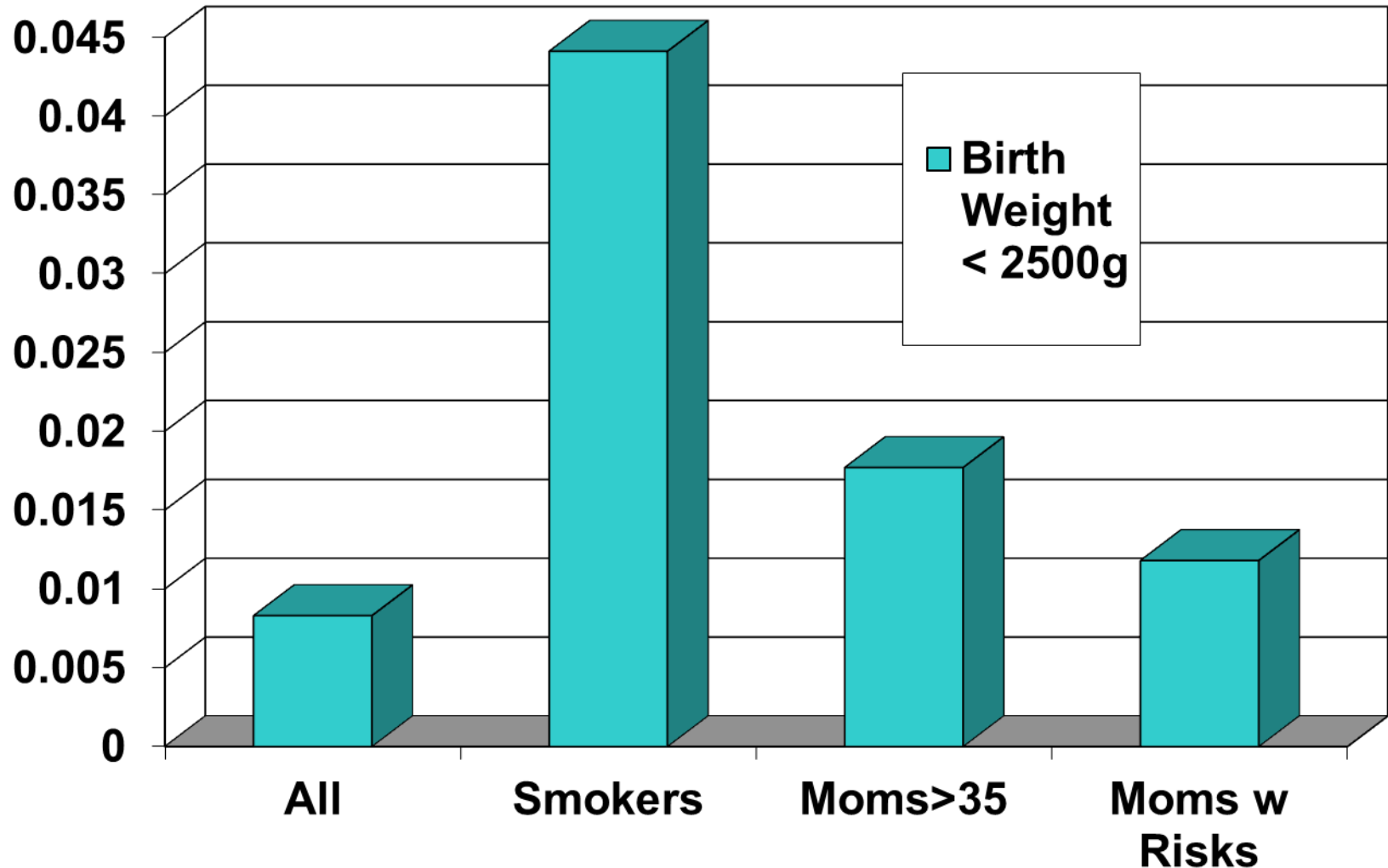
- E.g. Currie, Schmeider, and Neidell (2009) look at 1.5 million New Jersey births between 1989 and 2003.
- Select mothers who live <10km from fixed air quality monitors and compare the health of siblings born exposed to differing amounts of air pollution in utero.



**Legend**

- △ Carbon monoxide
- Ozone
- ✚ PM 10

# Effect of a 1 Unit Difference in CO (Mean=1.6, SD=13) on Incidence of Low Birth Weight



# Effect on Infant Deaths

- A one unit decrease in CO in the first 2 weeks of life reduces the number of infant deaths by 18 per 100,000 or 2.5%.

# Exposure to Traffic in NJ



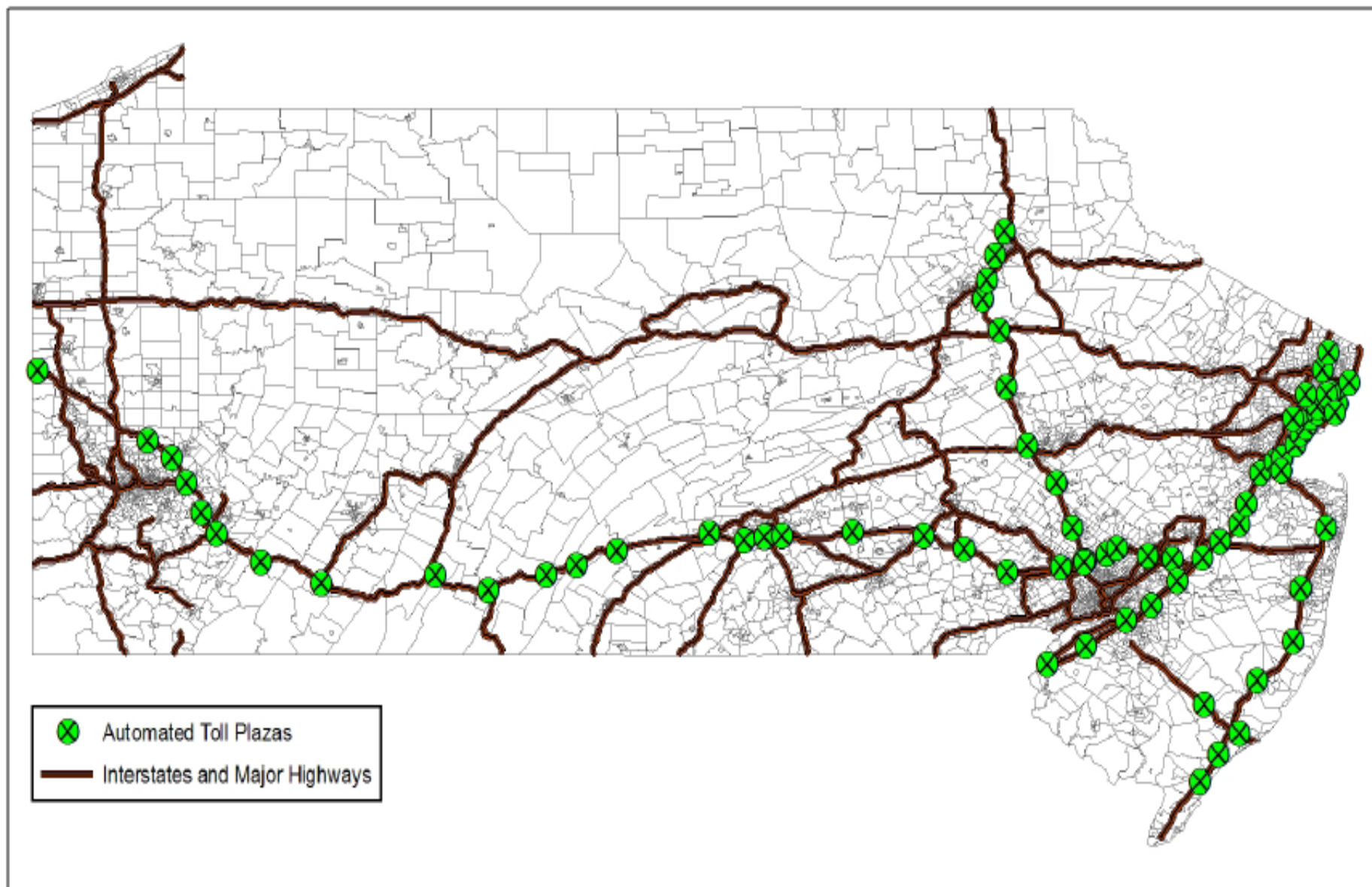


# Evidence from E-Zpass Implementation

- Electronic toll collections allow vehicles equipped with a special tag to drive through designated lanes of a toll plaza without stopping.
- Engineering studies suggest that reducing idling and stop&go traffic substantially reduces pollution near toll plazas.

- E-Zpass was implemented on three major state tollways in New Jersey and Pennsylvania (the Pennsylvania Turnpike; The New Jersey Turnpike; and the Garden State Parkway) as well as on tunnels and bridges into NYC.

Figure 1: Locations of Roadways and Toll Plazas



# Strategy (Currie and Walker, 2011)

- Compare mothers who live near toll plazas to mothers who also live near busy roads, but further away from toll plazas.
- Focus on mothers who live within 10km of a highway. Compare those within 2km of a toll plaza to the others.

# Summary

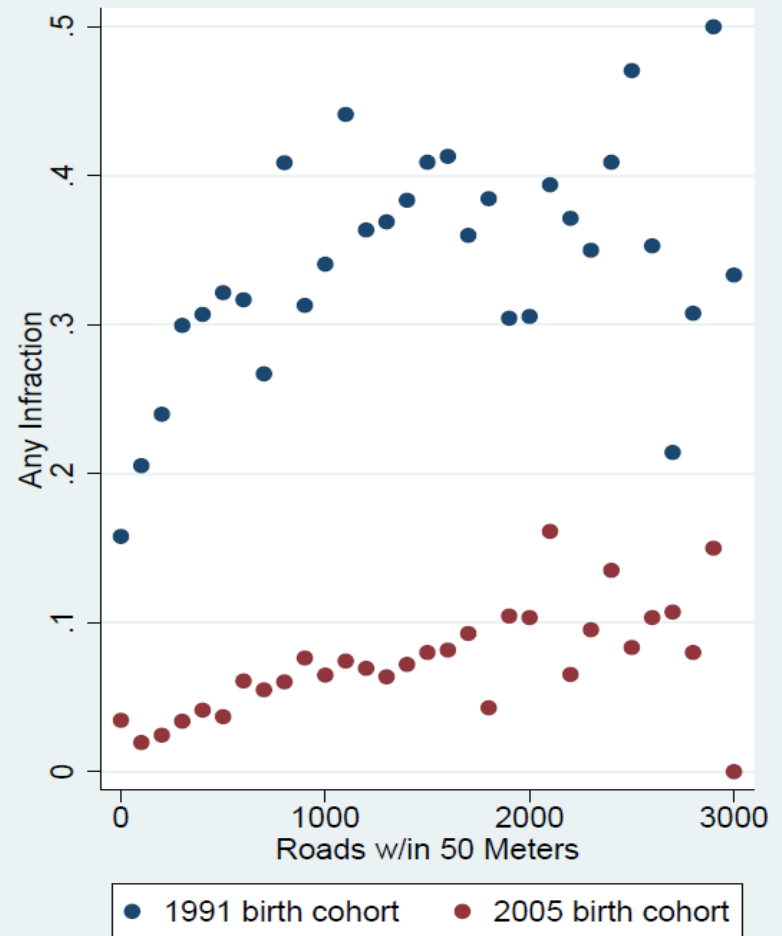
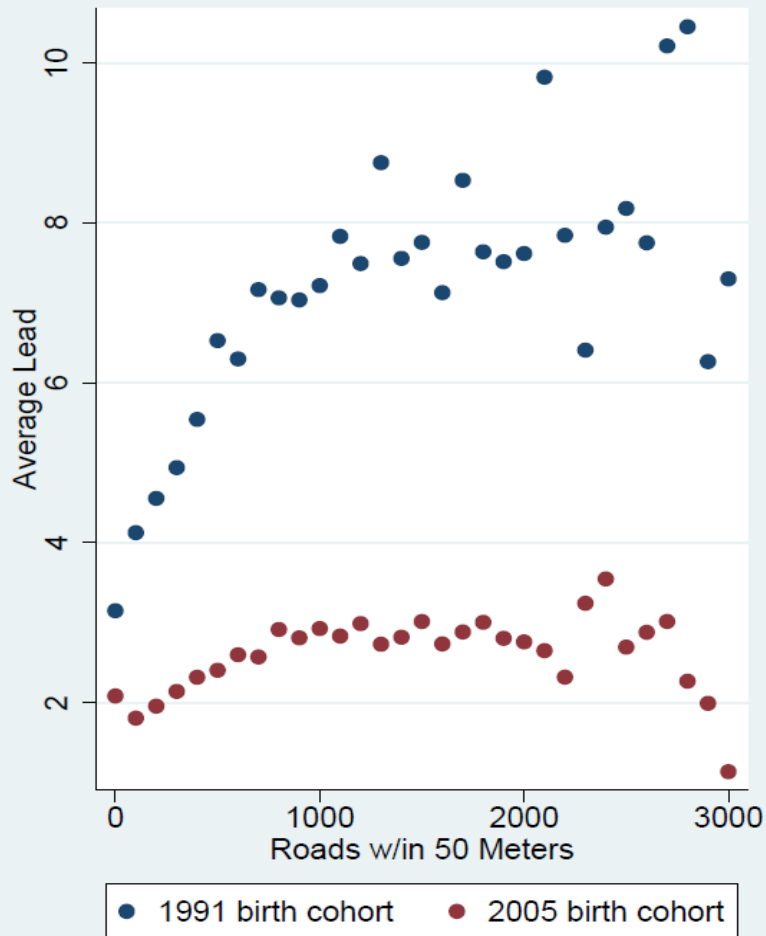
- ~10% reduction in LBW associated with a ~40% reduction in CO around toll plazas.
- Using an Institute of Medicine report on the social costs of LBW suggests that nationwide reductions in traffic congestion of a similar magnitude might be worth ~\$444,000,000 per year in terms of infant health benefits.



# Exposure to Residual Lead in Soil Near Roadways

- Study using data from Rhode Island
- Data on births, schooling behavioral infractions, and preschool blood levels for several cohorts of children.
- Exposure measured using meters of primary and secondary roadway within 50m of the residence.
- Lead in soil is higher near roadways but amount decays over time.

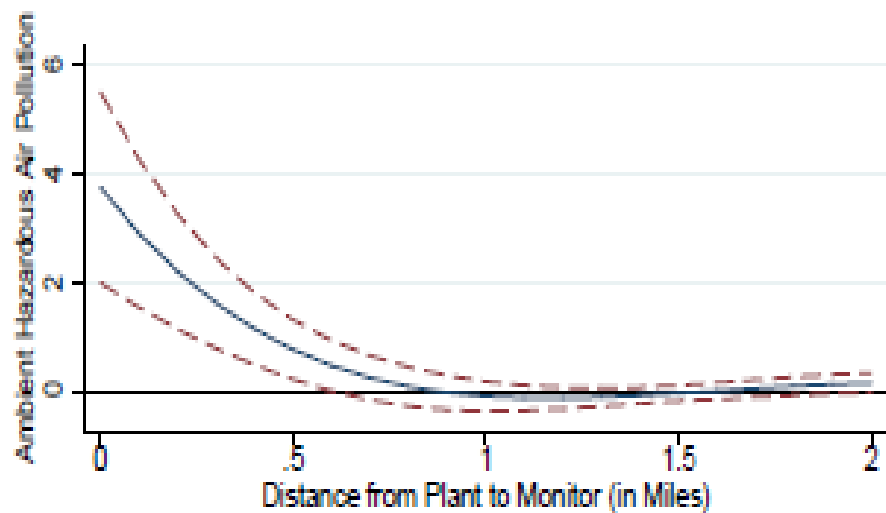
# Traffic Proximity, Lead and Infractions Over Time



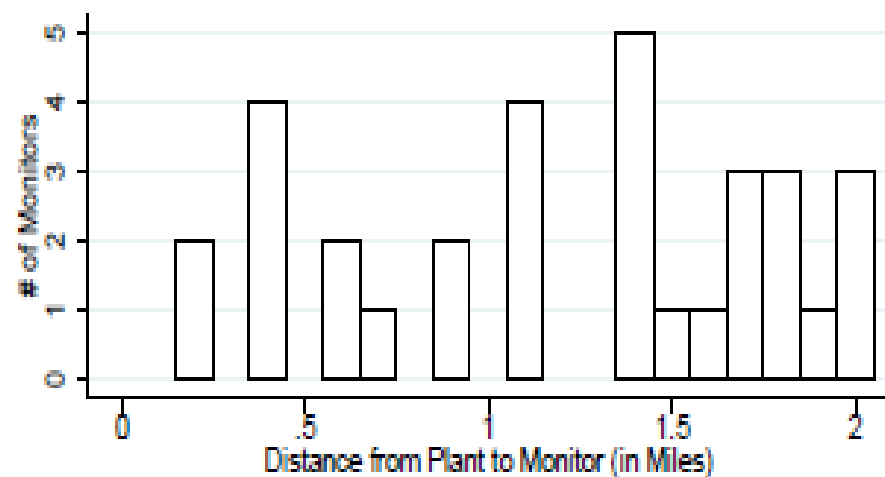
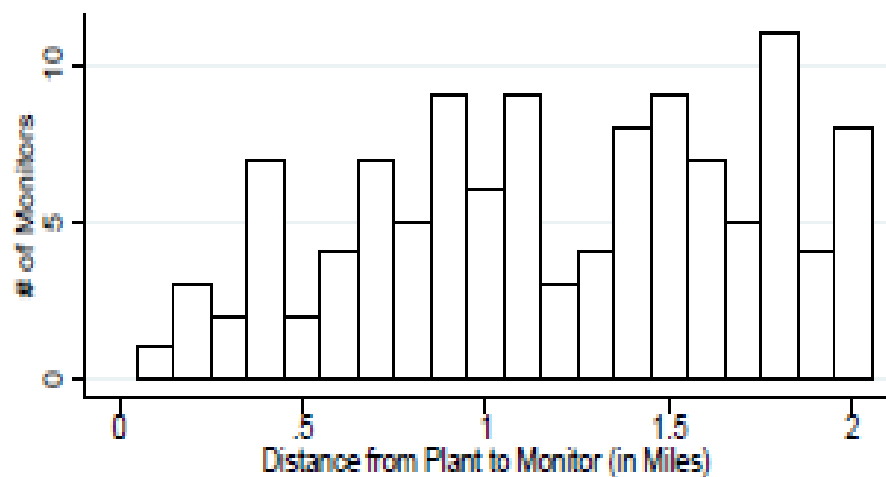
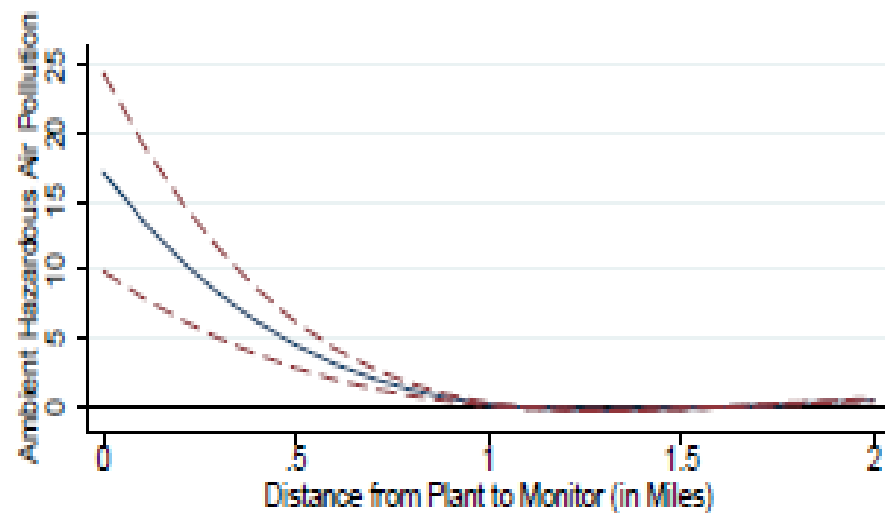
# Currie, Davis, Greenstone, and Walker (2015) show that many toxics can be detected up to 1 mile from a plant

- The U.S. EPA only began monitoring non-criterion hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) in 1998 and has added monitors over time. By 2003, there were 84 different HAPs being monitored in our study states.
- Match monitoring stations and plants, keeping monitor-plant pairs if plant ever reported emitting the pollutant.
- Graph detected levels of pollution by distance to plant.

## Benzene



## Cumene

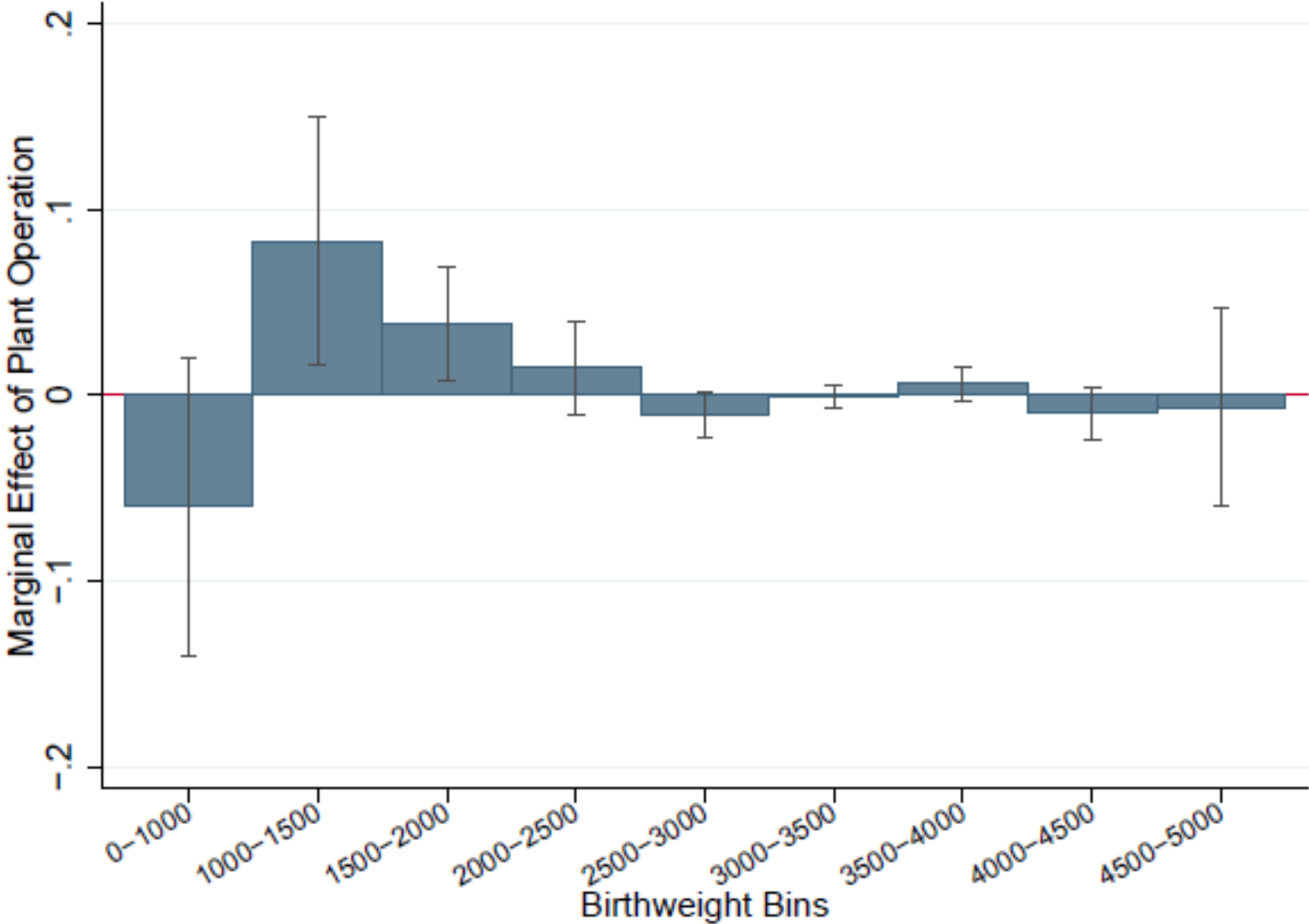


# Examine effects of the opening and closing of plants on birth outcomes

- Study is based on birth records from 5 large states (1989-2003) linked to information about openings and closings of 1600 plants that are known to have emitted toxic chemicals.
- Compare infants within 1 mile of operating plants to those 1-2 miles from an operating plant.
- A key assumption is that the economic effects of plant openings and closings are similar in the two distance bands.



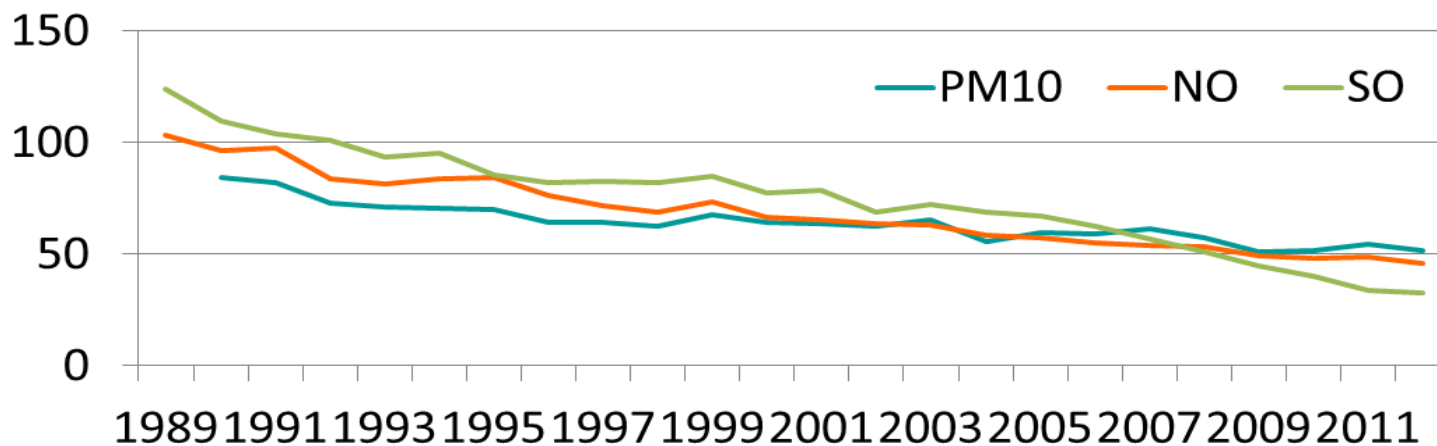
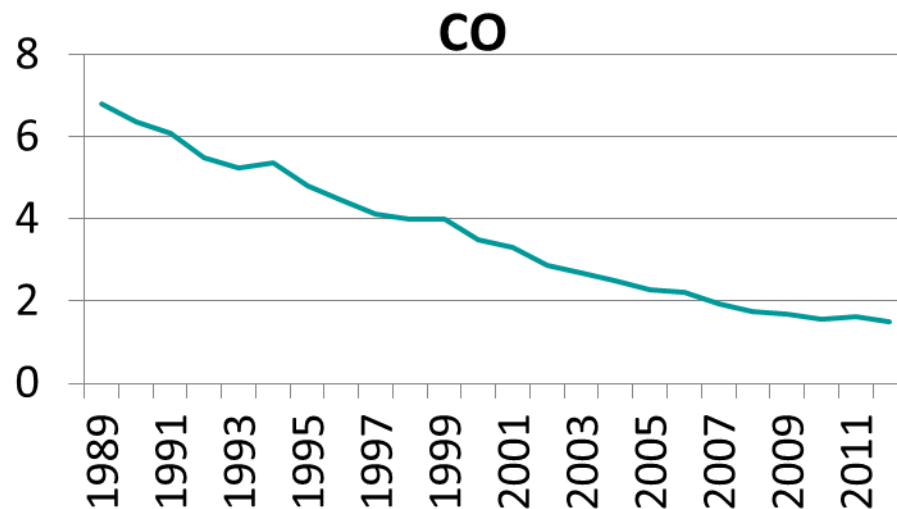
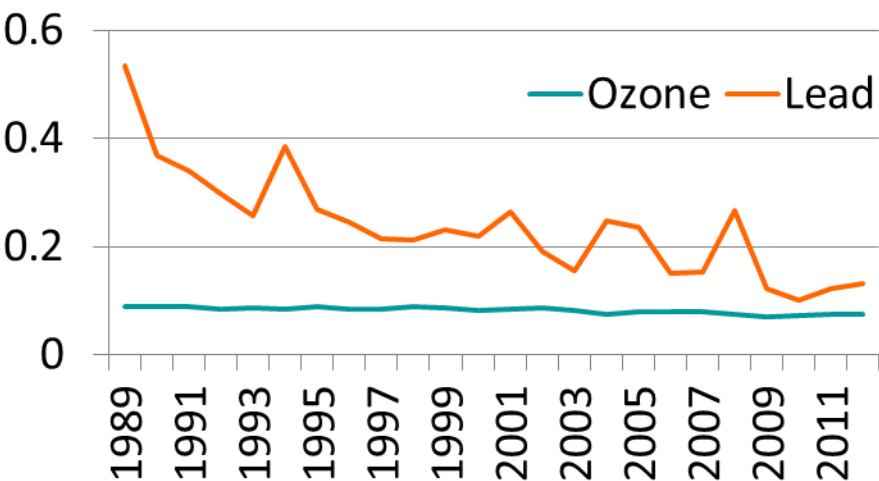
# Estimated Effects of Residence <1 Mile from an Operating Plant on the Incidence of Low Birth Weight



# Implications

- A plant opening increases low birth weight by .01-.02 on a baseline of .09 near plants.

# Criterion Air Pollutants have fallen, 1989-2012



# Inequalities are Narrowing as Shown by Trends in Percent Low Birth Weight by Maternal SES

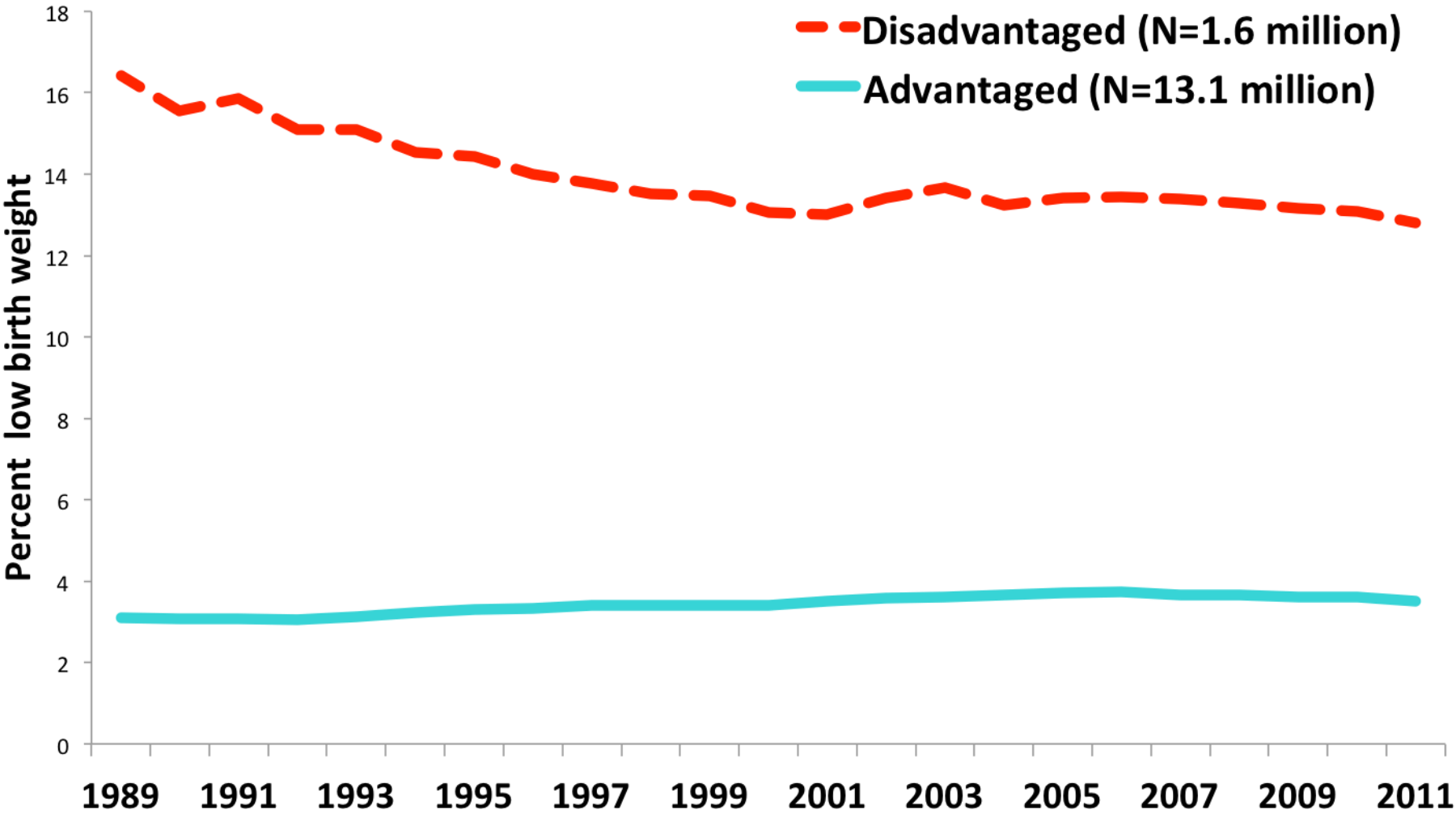
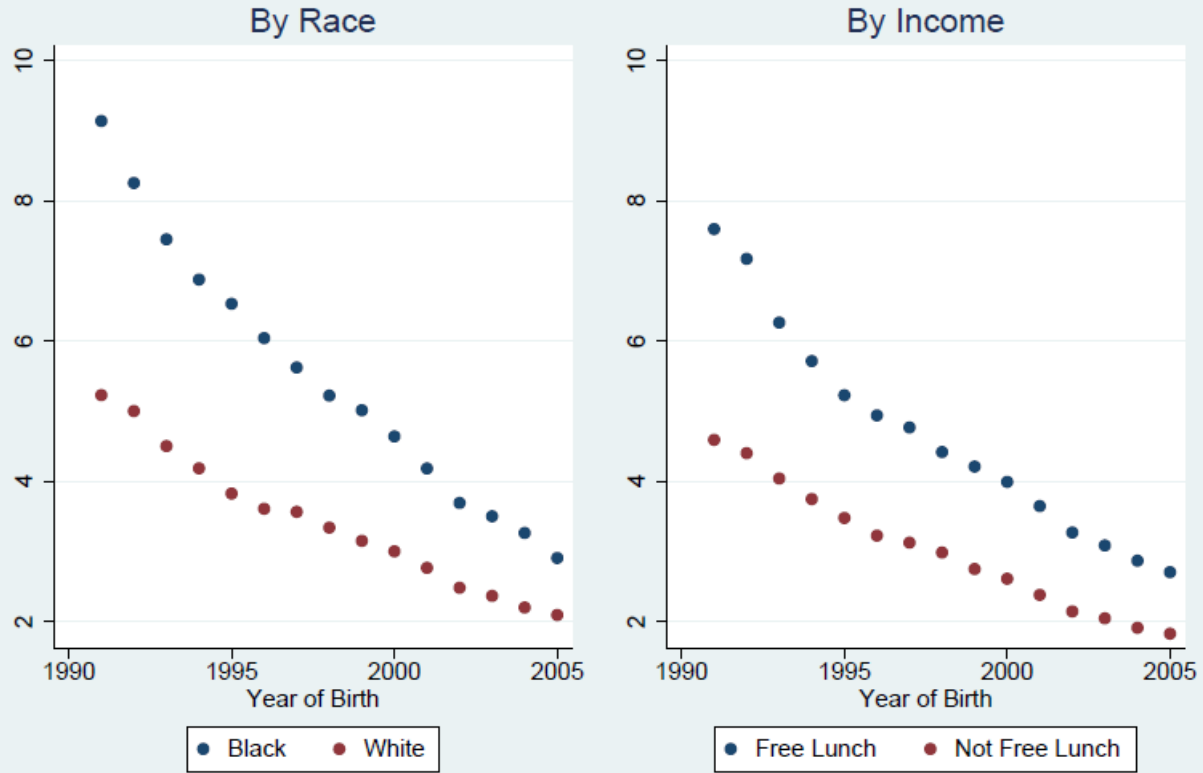


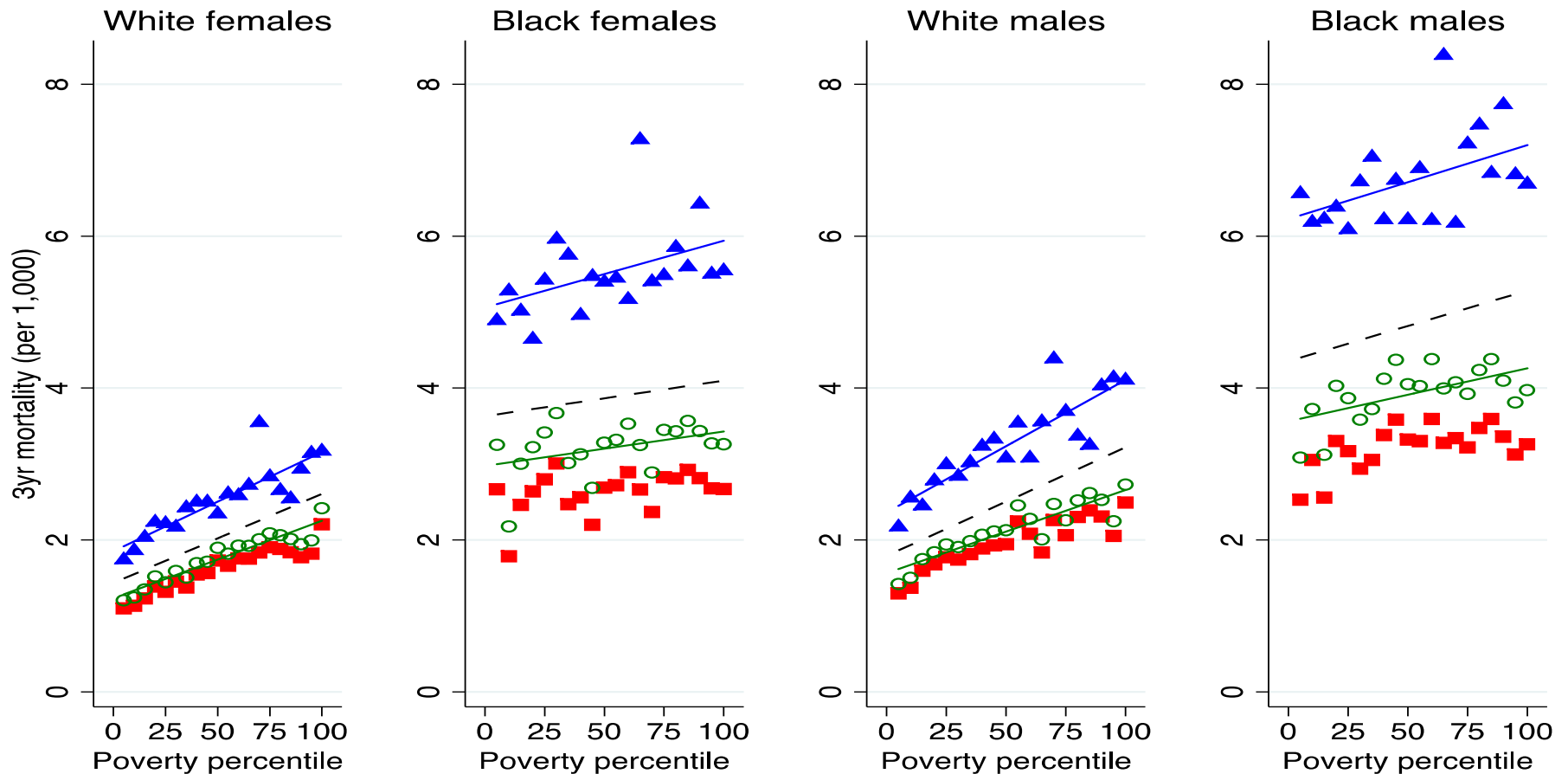
Figure 3B: Trends in Lead by Child Characteristic



# 3-Year Mortality Rates Across County Groups Ranked by Poverty Rates, by Race and Gender.

(Blue triangle=1990, Green Circle=2010, Red Square=2010 with multiple race)

(A) Age 0-4



# Summary

- Strong reductions in mortality between 1990 and 2010.
- Very large reductions for African Americans (even larger if we include those who report multiple race.)
- Reductions are larger in the poorest counties **implying decreasing inequality in mortality.**
- Some of these differences may be due to reductions in pollution over time, which are continuing and have the greatest impact on the most disadvantaged children.



# Conclusions

- Health at birth is strongly linked affected by exposure to pollution.
- The disadvantaged are more likely to be exposed to pollution from various sources and this explains some of the differential in outcomes.
- Yet pollution has been decreasing over time and inequalities in health outcomes are also falling suggesting that less advantaged children benefit most from anti-pollution policy.

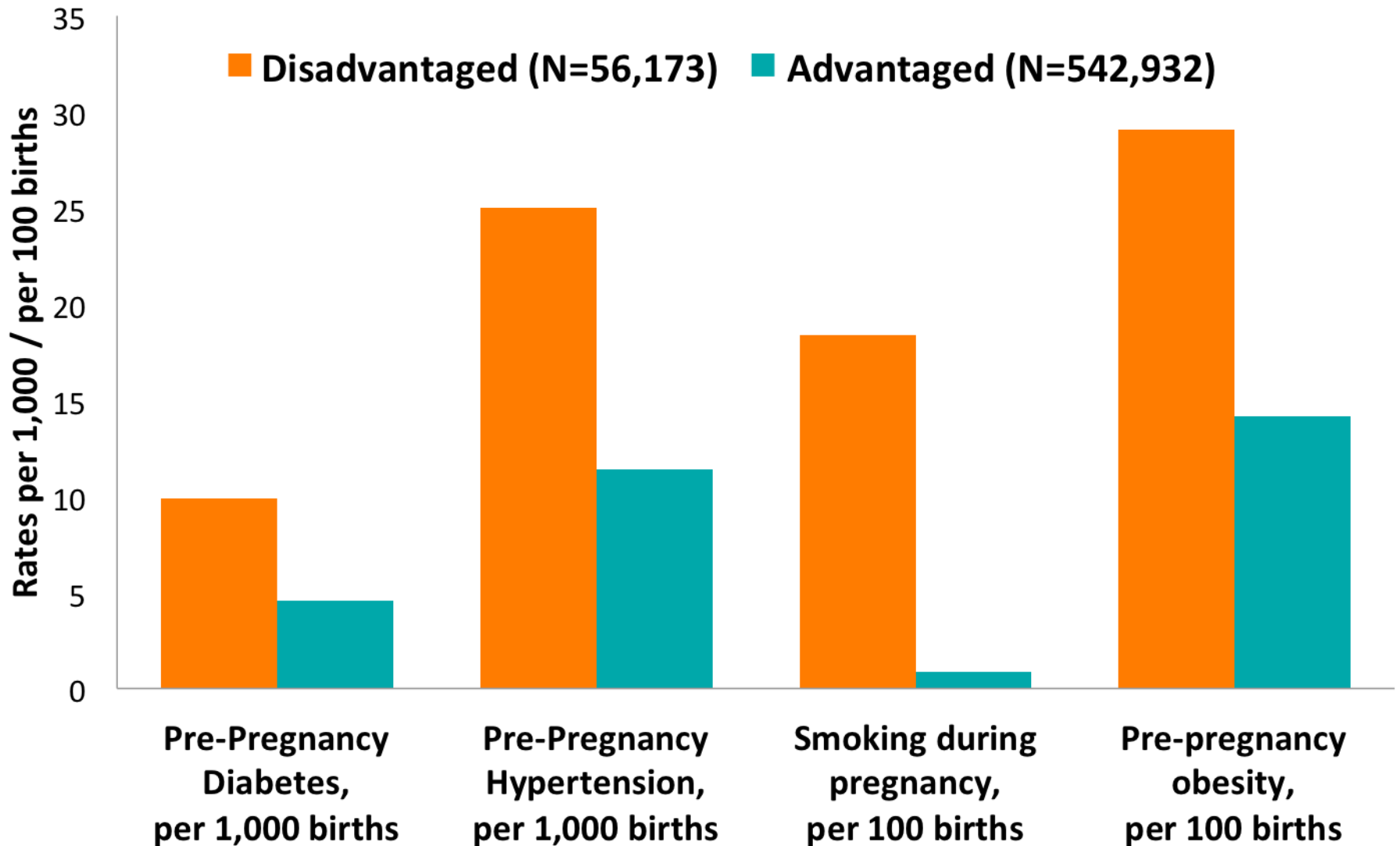
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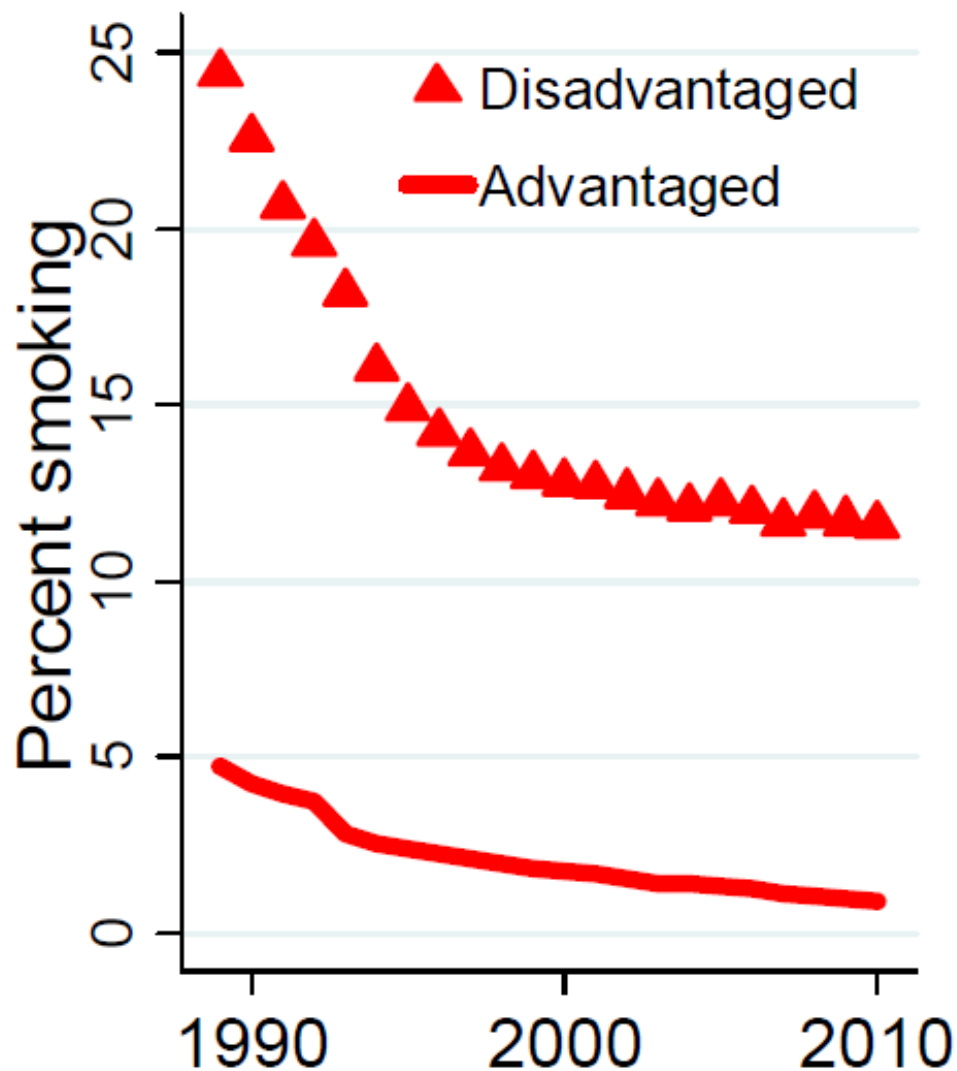
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CENTER FOR HEALTH  
AND WELLBEING  
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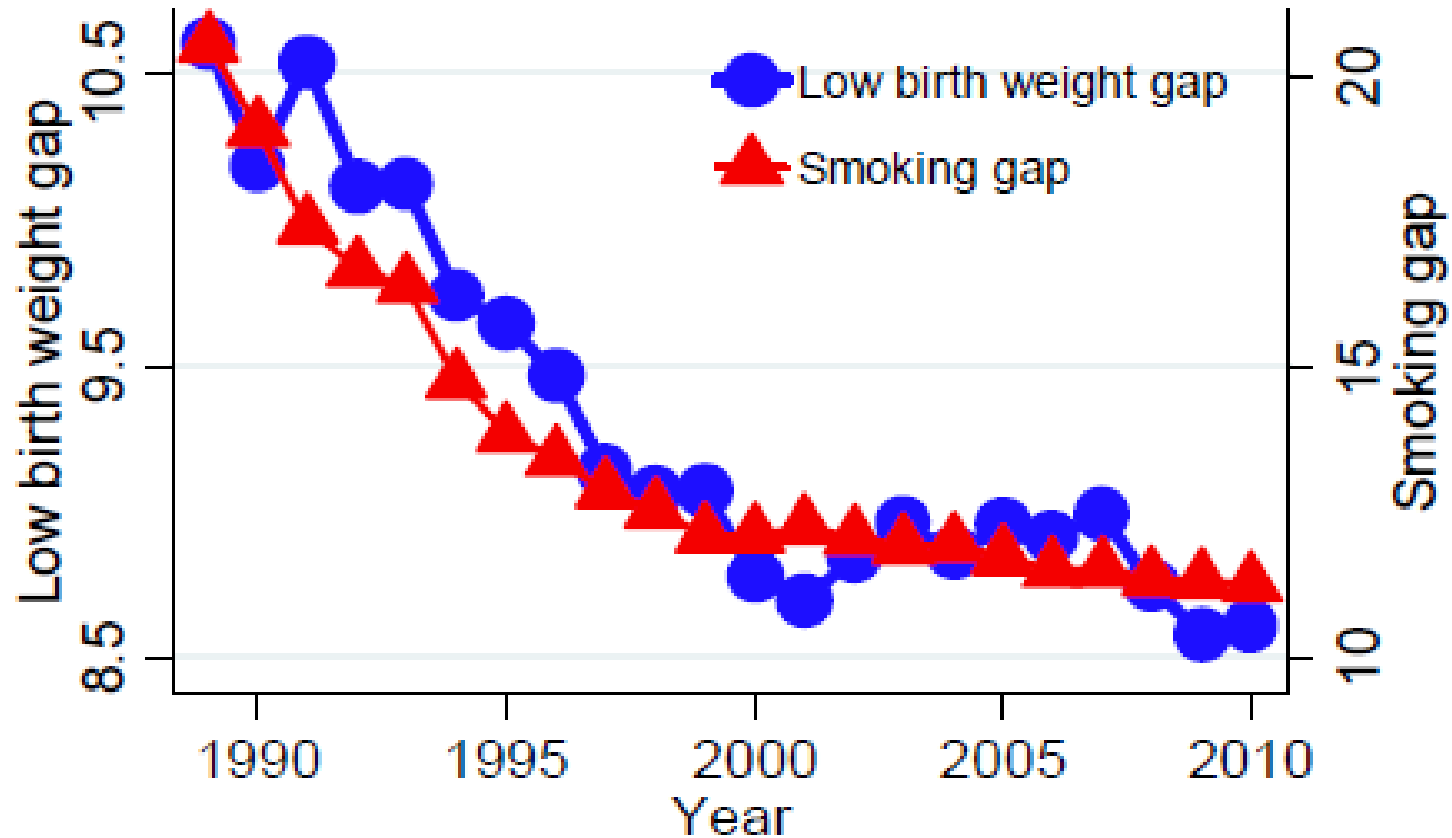
# Differences in Maternal Health and Behavior by Maternal SES, U.S. 2011



Disadvantaged women are more likely to smoke during pregnancy, but the gap is falling



# Reductions in smoking gaps track reductions in LBW gaps



Notes: Singleton births, moms age 19-39 only. Excl.: CA, FL, GE, IN, MI, NY, SD



***New Jersey  
Sustainability Summit***

***The College of New Jersey  
June 15, 2016***



# ***Improving Health By Fighting For Environmental Justice***

***Nicky Sheats, Esq., Ph.D.***

*Director, Center for the Urban Environment,  
John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of  
Thomas Edison State College and member of  
the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance*



## ***Cumulative Impacts:***



**How do we address multiple pollutants emitted by multiple sources of pollution in a community and their interaction with social vulnerabilities?**

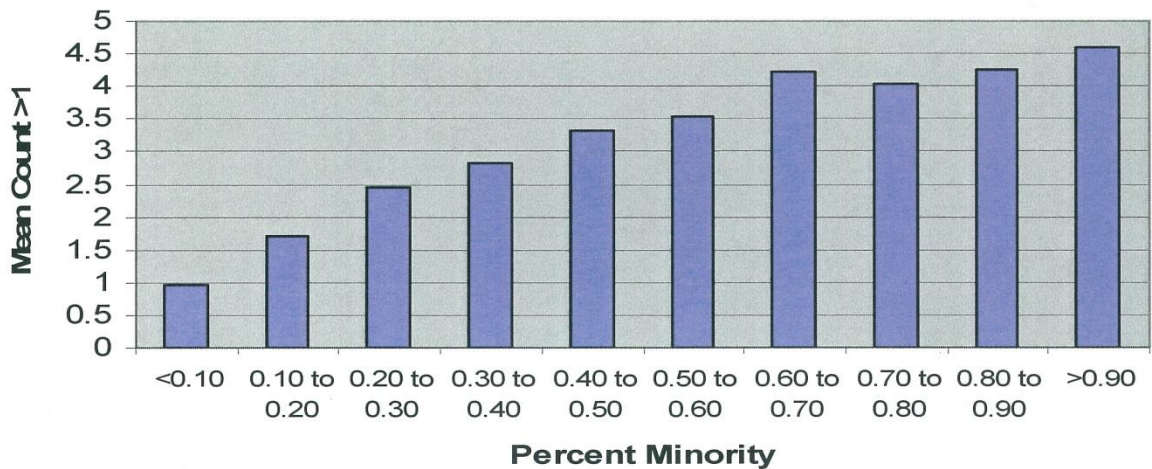


## ***Problem:***



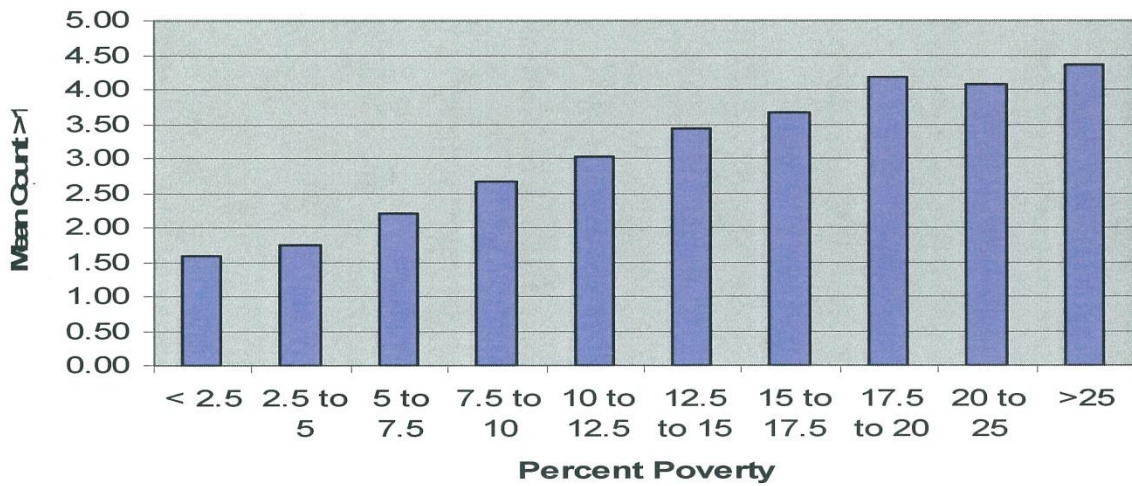
- **We attempt to regulate pollutant by pollutant through individual standards.**
- **But there can be detrimental health effects even if no individual standard is violated.**

**Figure 1: Relationship Between Cumulative Impact and Percent Minority**



- Grouped all block groups based on percent minority and poverty
- Calculated average cumulative impact score for combined groups
- Cumulative impact scores increase steadily with increasing percent minority and poverty

**Figure 2: Relationship Between Cumulative Impact and Poverty**





# A Preliminary Screening Method to Estimate Cumulative Environmental Impact

**Presentation by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
to the Environmental Justice Advisory Council**

**December 2, 2009**



# Indicators:



- **NATA diesel (1999)**
- **NATA cancer risk**
- **NJDEP benzene estimates**
- **Traffic (all)**
- **Traffic (trucks)**
- **Density of major regulated sites**
- **Density of known contaminated sites**
- **Density of dry cleaners**
- **Density of junkyards**

## ***NJDEP on Newark***



**“Newark is an area where the NJDEP has recognized there are disproportionate impacts from multiple sources of air pollution.”**

**(NJDEP Fact Sheet on Hess Power Plant application, 2012)**

## ***NJEJA Policies Addressing EJ***



- **Cumulative Impacts Statewide Policy**
- **EJ and Cumulative Impacts Municipal Ordinance**
- **Climate Change Mitigation Policy**
- **Sandy Climate Justice Roundtable**
- **Newark Resiliency Work**



## ***Methods Used To Help***



- **Public Policies**
- **Laws**
- **Legal Actions**
- **Direct assistance to communities (testimony, organizing, etc.)**
- **Education (EJ leadership program, Clean Power Plan trainings, monitoring projects)**

## *Who We're Trying To Influence*



- **Government at all levels**
- **Mainstream Environmental Movement**

**END**



**Nicky Sheats, Esq., Ph.D.**

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# 2016 NJ Sustainability Summit

Health, Equity and Environmental Justice

June 15, 2016



Joseph Donald

Environmental Justice Coordinator

NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Office of Environmental Justice



# CHALLENGE QUESTIONS



According to *Healthy NJ 2020*, New Jersey is making significant progress in some health arenas, but there is more improvement to be made in others.

- 1. What are some of the key takeaways from this report that should be driving community health agendas?**
- 2. How does equity and environmental justice factor into healthy communities and local planning actions?**
- 3. Learn from professionals in these fields about what they are doing to address key issues and the opportunities for integrating health, equity and environmental justice into a core community agenda.**



# CHALLENGE QUESTION

According to Healthy NJ 2020, New Jersey is making significant progress in some health arenas, but there is more improvement to be made in others.

- 1. What are some of the key takeaways from this report that should be driving community health agendas?**

# OBESITY: A Leading Health Indicator



- One of the five high-priority health issues
- A reflection of the state's major public health concerns
- **Adults** who are obese are at increased risk of morbidity from hypertension, high LDL cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, and osteoarthritis.
- New Jersey's adult obesity rates increased from 19.6% to 24.6% between 2001 and 2012.
- Obesity has tripled among **adolescents** in the past 30 years. Obese youth are more likely to have pre-diabetes and risk factors for cardiovascular disease and are at greater risk for bone and joint problems, sleep apnea, and social and psychological problems such as stigmatization and poor self-esteem.



# OBESITY:



According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, **New Jersey ranks number 3 nation-wide** in populations having the highest obesity rates. (2013)





# CHALLENGE QUESTION

According to Healthy NJ 2020, New Jersey is making significant progress in some health arenas, but there is more improvement to be made in others.

- 2. How does equity and environmental justice factor into healthy communities and local planning actions?**

# Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is concerned with **fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people** (regardless of race, ethnicity, income, national origin, or educational level) in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.



# Environmental Justice Issues

Focused interest on actions by governmental structures or private corporations that are affecting the quality of environment or the quality of life of those living in communities close by – potentially leading to:

- Placement of Hazardous & other noxious facilities
- Lead poisoning among children
- Asthma and other respiratory illnesses
- Unsafe, indecent, and exploitative workplace conditions
- Cancer, birth defects, and developmental illnesses
- Pesticide poisoning of farm workers
- Contaminated sites and properties
- Transportation thoroughfares
- Congested and decaying housing conditions
- Lack of access to quality health care
- Inadequate participation in the decision-making process
- Food Deserts/Food Swamps

**Distributional Justice – Procedural Justice – Process Justice**

# Income is Correlated to Health

Studies show that the greater one's income\*, the lower one's likelihood of disease and premature death. Income (or lack thereof) is a driving force behind the striking health disparities that many minorities experience.

Population health is influenced not only by the economic well-being of individuals and households but also by the civic and economic vitality of their communities. People unable to afford to live in healthier, more desirable areas often struggle with challenges related to a variety of community-level health-related factors.

\* National Center for Health Statistics. 2012. Health, United States, 2011: With Special Feature on Socioeconomic Status and Health. Hyattsville, MD: US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/hus11.pdf>.

# Food Deserts/Food Swamps Awareness

There is increased public awareness of the formidable problems posed by food deserts. This is largely to the efforts of community activists, entrepreneurs and government officials committed to increasing a community's access to healthy food options.

On the national level, First Lady Michelle Obama has spearheaded the "Let's Move" campaign to combat childhood obesity, which includes a goal of eradicating food deserts by 2017 with a \$400 million investment from the government focused on providing tax breaks to supermarkets that open in food deserts.

Many urban areas are also implementing initiatives locally to solve their food desert challenges.

**Food: Access – Quality – Affordability - Choice**

# Environmental Justice & Public Health

The World Health Organization (1948) defined Health as **a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being** and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

In a report produced by the National Research Council\* it was determined that the minority and low-income communities had disproportionately higher levels of exposure to environmental stressors compared with those for the general population.

The NRC concluded that a public health approach should be the central means of dealing with the environmental health problems in disadvantaged communities.

\* National Research Council. Toward environmental justice: Research, education, and health policy needs. Washington: National Academies Press; 1999.

# Poor and Minority Communities Bear Disproportionate Impacts (NJDEP, 2009)

## Relationship between Cumulative Impact and Social/Economic Indicators

Figure 1: Relationship Between Cumulative Impact and Percent Minority

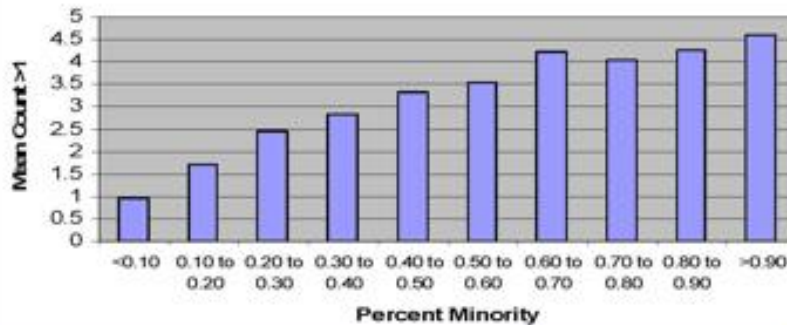
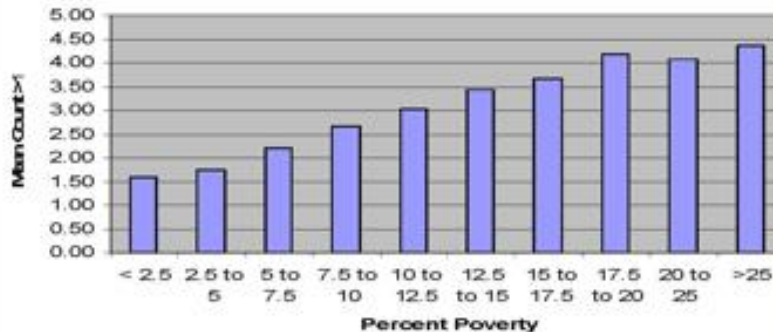


Figure 2: Relationship Between Cumulative Impact and Poverty



- Grouped all block groups based on percent minority and poverty
- Calculated average cumulative impact score for combined groups
- Cumulative impact scores increase steadily with increasing percent minority and poverty



# Environmental Justice & Public Health

Clearly, race and class play significant roles in environmental decision-making; moreover, communities of color and low-income communities are disproportionately affected by siting decisions and the permitting of facilities. Siting and permitting decisions are not, however, the sole sources of environmental concerns in these communities. Exposure to lead-based paint, diesel emissions, noise, odor, and other pollutants also diminishes the health of these communities.

Minority and low-income communities are most often exposed to multiple pollutants from multiple sources, **there has been insufficient data collection and scientific research identifying the health risks created by these multiple exposures**; however. Additionally, there is no presumption of adverse health risk from multiple exposures, and no policy on cumulative risk assessment that considers the roles of social, economic, and behavioral factors when assessing risk.

# EQUALITY vs. EQUITY



Equality = Sameness

GIVING EVERYONE THE SAME  
THING → It only works if  
everyone starts from the same  
place

Equity = Fairness

ACCESS TO THE SAME  
OPPORTUNITIES → We  
must first ensure equity before we  
can enjoy equality

# CHALLENGE QUESTION



According to Healthy NJ 2020, New Jersey is making significant progress in some health arenas, but there is more improvement to be made in others.

- 3. Learn from professionals in these fields about what they are doing to address key issues and the opportunities for integrating health, equity and environmental justice into a core community agenda.**



# Environmental Benefits



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION

When pollution injures or destroys our natural resources, the DEP is committed to restoring injured or lost natural resources through its Office of Natural Resource Restoration.



**Restoration**



**Resource Use**



**Contamination**





## Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs)

A SEP is an environmentally beneficial project that a respondent voluntarily agrees to perform as a condition of settling an enforcement action. A SEP is an activity that the violator would not otherwise have been required to perform, and in which the public or the environment is the primary beneficiary. Since January 2010, forty-two SEPs have been implemented in C&E.



**Waterfront South  
Rain Gardens  
Camden**



**Hawk Rise  
Sanctuary Linden**



**Solar Panels at  
Red Bank School**

# Portland Generating Station in Upper Mount Bethel Township, PA



A GenOn Energy coal power plant in Pennsylvania that was responsible for spewing pollution into Northwestern New Jersey shut down in January 2015 because of the costs associated with new federal regulations.

The Environmental Protection Agency ordered the plant to cut its sulfur dioxide emissions by 81 percent by 2015.

Also new regulations, known as the Mercury Air Toxic Standards, took effect in 2015 and required the plant to reduce its mercury emissions.

The 53-year-old plant was identified by the NJDEP as well as the USEPA for creating a majority of the sulfur dioxide pollution in northern New Jersey.

# Come Grow with Us

(community organization)



## Partners:

- Groundwork Elizabeth
- United Way of Union County
- NJ Assemblywoman Annette Quijano's Office
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County

## Food Security Issues (commenced 2009):

- Starting Community Gardens
  - provide community organizations with raised bed and vegetable transplants;
  - provide guidance on growing and harvesting vegetable;
  - teach plant and nutrition workshops
- Providing local food pantries with produce for distribution



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# Groundwork Elizabeth

## What is Groundwork Elizabeth?

- Founded in England in 1979
- Engages the public sector, the private sector and the community in addressing challenges in urban communities.
- Mission is to improve places and in doing so to improve the lives of people within the Elizabeth community and beyond
- Shaping NJ – Community Health Initiative

## MORE P.E.A.S. Initiative

(Permaculture, Education in Agricultural Systems.)

- Partnership between NJ DEP, Groundwork Elizabeth and Liberty Hall Farm at Kean University - April 15, 2016.
- Groundwork Elizabeth will oversee a multi year grant.
- \$250,000 Supplemental Environmental Project
- Leveraging \$420,000 project



# MORE P.E.A.S INITIATIVE

## Promotes the three core tenets of permaculture:

- care for the earth (stewardship);
- care for people (social and cultural revitalization);
- return of surplus (reinvestment and recycling).

## Collaboration with the private sector, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, local educators and the community at large for:

- better access to healthy foods;
- strategies to build sustainable agricultural systems;
- development of green-career opportunities; and
- quality of life improvements in socially and economically challenged areas of the City of Elizabeth, the Township of Union, and other areas throughout the County of Union.

**Consistent with the Union County Community Health Improvement Plan**







# MORE P.E.A.S INITIATIVE

## GOALS:

**By 2019 the Liberty Hall Farm will fully support:**

- Community plot gardens in the City of Elizabeth;
- Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Laboratories;
- A hydroponic greenhouse;
- Gardens in each of the 43 Schools in the City of Elizabeth;
- Gardens in Elizabeth Public Housing Developments;
- Local food pantries with seasonally grown produce;
- Farm to table restaurants & Kean University;
- The growth of locally grown organic produce; and
- An educational resource that provides service-based learning opportunities.





## Contact Me

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# Health, Equity & Environmental Justice



**Partnership for A Healthier JC**  
**Stacey Lea Flanagan, Director**

**[sflanagan@jcnj.org](mailto:sflanagan@jcnj.org)**



# Our Mission

- The Jersey City Department of Health & Human Services was established to:
- Reduce Chronic, Communicable, and Infectious Disease
- Increase services to the general public
- Strengthen Partnerships with health agencies
- Change the Culture of Health in Our City, and ultimately

***Build a Healthier JC!***

# Mission to Action

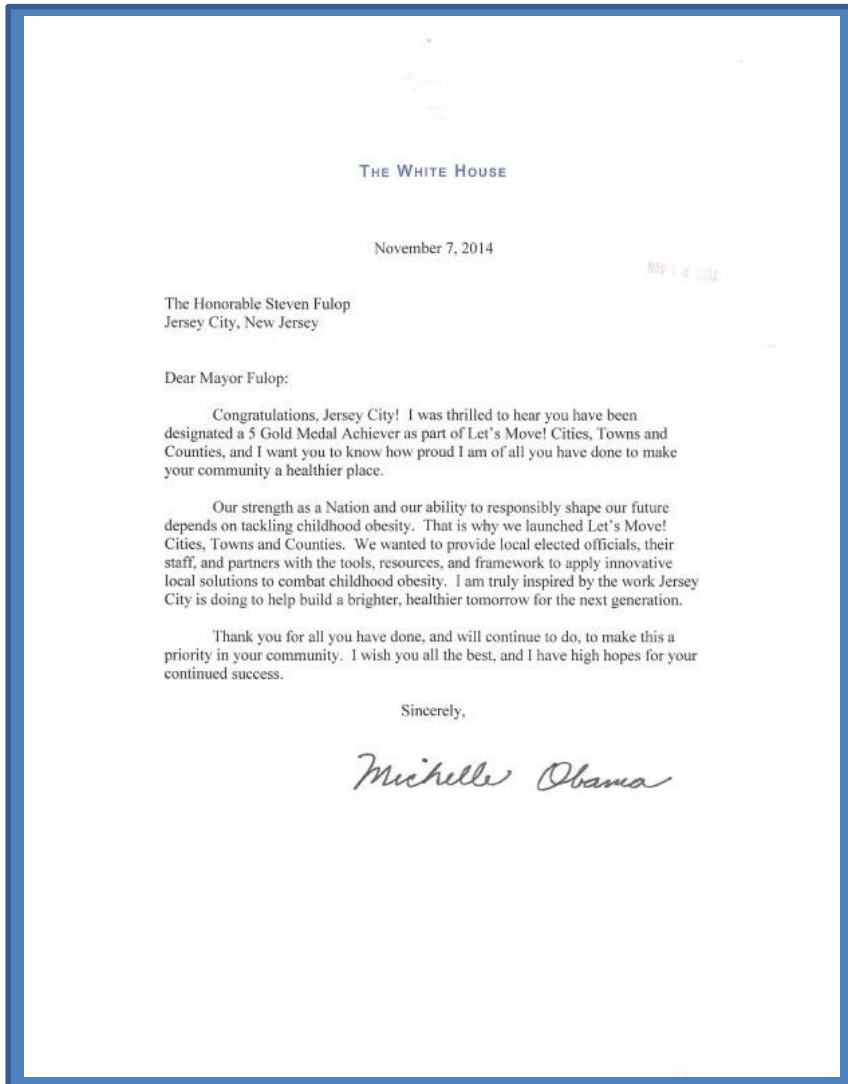
- In 2013 Jersey City joined the Mayor's Wellness Campaign and the Let's Move Cities and Towns Campaign to improve the health and wellness of our residents and businesses
- WE defined Wellness as “achieving a healthy balance of mind, body and spirit that results in an overall feeling of well-being.”
- While there are many factors that contribute to wellness, we knew equity was a pillar of the platform along with environmental justice.
- Concentrating our efforts on a city wide initiative can help lead to a healthier, happier, and more successful community by leading a campaign to
  - Identify and promote healthy cooking classes,
  - Educational seminars, and
  - Community activities,
    - Including our increased Recreation programs, fitness classes, and senior activities.

# Jersey City Scores Gold In Let's Move!



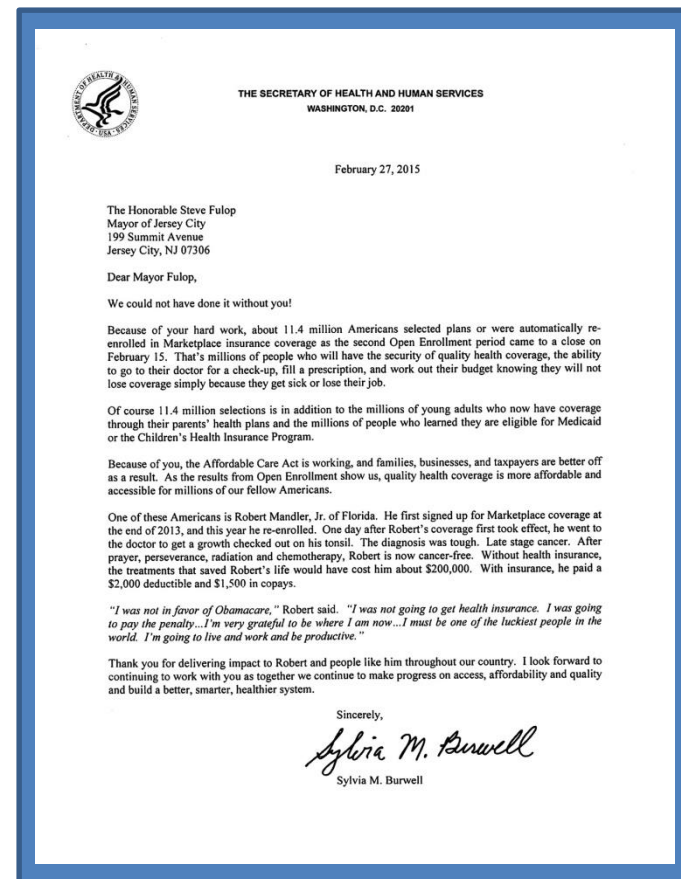
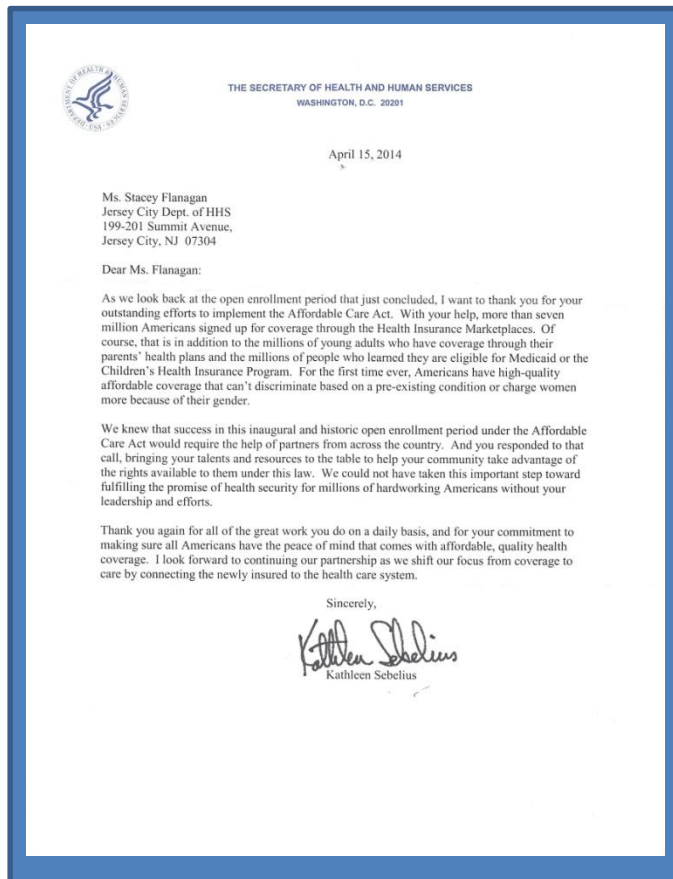
In 2014, the City of Jersey City Achieved Gold Status in First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Initiative

Jersey City was the first City in the NY Metropolitan area to score gold!



# Jersey City HHS Commendations

In 2014 and 2015, Mayor Steven Fulop and the JC Department of Health & Human Services received Letters of Commendation from the US Secretary of Health & Human Services for Jersey City's efforts to implement the Affordable Care Act, making Insurance Coverage enrollment accessible to all.



# #HealthierJC Efforts

## *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

We will be “Building a Culture of Health in New Jersey  
Communities Moving to Action”

JCHHS is part of a coalition that also includes:

Jersey City Medical Center Barnabas Health

Jersey City Housing Authority

New Jersey City University

Jersey City Parks Coalition

Coach by a former Councilwoman and Executive Director of a  
local Special Improvement District.

# #HealthierJC Efforts

Healthy Town 2015

The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute  
Awarded Jersey City with the Healthy Town  
2015 Award for the extraordinary efforts of  
health literacy and program expansion

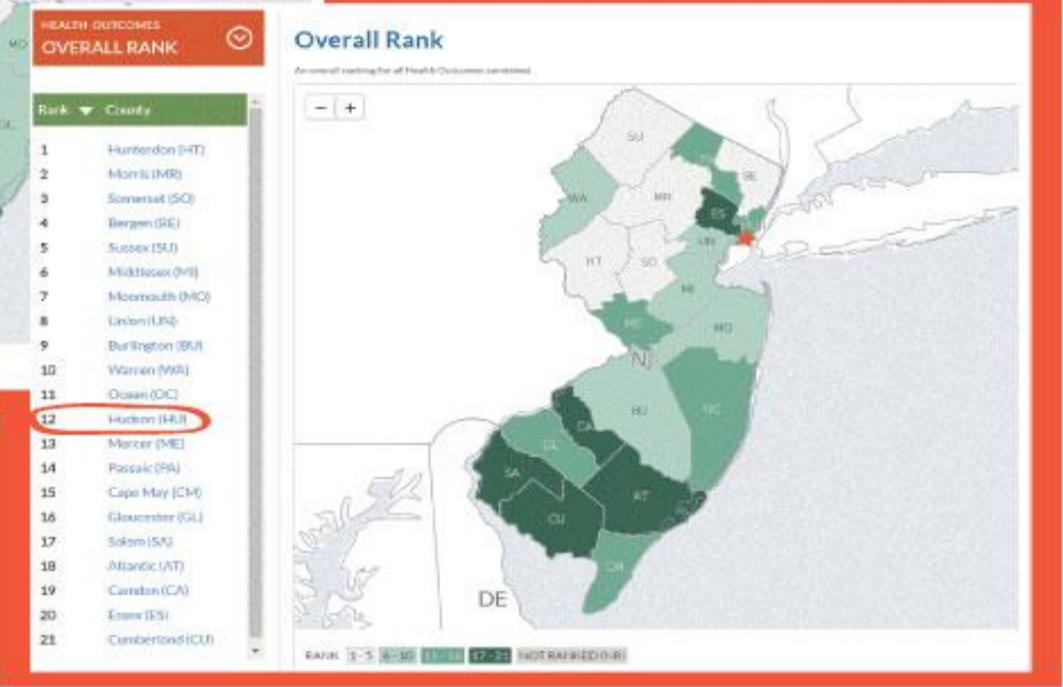
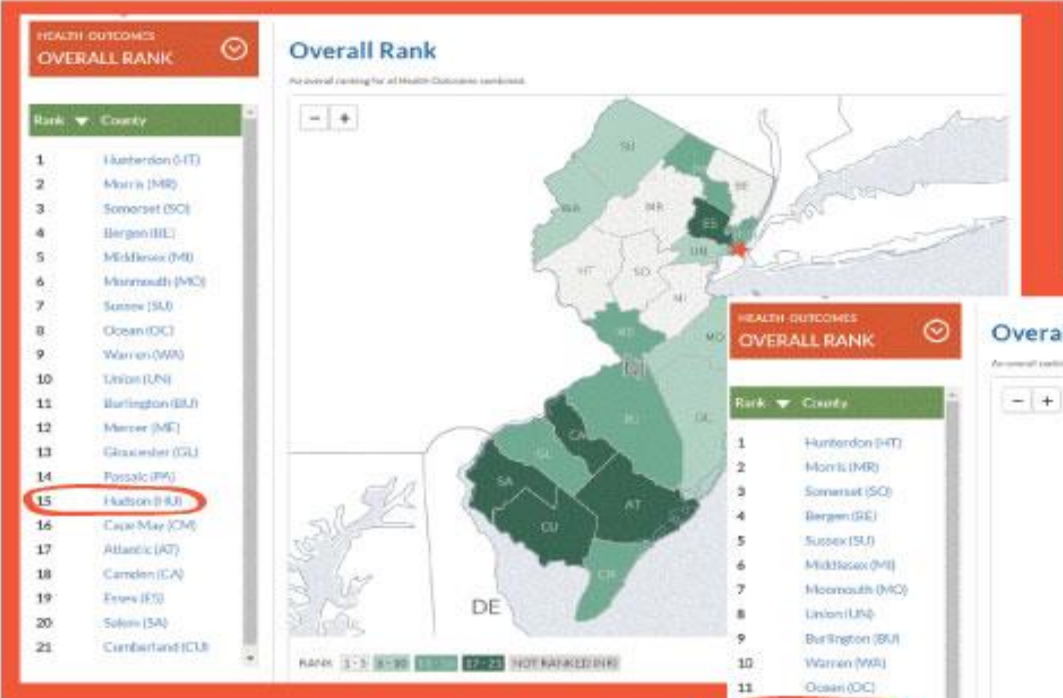


# County Health Rankings Uptick

2013

Hudson County has moved up 2 slots on the Overall County Health Rankings Report since 2013.

2016





# New Nutrition Initiatives

## Expanding Farmers Markets & Access to Nutrition

- In an effort to **Expand Access to Nutrition** and **Promote Buy Fresh Buy Local Efforts** city-wide, 2 Core Coalition Partners - the Jersey City Parks Coalition and the Jersey City Department of Health & Human Services - partnered with Hudson County Government & JC Non-Profits to expand the number of Farmers Markets in our parks.
- The amount of **Farmers Markets** has expanded from 5 (in 2013) to 10 (in 2015) . Today in Jersey City, there is at least one market occurring in each ward of our city, enduring equitable to healthy, locally sourced food .
- In addition, Farmers Markets now offer **Healthy Lifestyle Programs** including **Cooking Demonstrations, Yoga and Exercise Classes.**

**BUY FRESH BUY LOCAL JERSEY CITY**

Find & Enjoy **LOCAL FOODS**  
In A Neighborhood Near You

**Farmers Markets**

- Van Vorst Park** - April 25th through December 19th - Saturdays 8am - 3:30pm  
Jersey Avenue @ Montgomery Street
- Paulus Hook Farm Stand** - May 2nd through Dec. 19th - Saturdays 11am-4pm  
Washington Street South of Essex Street in Paulus Hook
- Riverview Park** - May 3rd through Nov. 22nd - Sundays 10am - 3pm  
Palisade Avenue between Bowers Street & Griffith Street
- Historic Downtown SID** - May 4th through Dec. 21st - Mondays & Thursdays 4pm - 8pm  
Grove Street PATH Plaza
- Hamilton Park** - May 6th through December 9th - Wednesdays 3pm - 7pm  
8th Street Between McWilliams Place & W. Hamilton
- RTNA / NJCU** - May 13th through October 25th - Wednesdays 1pm - 7pm  
Culver Avenue near New Jersey City University John J. Moore Athletics Center
- Journal Square** - June 17th through Dec. 23rd - Wednesdays & Fridays 7am - 8pm  
Journal Square Fountain near Journal Square PATH Plaza
- Lincoln Park** - June 21st through Nov. 1st - Sundays 9am - 2pm  
Inside Park Near Fountain - Enter at Westside Avenue & Belmont Avenue
- Friends of Arlington Park** - July 11th through Nov. 21st - Saturdays 9am - 2pm  
Arlington Park at Ocean & Arlington Avenues

**#HealthierJC**

PRESENTED BY **MAYOR STEVEN M. FULOP**, THE JERSEY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

For more information, call (201) 547-0800 or visit [jerseycitynj.gov](http://jerseycitynj.gov)

Jersey City Official Government Page | [JC\\_GOV](https://www.facebook.com/JC_GOV)



# Partnering with the Jersey City Department of Public Works for a Healthier JC



- **JC Shovels**
- In the fall of 2015 the Department of Public Works partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Senior Affairs to assist low-income, home owning senior citizens with snow shoveling services through 100% volunteer efforts.
- This past snow season a total of 167 seniors were shoveled out after a historic snow fall.
- JC Shovels ensures that vulnerable seniors have a path cleared to their door so that they can receive emergency services if necessary.
- This program also ensures that the sidewalk in front of the senior's home is clear so they are in compliance with city ordinances, and ensures safety and walkability for nearby residents.
- JC Shovels protects our seniors from snow shoveling injuries and preserves their overall health and well-being.



# Partnering with the Jersey City Department of Public Works for a Healthier JC

## Scoop the Poop!

- The Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Animal Control Partnered on the Jersey City Scoop the Poop campaign.
- Health and Human Service purchased a total of 25 Dog Waste Dispensers and the Department of Public works installed them in 11 parks across Jersey City. Parks were chosen based on the level of complaints received by animal control and will be maintained by the Division of Parks and Forestry. Installation locations below:
  - Peninsula Park (1)
  - Riverview Park (2)
  - Columbia Park (2)
  - Audubon Park (2)
  - Arlington Park (2)
  - Enos Jones Park (2)
  - Lafayette Park (2)
  - Janet Moore Park (1)
  - Sergeant Anthony Park (1)
  - Bayside Park (2)
  - Mary Benson Park (1)

# The Jersey City Department of Public Works is invested in a Healthier JC

- **Jersey City Cleanup!**

- The Great American Clean Up is a massive nationwide effort that takes place in 20,000 communities and engages over 4 million volunteers across the country.
- The Great Jersey City Clean Up launched its inaugural event on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 in honor of Earth Day.
- The initiative was spearheaded by the Department of Public Works and the Keep Jersey City Beautiful Board and saw the participation of over 600 volunteers across the city.
- A total of 14 tons of garbage and debris, and 2 tons of waste was removed from Jersey City's street in a single day, including over 300 tires from a abandoned community garden.



# New Nutrition Initiatives

## Expanding Farmers Markets & Access to Nutrition

- In 2013, **Jersey City Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)**, in partnership with **JCPC**, set a goal of **Removing Socioeconomic Barriers to Nutrition for SNAP Recipients**.
- In 2014, HHS applied for & received a **Wholesome Wave Grant** to incentivize Farmers Market Managers to launch a Double Bucks Program. In 2015, HHS launched the **JC Double Bucks Pilot Program** with 3 farmers markets – Arlington Park, Lincoln Park and Riverview for SNAP recipients.
- In 2016, the JC Double Bucks Program will expand to include a total of 5 Participating Markets
- **JC Double Bucks(JCDB)** is a fruit & vegetable **Incentive Program for SNAP Recipients at Jersey City Farmers' Markets**. By matching \$10.00 for every \$10.00 in SNAP dollars spent (\$10 max/day) the JC Double Bucks incentive program makes fruits & vegetables affordable to a population who could most benefit & creates additional income for participating farmers. HHS provided Wooden Tokens & Marketing Materials to Farmers Market Organizations to get the program off the ground.

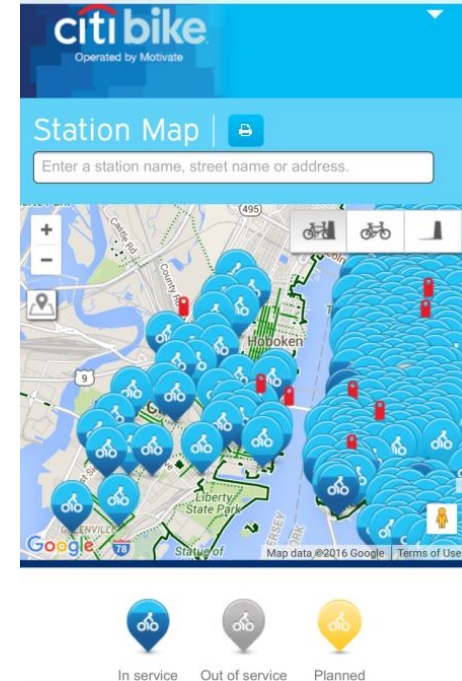
# Partnering with the Jersey City Department of Public Works for a Healthier JC

- The Department of Public Works and the **Jersey City Mural Program** transformed a vacant, litter filled lot into a thriving community garden with a three story Mandela Mural.
- This lot had been the source of a lot of community complaints regarding litter, illegal dumping and illegal activity.
- The Department of Public Works fenced the lot, mulched it, planted a trees and flowers and worked with the Department of Health & Human Services to turn this new space over the Union Street Block Association who have turned it into a thriving community space.



# New Opportunities for Movement

- In 2015, Mayor Fulop Launched the **Bike Share Program in Partnership with Citibike**, Operated by Motivate. Nearly every neighborhood in Jersey City has at least one Citibike station.
- Downtown JC has 13 stations and the JC Heights has seven. The Journal Square area has five, three within a block of the PATH hub. Four stations are located in JC's West Side and there are three each in JC's Greenville and Bergen-Lafayette sections.
- The City of JC pressed Motivate to do something different – to make sure stations were positioned City-Wide so that residents have equitable access to bikes from the start of the program.
- **Since August of 2015, a total of 149,826 miles have been traveled by Jersey City residents using the new Citi Bike - Bike Share Program.**



Citi Bike JC	2015-08	2015-09	2015-10	2015-11	2015-12	2016-01	2016-02	2016-03	2016-04	Total To Date
Days in the Month	31	30	31	30	31	31	29	31	30	274
Trips (registered) by Start District		5,292	16,967	13,878	11,118	7,177	7,920	12,620	14,106	89,078
Trips (casual) by Start District		1,375	2,297	1,235	720	302	330	890	1,586	8,735
Trips (total) by Start District		6,667	19,264	15,113	11,838	7,479	8,250	13,510	15,692	97,813
Stations (total)		35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	280
Docks (total)		686	686	686	686	686	686	686	686	5,488
Bikes (total)		350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	2,800
24-hour Subscriptions Purchased (riders)		558	853	466	313	123	150	411	782	3,656
7-day Subscriptions Purchased (riders)		47	88	48	17	13	11	30	32	286
Annual Subscriptions Purchased	297	846	247	116	61	34	54	117	190	1,962
Average Trip Duration (minutes)		15.27	11.71	10.45	9.99	8.64	9.17	10.07	11.32	86.62
Miles Traveled		14,928	31,792	22,211	17,052	9,220	10,801	19,249	24,573	149,826



# New Open Space Initiatives



- **The Jersey City Parks Coalition (JCPC)** is a core member of the Jersey City Community Health Alliance: Partnership for a Healthier JC. **JCPC** works to empower residents to develop, renovate, use and maintain their community parks and public spaces. Their role will focus on the urban built environment, specifically with respect to access to open space and recreational amenities, and help with examining strategies for encouraging active and healthy lifestyles for all residents. JCPC will increase their capacity to address park and public space needs in the community and further their connections to key community stakeholder and residents.
- The **Jersey City Parks Coalition** has grown to more than 20 community and parks groups that maintain, beautify and organize activities for their parks and surrounding neighborhoods.

## The Big Dig – Open Space Beautification Project Expanding on Our National Award Winning Program



- In 2011, the **Jersey City Parks Coalition** launched **Jersey City's First Big Dig** in partnership with the City of Jersey City, various parks groups, civic leaders and corporate sponsors.
- Daffodil bulbs were planted in 75 locations in the fall, resulting a massive Spring Bloom across Jersey City. Locations included 46 parks, 11 gateways, nine schools, four churches, historic cemeteries and two libraries. The Big Dig involved more than 600 volunteers, 17,000 bulbs, 5,000 pounds of mulch, 84 shovels and 60 rakes and brooms.

# New Open Space Initiatives



## Jersey City Big Dig Wins!

- On April 11, 2012, **Jersey City's 'Big Dig' beautification project receives accolades with a National Make a Difference Day Award, sponsored by USA Today.** Representatives from Jersey City and the Parks Coalition are invited to accept the award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.
- On October 26, 2013 – **The Big Dig Expands Operations** to include the greening of Jersey City by planting flowers in various **Public Housing Projects** and **Senior Citizen Buildings** city-wide. Hundreds of residents across Jersey City participate in the “Big Dig,” an event held to help revitalize various housing projects and senior buildings.
- In October of 2014 – **The Big Dig Engages With Homeowners**, providing them with the opportunity to plant on their own street front properties. Residents chose bags of 25 or 50 daffodils, while those conducting bigger plantings could obtain a bag of 250 daffodils for a \$100 donation. Residents were invited to pickup bulbs at JCPC Member Park Sponsored Farmers Market.



- **To date, JCPC & Partners have planted over 238,000 daffodils and tulips across Jersey City during the Annual Big Digs.**

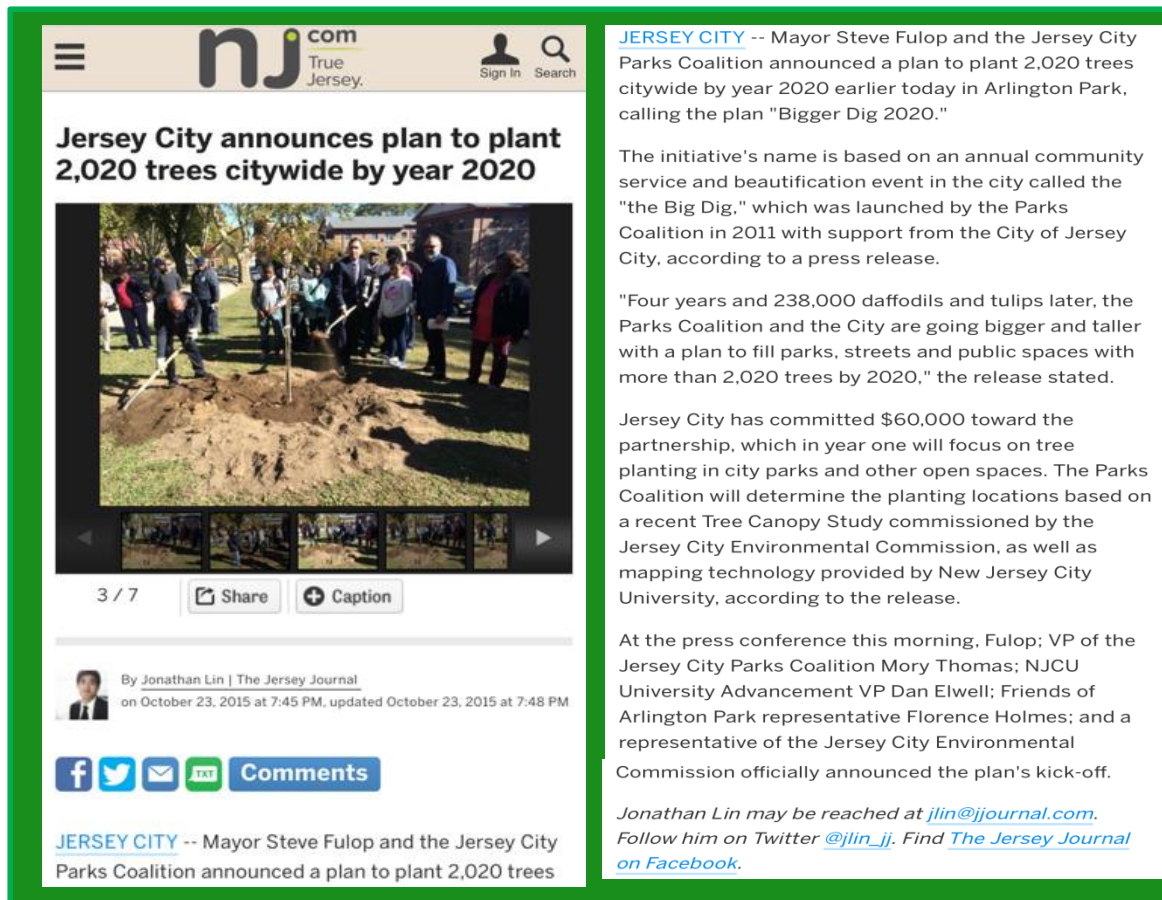
The Big Dig is JCPC's premier program to foster beautification and volunteerism throughout Jersey City, reaching all socioeconomic groups in the most diverse city in the US. Each spring, Jersey City is a-bloomin' thanks to this massive city-wide greening effort.





# New Open Space Initiatives

- October 23, 2015 – Mayor Fulop and the Jersey City Parks Coalition Announce BIGGER DIG 2020 – City of Trees Partnership to Plant 2,020 Trees Over The Next Five Years.



**Jersey City announces plan to plant 2,020 trees citywide by year 2020**

**JERSEY CITY** -- Mayor Steve Fulop and the Jersey City Parks Coalition announced a plan to plant 2,020 trees citywide by year 2020 earlier today in Arlington Park, calling the plan "Bigger Dig 2020."

The initiative's name is based on an annual community service and beautification event in the city called the "the Big Dig," which was launched by the Parks Coalition in 2011 with support from the City of Jersey City, according to a press release.

"Four years and 238,000 daffodils and tulips later, the Parks Coalition and the City are going bigger and taller with a plan to fill parks, streets and public spaces with more than 2,020 trees by 2020," the release stated.

Jersey City has committed \$60,000 toward the partnership, which in year one will focus on tree planting in city parks and other open spaces. The Parks Coalition will determine the planting locations based on a recent Tree Canopy Study commissioned by the Jersey City Environmental Commission, as well as mapping technology provided by New Jersey City University, according to the release.

At the press conference this morning, Fulop; VP of the Jersey City Parks Coalition Mory Thomas; NJCU University Advancement VP Dan Elwell; Friends of Arlington Park representative Florence Holmes; and a representative of the Jersey City Environmental Commission officially announced the plan's kick-off.

*Jonathan Lin may be reached at [jlin@jjournal.com](mailto:jlin@jjournal.com). Follow him on Twitter [@jlin\\_jj](https://twitter.com/jlin_jj). Find [The Jersey Journal on Facebook](#).*

- **The City of Trees Initiative** is a city-wide stewardship program open to anyone interested in Jersey City's trees.
- Through training, volunteers can become tree advocates and share the responsibility to plant and care for trees in their neighborhood and throughout the City.
- **Jersey City's Blueprint for Action is well underway in the area of Open Space improvements.** The Greening of JC is an ongoing and expansive partnership through the Annual **Big Dig**.

# Pedestrian Safety for a Healthier JC

- In March 2016, the Jersey City Police Department and the North Jersey TPA conducted the **Safe Streets Pedestrian Safety Campaign**.
- JC Engineering implemented **day-lighting of intersections**, the installation of plastic bollards in parking lanes near sidewalks to prevent vehicles from parking in crosswalks. Daylighting allows both drivers and pedestrians better sight lines and improves public safety.
- The Program was piloted at three intersections:
  - Bergen Ave & Storms Ave
  - Erie Street & First Street
  - Monticello Ave & Storms Ave
- 
- Location analysis is being conducted to increase daylighting and enhance driver/pedestrian safety even further later this year.

