

Hospitalizations for Newborns with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Fiscal Year (FY) 2019: July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

The continued study of the opioid crisis in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic is particularly important for monitoring changes, subsequent to the coronavirus outbreak, in the occurrence of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) cases. The stress and isolation commonly experienced during this pandemic could affect patterns of opioid use in pregnant women with an opioid use disorder. NAS is an array of withdrawal symptoms that develops soon after birth in newborns exposed to addictive drugs (e.g., opioids) while in the mother's womb. The newborns experience these symptoms of withdrawal because they are no longer exposed to the drug for which they have become physically dependent.

The data reflects newborn birth admissions occurring in Pennsylvania general acute care hospitals for Pennsylvania residents. The results below focus on newborn stays with NAS.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome – FY 2019 Number and Rate per 1,000 Newborn Stays, by County of Residence

	FY 2019	
	Number of NAS Stays	Rate per 1,000 Newborn Stays
Statewide	1,733	13.8
Adams	NR	8.6
Allegheny	216	17.2
Armstrong	16	28.8
Beaver	26	17.0
Bedford	NR	16.5
Berks	44	10.1
Blair	35	31.7
Bradford	NR	10.0
Bucks	63	13.9
Butler	23	13.2
Cambria	17	14.2
Cameron	NR	NR
Carbon	NR	13.8
Centre	NR	4.8
Chester	48	10.2
Clarion	NR	6.2
Clearfield	14	20.4

	FY 2019	
	Number of NAS Stays	Rate per 1,000 Newborn Stays
Clinton	NR	18.8
Columbia	NR	11.3
Crawford	25	30.3
Cumberland	25	10.3
Dauphin	22	7.0
Delaware	89	14.1
Elk	NR	34.4
Erie	29	10.5
Fayette	45	38.7
Forest	NR	NR
Franklin	27	20.3
Fulton	NR	NR
Greene	11	NR
Huntingdon	NR	8.0
Indiana	17	24.3
Jefferson	NR	11.8
Juniata	NR	NR
Lackawanna	37	18.2

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	Number of NAS Stays	Rate per 1,000 Newborn Stays		Number of NAS Stays	Rate per 1,000 Newborn Stays
Lancaster	46	8.5	Pike	NR	17.7
Lawrence	32	38.6	Potter	NR	NR
Lebanon	11	7.9	Schuylkill	12	10.4
Lehigh	19	4.9	Snyder	NR	11.9
Luzerne	57	17.5	Somerset	NR	11.4
Lycoming	19	16.1	Sullivan	NR	NR
McKean	NR	14.1	Susquehanna	NR	22.1
Mercer	30	30.8	Tioga	NR	NR
Mifflin	NR	4.9	Union	NR	6.1
Monroe	32	22.7	Venango	NR	19.9
Montgomery	59	7.2	Warren	NR	6.3
Montour	NR	NR	Washington	33	16.8
Northampton	14	4.8	Wayne	NR	14.3
Northumberland	NR	10.9	Westmoreland	63	21.9
Perry	17	36.6	Wyoming	NR	NR
Philadelphia	261	12.9	York	66	15.2

Rates were calculated using PHC4 data.

NR: Not reported due to low volume.

About PHC4

Created by the PA General Assembly in 1986, the PA Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) is an independent state agency charged with collecting, analyzing and reporting information that can be used to improve the quality and restrain the cost of health care in the state. Today, PHC4 is a recognized national leader in public health care reporting. PHC4 is governed by a board of directors representing business, labor, consumers, health care providers, insurers and state government.

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