



### **New Haven Healthy Start**

- Since 2002, NHHS has served over 7,956 pregnant women and 6,339 infants by providing them with care coordination services.
- Approximately 80% of program participants are residents of New Haven while the remaining 20% are from various other surrounding towns including West Haven, East Haven & Hamden.
- Healthy Start program participants have better birth outcomes than the broader community as measured by infant mortality rates and the incidence of low birth weight babies. The overall infant mortality rate among program participants is 4.2 deaths per 1,000 live births while the 2004 rate for the city of New Haven was 15.6 deaths per 1,000 live births. The percentage of low birth weight infants born to program participants during 2007 was 6.7% compared to 11.2% of births to New Haven residents in 2004.<sup>1</sup>
- African American women living in New Haven are 2.5 times more likely to experience an infant death and are also more likely to have preterm and low birth weight babies.

### **The cost of Preterm Birth and Low Birth Weight**

- It is estimated that the average cost of caring for a preterm baby in the NICU is a catastrophic \$79,000. In comparison, the average hospital charge for providing care to a healthy newborn is \$1,500.<sup>2</sup>
- Low birth weight children are 50% more likely than normal birth weight children to need special education programs. It is estimated that the special education cost per pupil is \$3,555.<sup>3</sup>
- Low birth weight children are also more likely to repeat a grade in school. It has been estimated that the average cost of repeating a grade in school per pupil is more than \$4,000.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Data on city-wide mortality and birth weight comes from New Haven Health Department and 2004 is the most recent data available.

<sup>2</sup> March of Dimes Peristats: [www.marchofdimes.com/peristats](http://www.marchofdimes.com/peristats)

<sup>3</sup> E. Lewit, L Baker, H Corman, P. Shiono, The Direct Cost of Low Birth Weight. *The Future of Children* Brookings Institute (1995)