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Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome in Montana, at a Glance

- The Montana incidence of NAS was 8.9 per 1,000 live births in hospital in 2014.
- Tennessee made NAS a reportable condition in 2013. Rates ascertained by active surveillance are very similar to those ascertained from hospital discharge data.

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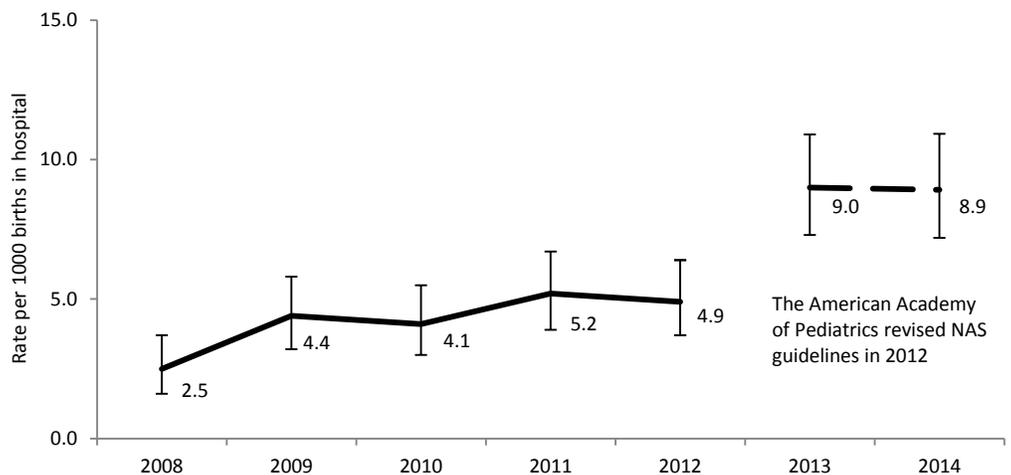
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Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS; ICD-9-CM 779.5) is a specific constellation of clinical signs associated with physical dependence on drugs and subsequent withdrawal in newborns.¹ The Montana Hospital Discharge Data System has data on the incidence of NAS from 2008 through 2014.² The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) revised diagnostic guidelines in 2012, so rates from 2013 and 2014 are not comparable to those from previous years.³

Incidence Rate of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
Live Births to Montana Resident Women in Hospital, 2008-2014



There is some concern that passive surveillance via hospital discharge data does not yield complete ascertainment of NAS cases. Since 2013, Tennessee has required hospitals to report NAS to the Tennessee Department of Health at time of diagnosis.⁴ After making NAS reportable, epidemiologists in Tennessee found close agreement between NAS reported from the active surveillance system and NAS from their hospital discharge data system.⁵

¹ Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: How States Can Help Advance the Knowledge Base for Primary Prevention and Best Practices of Care Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, 2014 available at <http://www.astho.org/Prevention/NAS-Neonatal-Abstinence-Report/>

² The Montana Hospital Discharge Data System (MHDDS) receives annual de-identified hospital discharge data sets through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Montana Hospital Association. Most hospitals in Montana participate in voluntary reporting from their Uniform Billing forms, version 2004. The MHDDS receives information on more than 90% of inpatient admissions in the state. It does not receive data on outpatient procedures at this time. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: How States Can Help Advance the Knowledge Base for Primary Prevention and Best Practices of Care Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, 2014 available at <http://www.astho.org/Prevention/NAS-Neonatal-Abstinence-Report/>

³ Hudak M et al. 2012. Neonatal Drug Withdrawal. *Pediatrics* 101:e540-e560.

⁴ <http://tn.gov/health/topic/nas>

⁵ Warren M. 2015. Implementation of a statewide surveillance system for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome – Tennessee 2013. *MMWR* 64:125-128