Vital Statistics Data Summary
African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative (AAIMM)

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Sharing and Use of Data Slides:

- Source: Data slides prepared by Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Division, AAIMM Initiative.
- When presenting data from this slide deck please include all pertinent footnotes from each slide used and be familiar with the content of slide 4; “Important notes about the data: what to know”. Refer to the associated talking points for each data slide.
- Specific data questions related to these slides can be addressed to:

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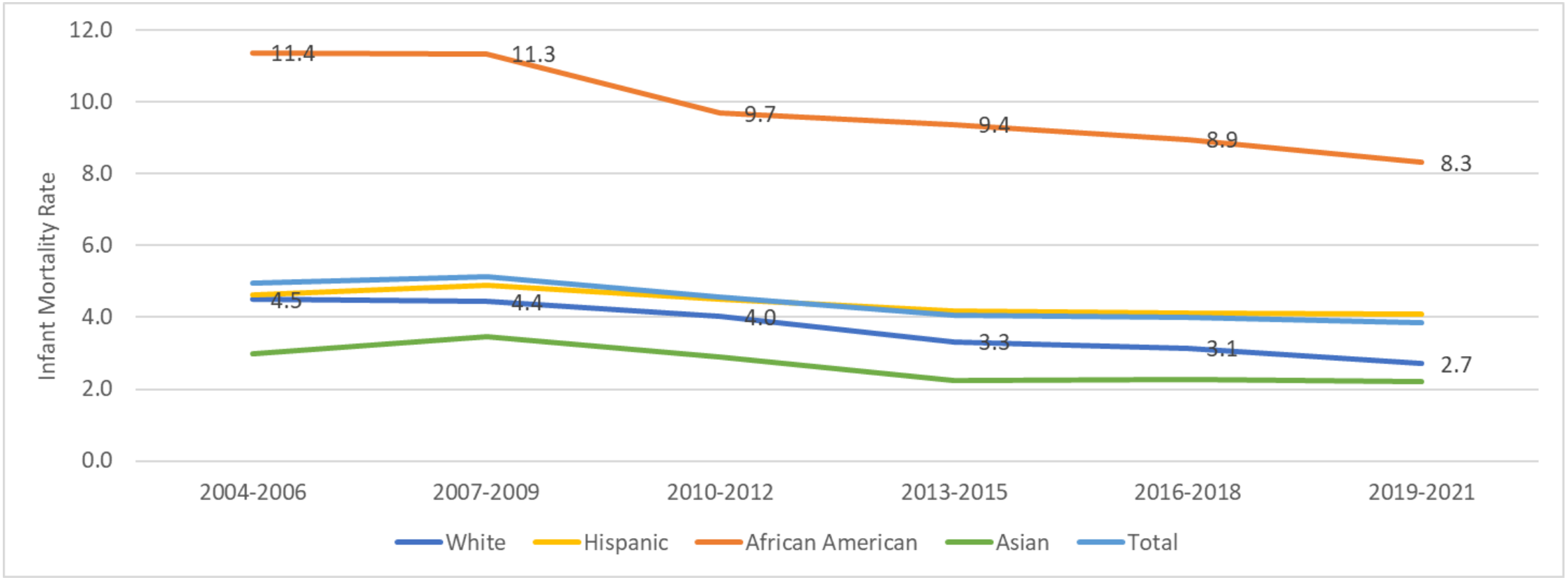
Explaining a data slide: what to look for

- What question is the slide is answering
- What is on the y axis – that's what is being measured
- What is on the x axis - that's what it is being measured against
- What is the scale being used
  - Changing the scale can make differences look more, or less, significant
- How are the points on the y axis defined
  - What is the denominator, what is the numerator
- How are the points on the x axis defined
  - What are the units, may be continuous or discrete
- What distinguishes the groups that are being compared (e.g., race, age, race and age)
- What does it tell you

Important notes about the data: what to know

- Vital statistics birth and death data are continually being updated. Data estimates will vary slightly depending on when the data was downloaded, and the methodologies used.
- Race/ethnicity estimates in these slides are based on a single race category methodology (if two race categories were reported the first category is used in lieu of creating a “multi-race” category).
- Counts are the actual number of events that occur in a defined period. Rates are the number of events that occur in a defined period, divided by the average population at risk of that event. Rates are often presented here instead of counts because they allow comparison across populations. Percentages are one kind of rate: a percentage is the number of events that occur for every hundred persons at risk of that event. Rates may also be presented per thousand or even for 100,000 depending on how rare the event is.
- Confidence limits are the likely range of the true value. With a 95% CL we are 95% certain that the true value of an estimate falls within that range. They are presented with rates to allow the reader to assess the stability of the estimate. The current slides do not show 95%CL, please reach out if you would like to see the confidence limits around specific measures.
- Various time periods are used throughout these slides. Outcomes that are rare and/or presented by multiple categories require more than one year’s data to be averaged in order to provide stable estimate.

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2004-2021

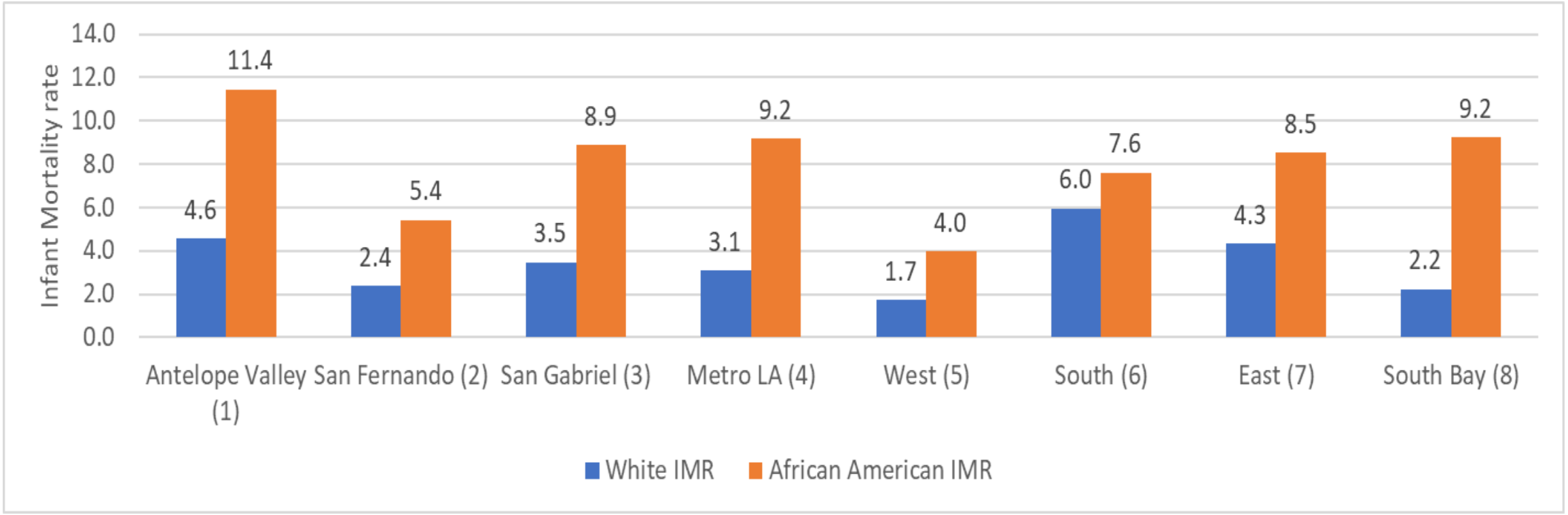


Notes: Infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths to infants within the first year of life per 1,000 live births. Data not shown for Native Americans, Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races. Three-year averages used to account for random and annual rate fluctuations.
Data Source: 2004-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth and Death Statistical Master Files. 2018 -2021 data downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2004-2021

- Infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths to infants within the first year of life per 1,000 live births.
- In this graph infant mortality rate is presented on the y-axis, the time frame is presented on the x-axis, and the lines in the graph represent the groups being compared.
- Three-year average rates are used to produce a more stable estimate due to the relatively small number of infant deaths by race/ethnicity each year.
- The 2004-2006 Black infant mortality rate was 2.5 times the White infant mortality rate. While infant mortality has decreased over the years the gap between Black and White IMR has not decreased. Looking at the far-right hand side of the slide the 2019-2021 Black infant mortality rate (8.3) was 3.1 times the White infant mortality rate (2.7).

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 births) by Mothers' Race and Service Planning Area (SPA), 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2019-2021

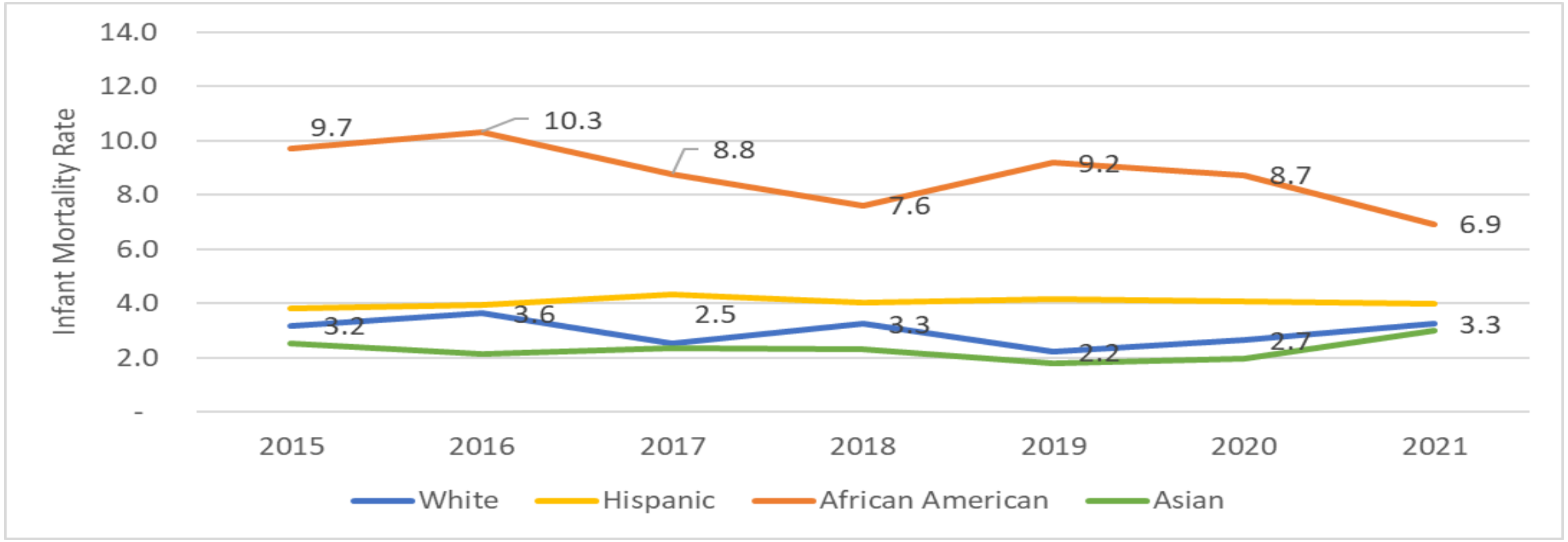


Notes: Infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths to infants within the first year of life per 1,000 live births. Data not shown for Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown race. Three-year averages used to account for random annual rate fluctuations. Birth data for 485 White and 157 Black births, and data for 2 White deaths where SPA designation was missing are excluded. SPA designations based on 2010 census data.
Data Source: 2019 -2021 data downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 births) by Mothers' Race and Service Planning Area (SPA), 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2019-2021

- In this graph infant mortality rate is presented on the y-axis, the geographic location (SPA) is presented on the x-axis, and the bars in the graph represent the groups being compared (White vs Black).
- The focus is on one time period, 2019-2021, and the three-year average infant mortality rates are shown.
- Infant mortality rates stratified by race and SPA result in smaller groups and wider 95%CL. Caution should be used in interpreting rates as significantly different from one another.
- While the overall gap between Black and White IMR was 3.1 in 2019-2022, the gap varies depending on the SPA that one resides in. For example, on the far left we see that in SPA 1 the Black IMR is approximately 2.5 times the White IMR, whereas on the far right the Black IMR in SPA 8 is approximately 4.2 times the White IMR.

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2015-2021



Notes: Infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths to infants within the first year of life per 1,000 live births. Data not shown for Native Americans, Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races. Data Source: Source: 2015-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth and Death Statistical Master Files. 2018-2021 birth and death records downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2015-2021

- Infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths to infants within the first year of life per 1,000 live births.
- In this graph infant mortality rate is presented on the y-axis, the year is presented on the x-axis, and the lines in the graph represent the groups being compared.
- While the 3-year average IMRs provide a more stable estimate, viewing the single-year estimates allows us to see the actual variation in the data from one year to the next.
- Rates based on small numbers will fluctuate more than those based on large numbers. To help frame the landscape of births in Los Angeles; in 2021 there were 21,188 White, 52,743 Hispanic, and 7,508 Black births.
- In 2020 the California IMR was 3.7* and the Los Angeles IMR was 3.9.

*https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/california/ca.htm

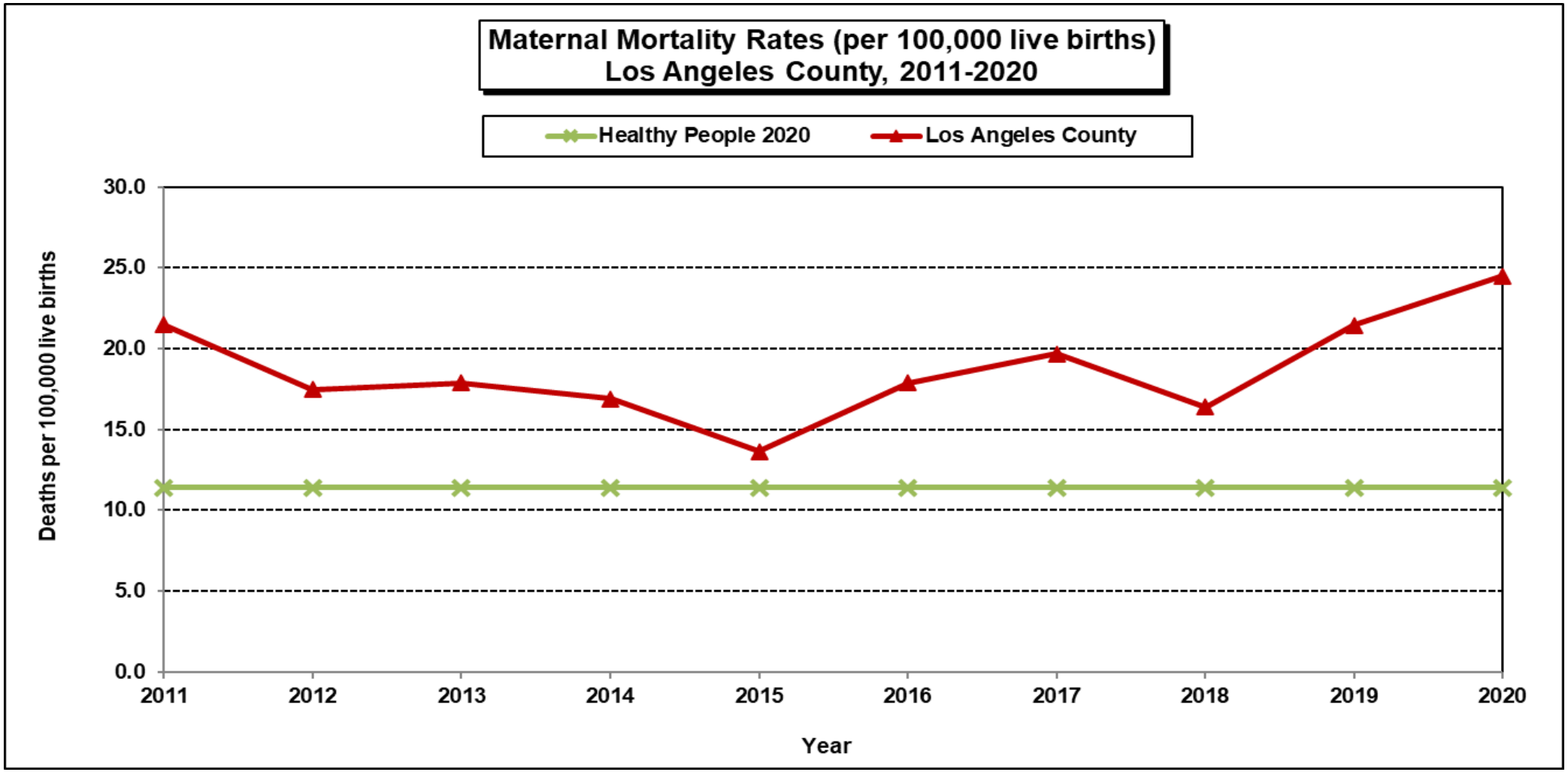
Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births) and counts by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2019-2021

	2019					2020					2021				
	LIVE BIRTHS	INFANT DEATHS	IMR[1]	95 % CL		LIVE BIRTHS	INFANT DEATHS	IMR[1]	95 % CL		LIVE BIRTHS	INFANT DEATHS	IMR[1]	95 % CL	
LAC															
White	22,479	**50**	2.2	1.6	2.8	21,054	**56**	2.7	2.0	3.4	21,188	**69**	3.3	2.5	4.0
Hispanic	57,562	241	4.2	3.7	4.7	53,604	219	4.1	3.5	4.6	52,743	210	4.0	3.4	4.5
African American	8,050	**74**	9.2	7.1	11.3	7,550	**66**	8.7	6.6	10.8	7,508	**52**	6.9	5.0	8.8
Asian	16,635	30	1.8	1.2	2.4	13,318	26	2.0	1.2	2.7	11,976	36	3.0	2.0	4.0
Total	107,202	405	3.8	3.4	4.1	98,021	381	3.9	3.5	4.3	96,230	373	3.9	3.5	4.3

Notes: Infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths to infants within the first year of life per 1,000 live births. Data not shown for Native Americans, Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races. Data Source: 2019-2021 birth and death records downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births) and counts by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2019-2021

- Why do we look at rates?
  - Looking at count data, or the number of events, in this case infant deaths, can be very misleading. Looking at 2021 there were 69 White infant deaths, and 52 Black infant deaths. It would be easy to look at those numbers and surmise that Black infant mortality isn't any worse than that of White infants.
  - The piece missing when looking at the number of events is the population size from which those events occurred. In 2021 there were over 21,000 White live births whereas there were just over 7,500 Black live births.
  - If Black infants had the same rate of infant mortality as White infants in 2021, we would have expected 24 black infant deaths not the observed 52.

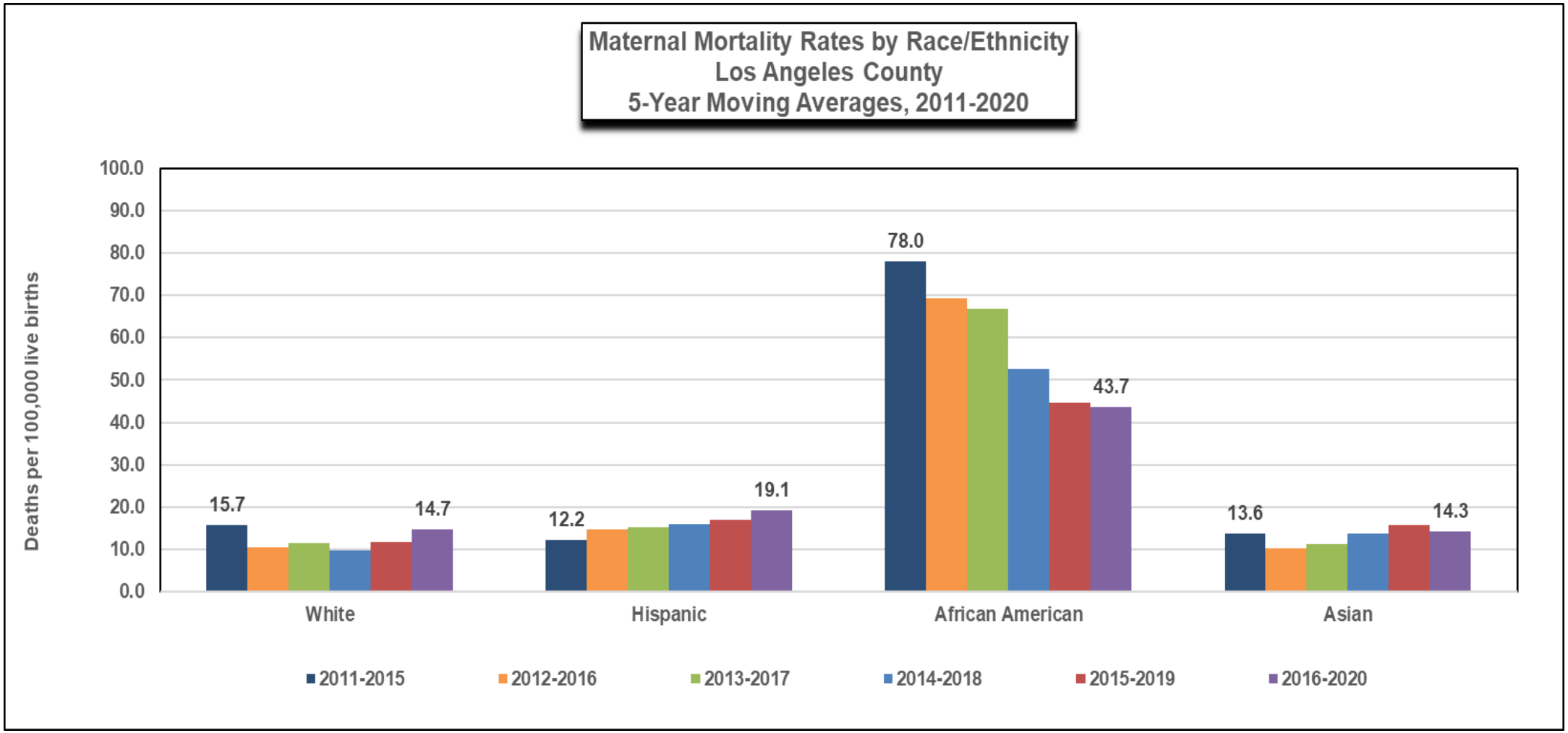


Note: "Maternal Mortality Rate" is defined as the number of female deaths due to obstetric causes (ICD-10 codes A34, O00-O95, O98-O99) within 42 days of a pregnancy per 100,000 live births

Sources: California Integrated Vital Records System, 2018-2020, California Department of Public Health, Birth and Death Statistical Files, 2011-2017

Maternal Mortality Ratio (maternal deaths/100,000 live births) by Year, Los Angeles County and California

- Maternal Mortality Ratio - the number of maternal deaths defined as death due to pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (the first six weeks postpartum) as identified by ICD-10 codes O00-O99 per 100,000 live births. Calculated for a specified population is a specified period.
- In this graph maternal mortality rate is presented on the y-axis, the year is presented on the x-axis, and the lines in the graph represent the groups being compared (Los Angeles vs Healthy People 2020 goal).
- In 2020 there were a total of 24 maternal deaths, of which <5 were Black women.
- Additional information on maternal mortality can be found at http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/mch/fhop/FHOP2020/Maternal%20Mortality_2020.pdf The 2020 perinatal indicators report published by MCAH



Note: "Maternal Mortality Rate" is defined as the number of female deaths due to obstetric causes (ICD-10 codes A34, O00-O95, O98-O99) within 42 days of a pregnancy per 100,000 live births

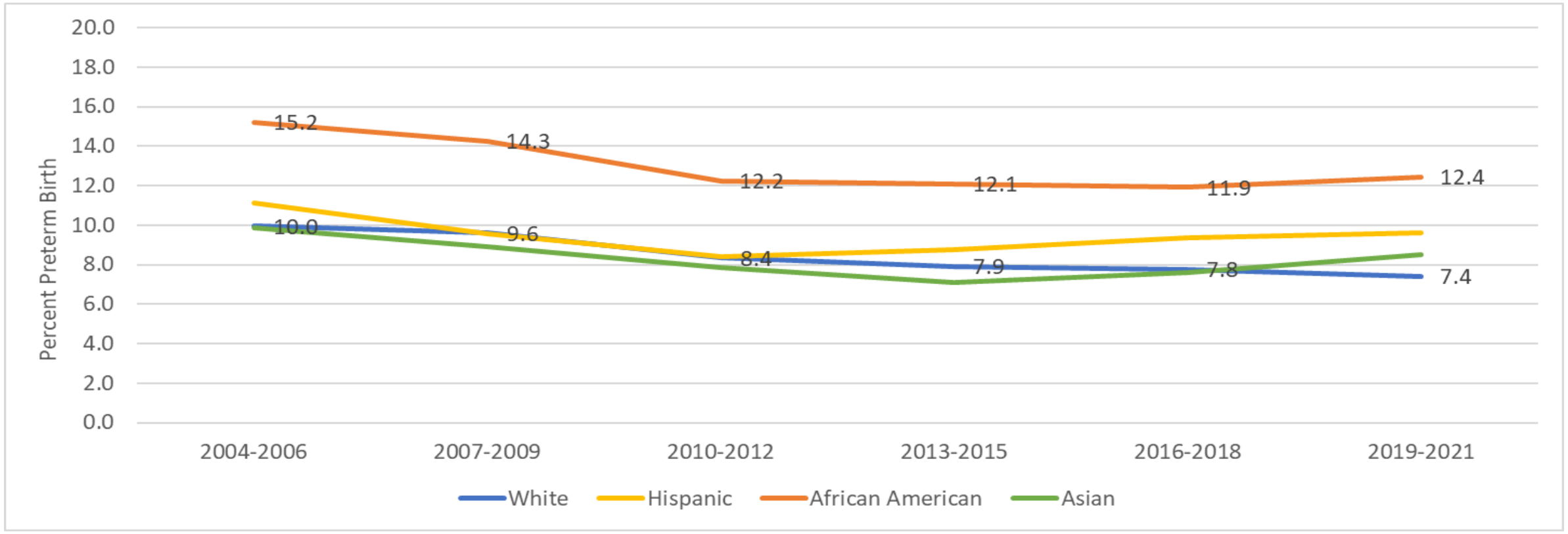
Sources: California Integrated Vital Records System, 2018-2020, California Department of Public Health, Birth and Death Statistical Files, 2011-2017. Perinatal Indicators Report 2020.

Maternal Mortality Ratio (maternal deaths/100,000 live births) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity, 5-year moving averages, Los Angeles County 2011-2020

- Maternal Mortality Ratio - the number of maternal deaths defined as death due to pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (the first six weeks postpartum) as identified by ICD-10 codes O00-O99 per 100,000 live births. Calculated for a specified population is a specified period.
- In this graph maternal mortality rate is presented on the y-axis, mothers' race/ethnicity is presented on the x-axis, and the bars in the graph represent the groups being compared (5-year time periods).
- The Healthy People 2020 goal was to reduce the maternal mortality ratio to no more than 11.4 per 100,000 live births. Black mothers over the period of 2016-2020 had a maternal mortality ratio of 43.7, which was 3 times the maternal mortality ratio for White women in the same time period and 3.8 times the HP2020 goal. Additional information on maternal mortality can be found at

  http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/mch/fhop/FHOP2020/Maternal%20Mortality_2020.pdf

Percent Preterm Births (17-36 weeks) by Mothers' Race, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2004-2021



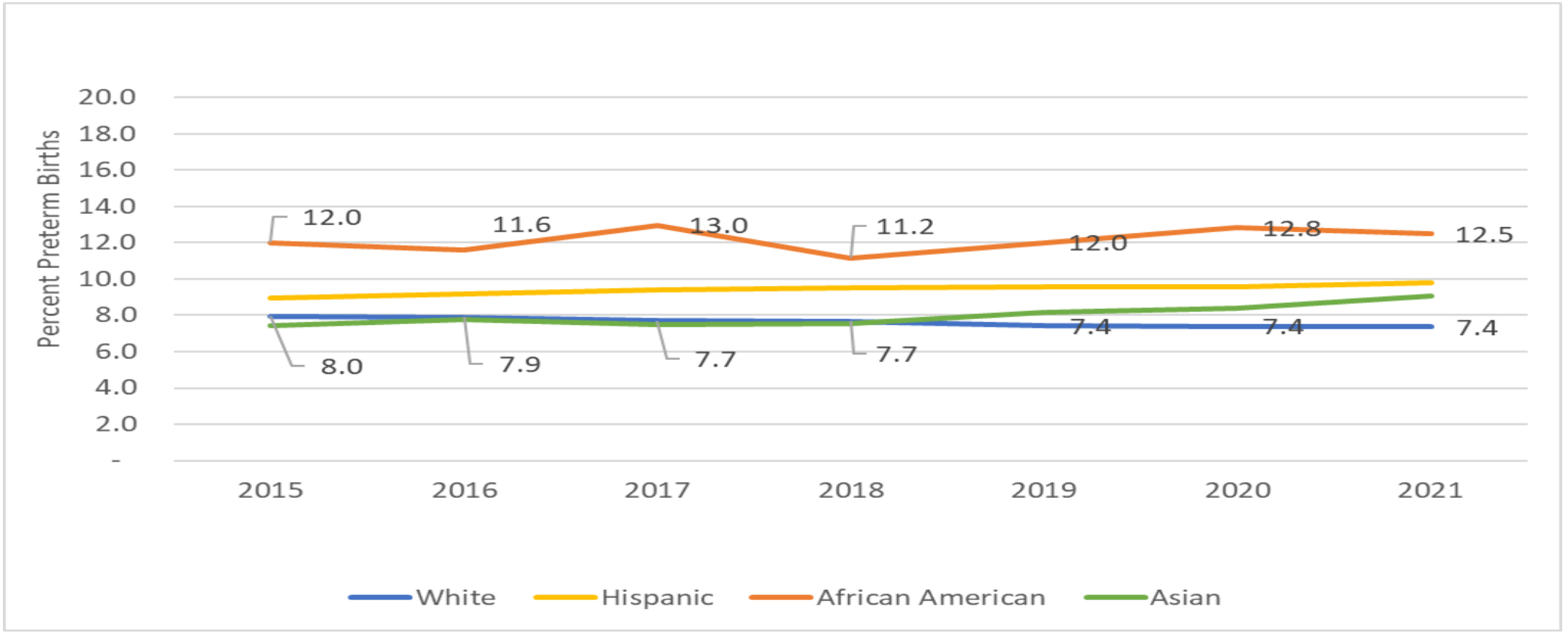
Notes: Preterm births are defined as births occurring from 17-36 weeks gestation. Gestational age calculated based on first date of last menstrual period for 2004-2007 and based on obstetrical estimation for 2008-2021. Data not shown for Native American, Pacific Islander, Other and Unknown races. Three-year averages used to account for random annual rate fluctuations.

Data Source: 2004-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master File. 2018 -2021 data downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Percent Preterm Births (17-36 weeks) by Mothers' Race, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2004-2021

- Preterm births are defined as births occurring from 17-36 weeks gestation. Percent preterm birth is the number of preterm births per 100 live births in that group.
- In this graph percent preterm births is presented on the y-axis, time period is presented on the x-axis, and the lines in the graph represent the groups being compared (mothers' race/ethnicity).
- The percentage of preterm births in Los Angeles County has decreased for White and Black infants over the last 15 years. Part of this decline may be due to a change that occurred between 2007 and 2008 in the way gestational age is calculated, potentially resulting in the dip seen in the preceding figure.
- The gap, however, between White and Black preterm births has remained unchanged. In 2019-2021 the percentage of Black preterm births were 1.7 times that of White preterm births.

Percent Preterm Births (17-36 weeks) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2015-2021



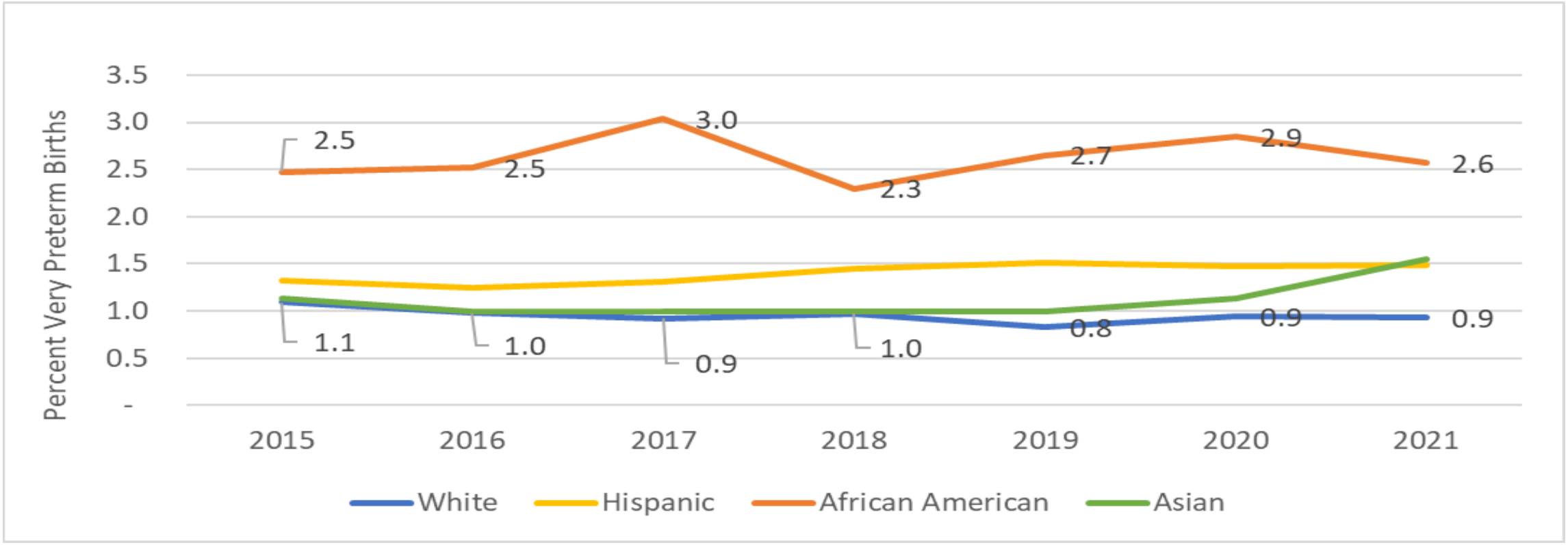
Notes: Preterm births are defined as births occurring from 17-36 weeks gestation. Gestational age calculated based on obstetrical estimation. Data not shown for Native American, Pacific Islander, Other and Unknown races.

Source: 2015-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files. 2018-2021 birth records downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Percent Preterm Births (17-36 weeks) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2015-2021

- Preterm births are defined as births occurring from 17-36 weeks gestation. Percent preterm birth is the number of preterm births per 100 live births in that group.
- In this graph percent preterm births (rate per 100) is presented on the y-axis, year is presented on the x-axis, and the lines in the graph represent the groups being compared (mothers' race/ethnicity).
- Looking at the single-year estimates lets us view some of the fluctuations in the data. In 2018 the gap between black and white preterm births was 1.5. In 2021 the black preterm rate was 1.7 times that of the White preterm birth rate.

Percent Very Preterm Births (17-32 weeks) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2015-2021



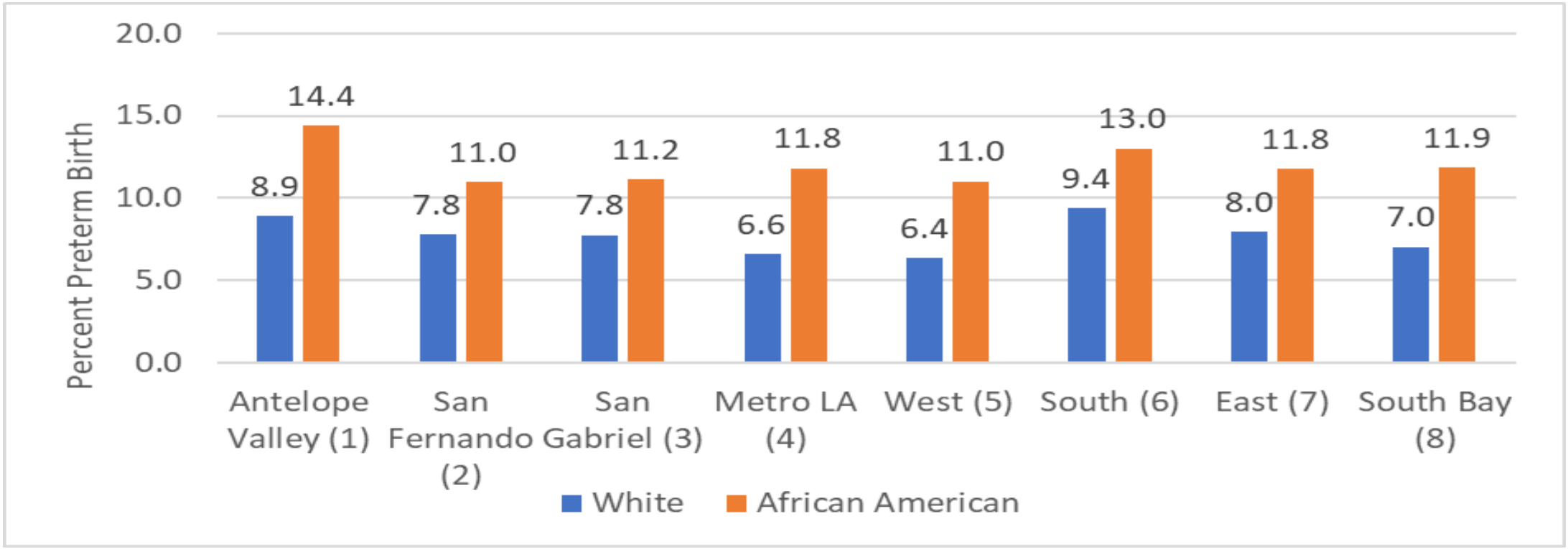
Notes: Very Preterm births are defined as births occurring from 17-32 weeks gestation. Gestational age calculated based on obstetrical estimation. Data not shown for Native American, Pacific Islander, Other and Unknown races.

Source: 2015-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files. 2018-2021 birth records downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Percent Very Preterm Births (17-32 weeks) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2015-2021

- Very preterm births are defined as births occurring from 17-32 weeks gestation. Percent very preterm birth is the number of very preterm births per 100 live births in that group.
- In this graph percent very preterm births (rate per 100) is presented on the y-axis, year is presented on the x-axis, and the lines in the graph represent the groups being compared (mothers' race/ethnicity).
- An important predictor of infant death is very preterm birth. Infants born very premature are incredibly vulnerable. While the gap between Black and White preterm births in 2021 was 1.7, the gap between Black and White very preterm births was 2.9. This trend of the White/Black gap being greater for the very preterm births than for the preterm births has been consistently observed in LA county.

Preterm Births (17-36 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Service Planning Area (SPA), 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2019-2021

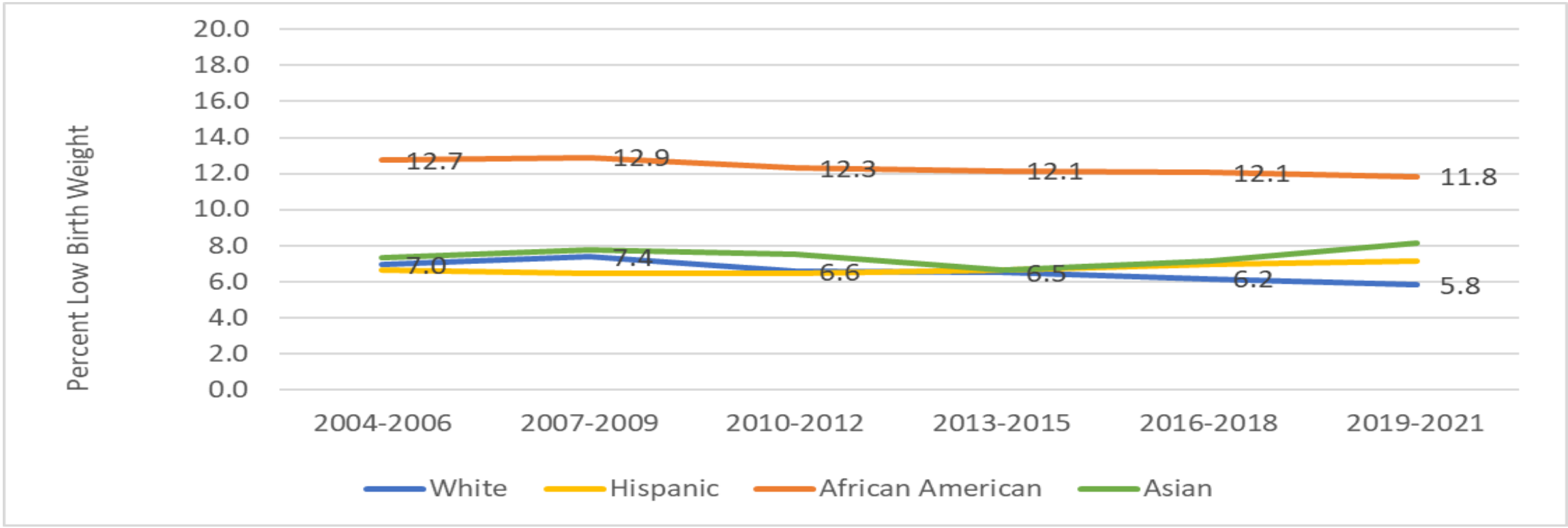


Notes: Preterm births are defined as babies born 17-36 weeks gestation. Gestational age based on obstetrical estimation. Data not shown for Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races. Three-year averages used to account for random annual rate fluctuations. Birth data for 485 White births and 157 Black births were missing SPA designation. SPA designations based on 2010 census data.
Data Source: 2019-2021 birth records downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Preterm Births (17-36 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Service Planning Area (SPA), 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2019-2021

- Preterm births are defined as births occurring from 17-36 weeks gestation. Percent preterm birth is the number of preterm births per 100 live births in that group.
- In this graph percent preterm births (rate per 100) is presented on the y-axis, geographic location (SPA) is presented on the x-axis, and the bars in the graph represent the groups being compared (mothers' race/ethnicity).
- The focus is on one time period, 2019-2021, and the three-year average preterm birth rates are shown.
- Preterm birth rates stratified by race and SPA result in smaller groups and wider 95%CL. Caution should be used in interpreting rates as significantly different from one another.
- The size of the gap between Black and White preterm births varies between SPAs but in every SPA Black infants are more likely to be born preterm.

Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2004-2021



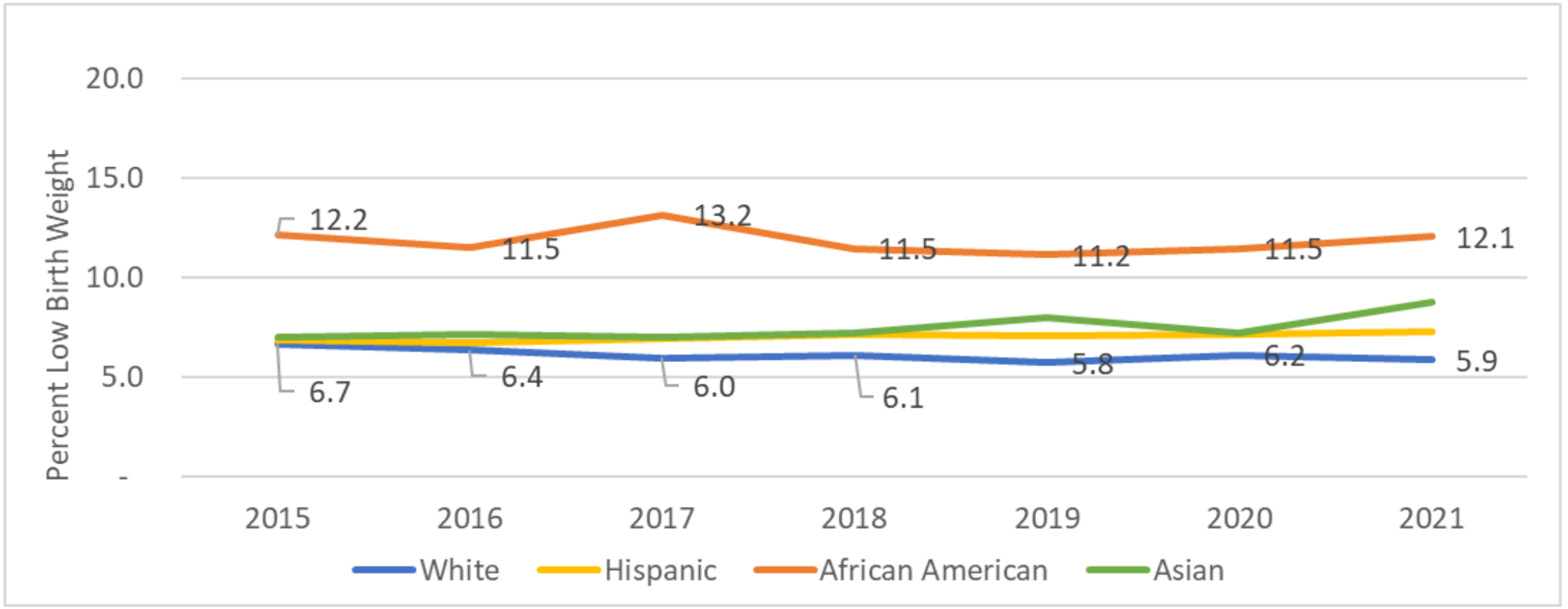
Notes: Low birth weight defined as birth weight below 2500 grams. Data not shown for Native American, Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races. Three-year averages used to account for random annual rate fluctuations.

Data Source: 2004-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files. 2018-2021 birth records downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2004-2021

- Low birth weight is defined as birth weight below 2500 grams.
- In this graph percent low birth weight (rate per 100) is presented on the y-axis, time period is presented on the x-axis, and the lines in the graph represent the groups being compared (mothers' race/ethnicity).
- The percentage of low-birth-weight births has remained relatively stable over the last 2 decades. In 2019-2021 the percent of Black low birth weight was 11.6, which was 2 times that of White infants.

Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2015-2021

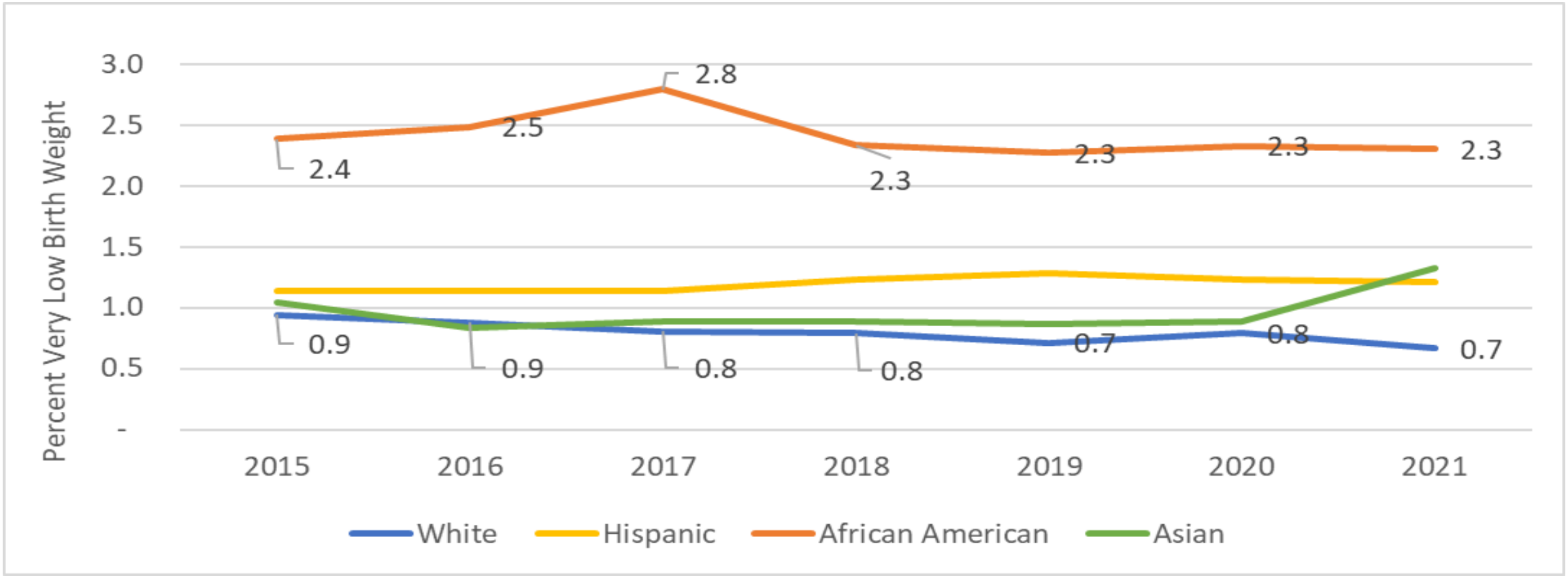


Notes Low birth weight defined as birth weight below 2500 grams at birth. Data not shown for Native American, Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races.
Source: 2015-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files. 2018-2021 birth records downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2015-2021

- Low birth weight is defined as birth weight below 2500 grams.
- In this graph percent low birth weight (rate per 100) is presented on the y-axis, year is presented on the x-axis, and the lines in the graph represent the groups being compared (mothers' race/ethnicity).
- Single year estimates between 2015 and 2021 have been mostly stable. In 2015, the percent of Black low birth weight was 1.8 times the percent of White low birth weight. In 2021, the percent of Black low birth weight was 2.1 times the percent of White low birth weight.

Very Low Birth Weight Births (<1500 grams) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2015-2021

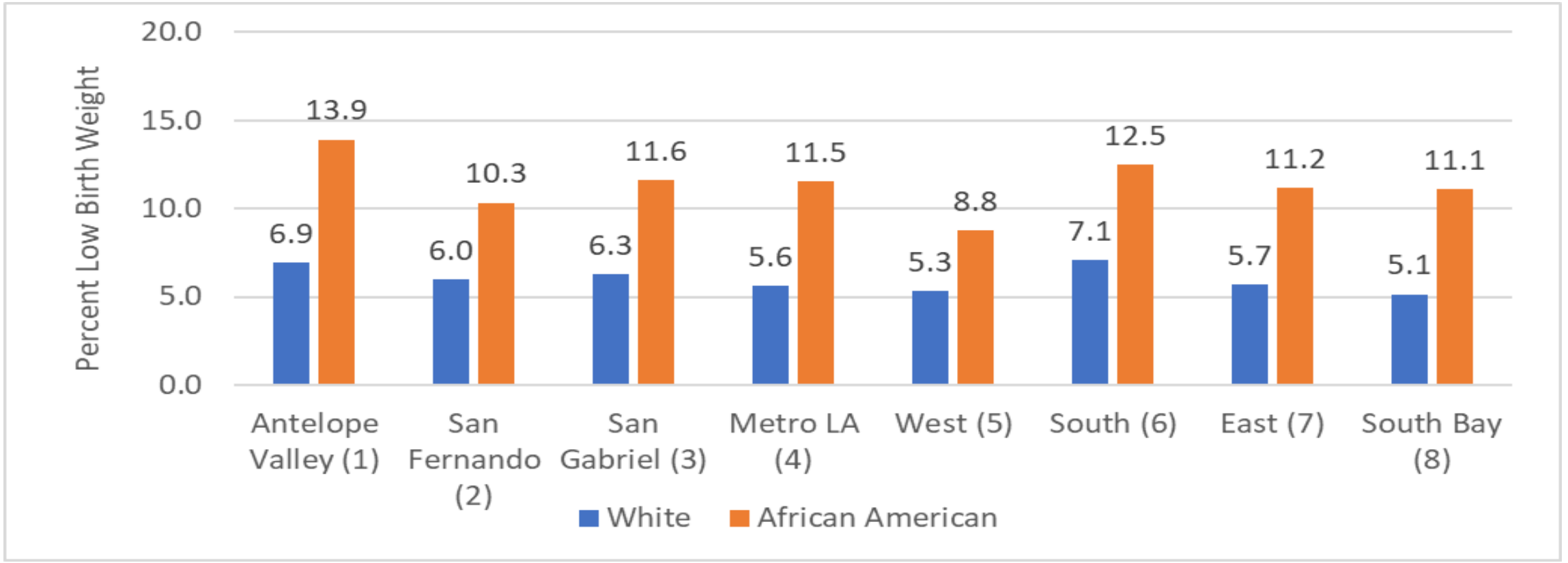


Notes: Very Low birth weight defined as birth weight below 1500 grams. Data not shown for Native American, Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races.
Source: 2015-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files. 2018-2021 birth records downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Very Low Birth Weight Births (<1500 grams) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2015-2021

- Very low birth weight is defined as birth weight below 1500 grams.
- In this graph percent very low birth weight (rate per 100) is presented on the y-axis, year is presented on the x-axis, and the lines in the graph represent the groups being compared (mothers' race/ethnicity).
- Like very preterm, very low birth weight is also an important predictor of infant death. In 2015, the rate of very low birth weight among Black infants was 2.7 times the rate of very low birth weight for White infants. In 2021, this gap was 3.3.
- Like the trend seen among preterm and very preterm births, the White/Black gap is greater for *very* low birth weight compared to low birth weight.

Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race and Service Planning Area (SPA), 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2019-2021



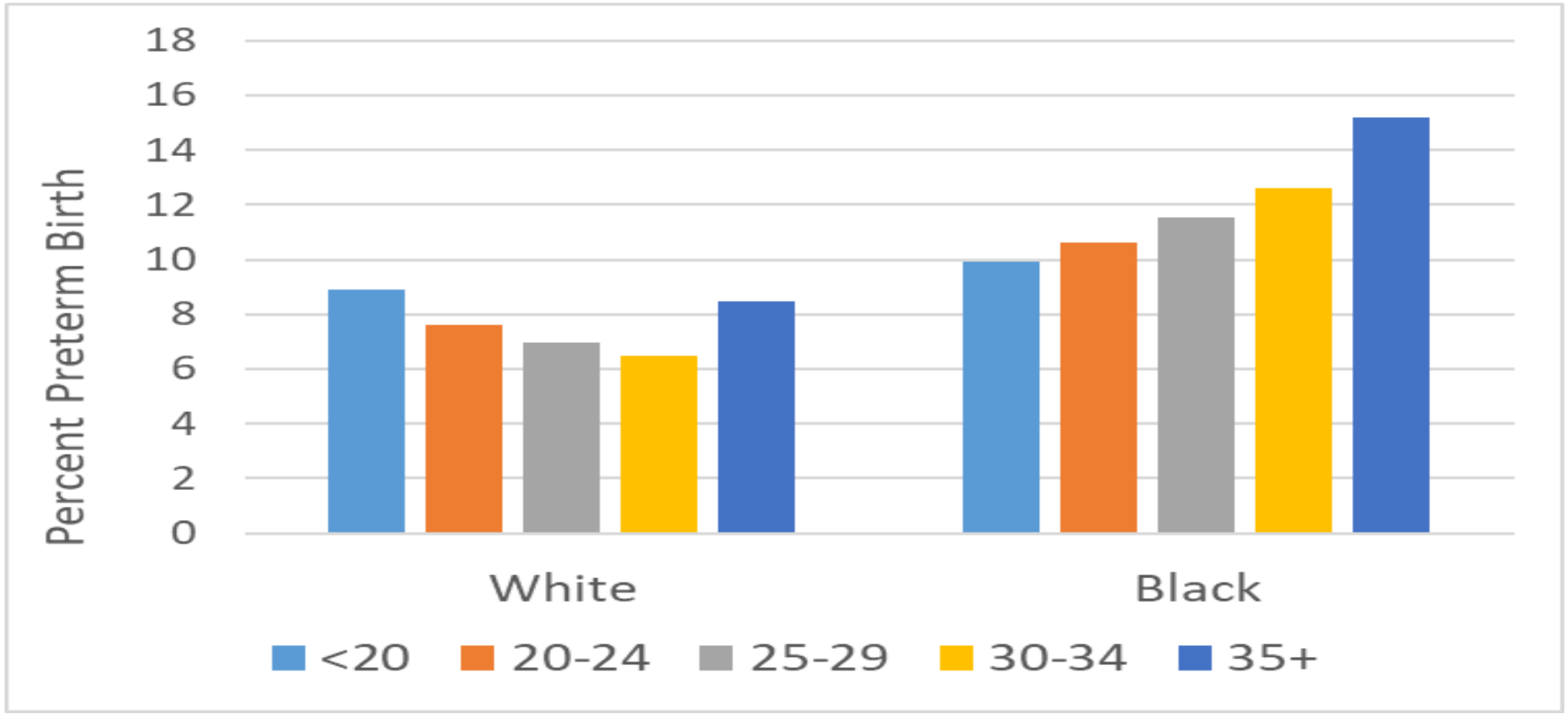
Notes: Low birth weight defined as birth weight below 2500 grams. Data not shown for Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races. Three-year averages used to account for random annual rate fluctuations. Birth data for 485 White births and 157 Black births were missing SPA designation. SPA designations based on 2010 census data.

Data Source: 2019-2021 birth records downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race and Service Planning Area (SPA), 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2019-2021

- Very low birth weight is defined as birth weight below 1500 grams.
- In this graph percent very low birth weight (rate per 100) is presented on the y-axis, geographic region (SPA) is presented on the x-axis, and the bars in the graph represent the groups being compared (mothers' race/ethnicity).
- The focus is on one time period, 2019-2021, and the three-year average low birth weight rates are shown.
- Low birth weight rates stratified by race and SPA result in smaller groups and wider 95%CL. Caution should be used in interpreting rates as significantly different from one another.
- The gap between the rate of low birth weight varies between SPAs but in every SPA Black infants are more likely to be born low birth weight.

Preterm Births (17-36 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Age, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2019-2021



Notes: Preterm births are defined as babies born 17-36 weeks gestation. Gestational age based on obstetrical estimation. Thee-year averages used to account for random annual rate fluctuations.

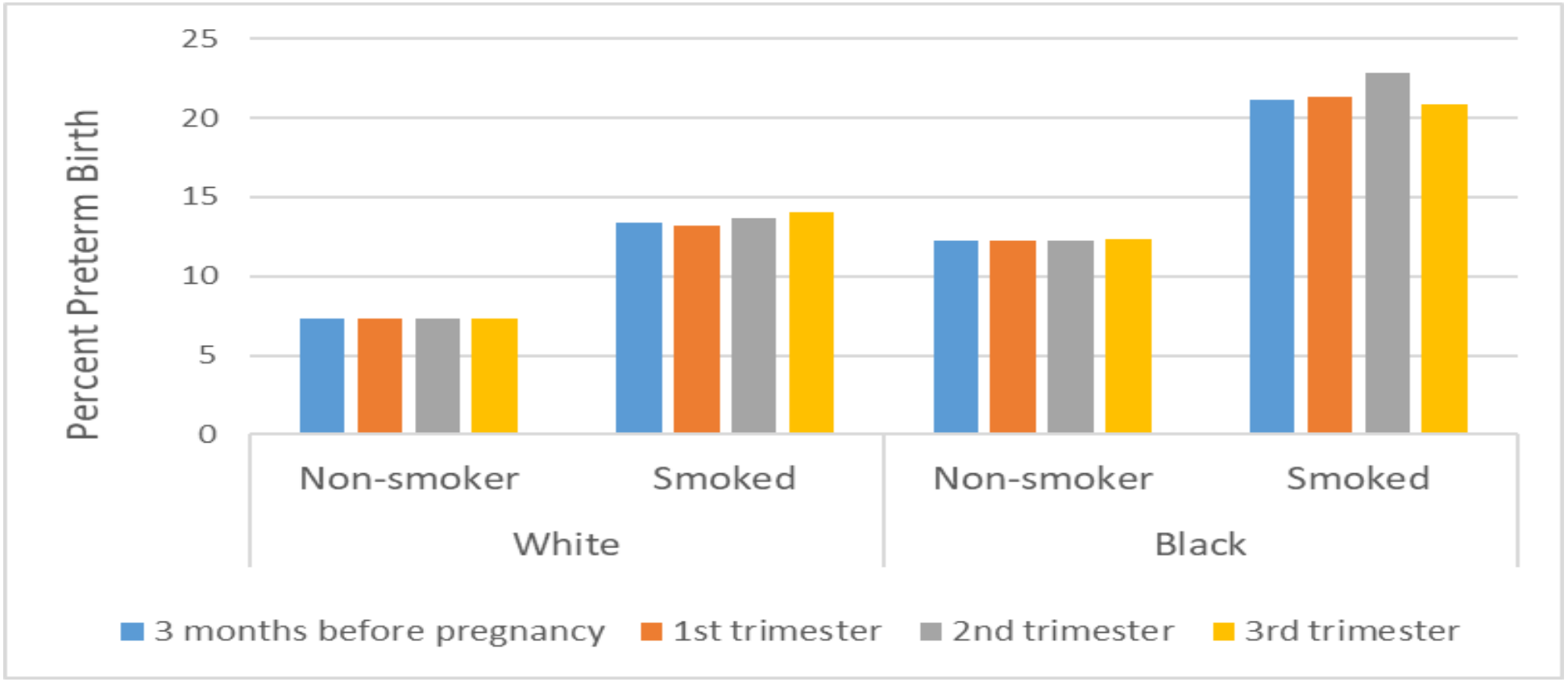
Data Source: 2019-2021 birth records downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Preterm Births (17-36 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Age, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2019-2021

- Preterm births are defined as births occurring from 17-36 weeks gestation. Percent preterm birth is the number of preterm births per 100 live births in that group.
- In this graph percent preterm births (rate per 100) is presented on the y-axis, mothers' race is presented on the x-axis, and the bars in the graph represent the groups being compared (mothers' age).
- The focus is on one time period, 2019-2021, and the three-year average preterm birth rates are shown.
- The data shows increased risk of preterm birth among Black birthing people with increased age, as opposed to the initial decreased % preterm birth with increased age in White. The data point to an effect that has been described as "weathering," the concept that Black people experience early health deterioration because of the cumulative, physiological impact of repeated experience with oppression, race-based harm and trauma.

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/1467758

Preterm Births (17-36 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Smoking Status, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2019-2021

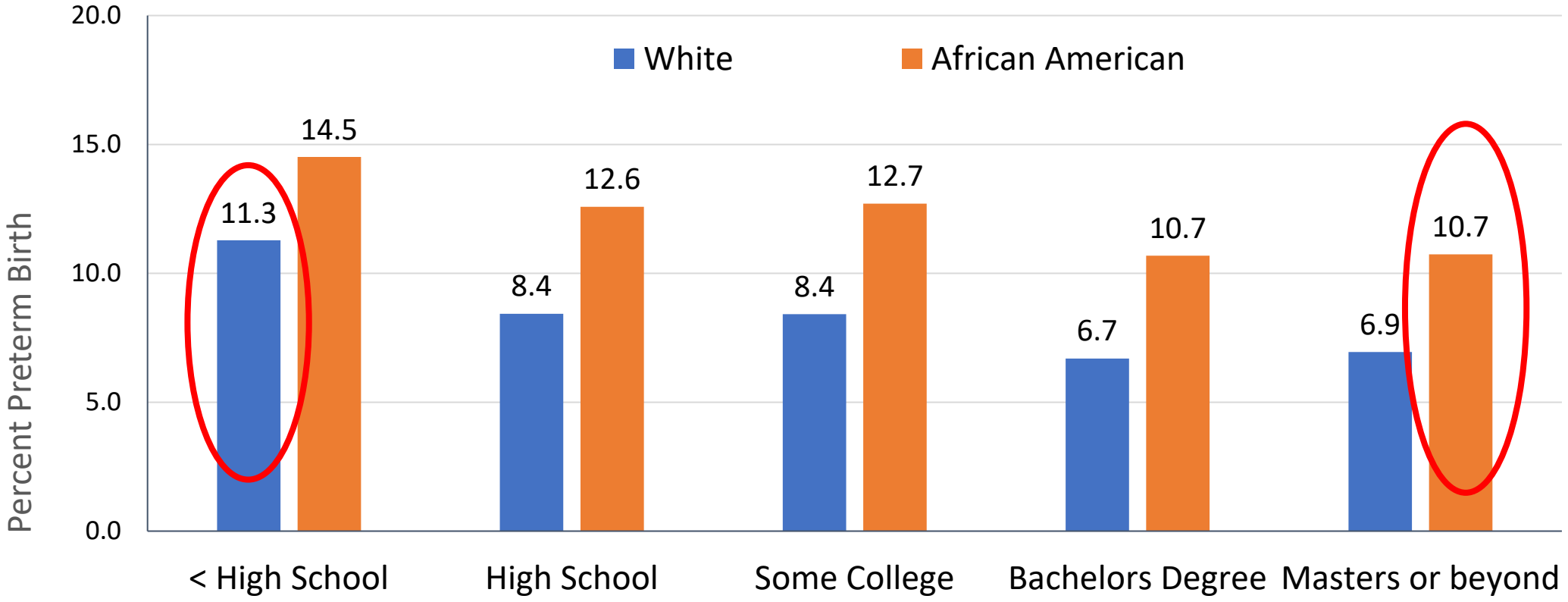


Notes: Preterm births are defined as babies born 17-36 weeks gestation. Gestational age based on obstetrical estimation. Thee-year averages used to account for random annual rate fluctuations.
Data Source: 2019-2021 birth records downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Preterm Births (17-36 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Smoking History, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2019-2021

- Preterm births are defined as births occurring from 17-36 weeks gestation. Percent preterm birth is the number of preterm births per 100 live births in that group.
- In this graph percent preterm births (rate per 100) is presented on the y-axis, mothers' race and smoking history is presented on the x-axis, and the bars in the graph represent the groups being compared (timeframe of smoking). The focus is on one time period, 2019-2021, and the three-year average preterm birth rates are shown.
- Preterm birth rates stratified by race and smoking history may result in smaller groups and a wider 95%CL. Caution should be used in interpreting rates as significantly different from one another.
- While smoking raises the risk of preterm birth in both White and Black birthing people, the risk of preterm birth among Black non-smokers is nearly equivalent to the risk of preterm birth among White birthing people who smoke throughout pregnancy. Again, pointing to an effect that has been described as "weathering".

Preterm Births (17-36 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Education, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2019-2021



***Education attainment at time of delivery**

Notes: Preterm births are defined as babies born 17-36 weeks gestation. Gestational age based on obstetrical estimation. Thee-year averages used to account for random annual rate fluctuations.

Data Source: 2019-2021 birth records downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Preterm Births (17-36 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Education, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2019-2021

- Preterm births are defined as births occurring from 17-36 weeks gestation. Percent preterm birth is the number of preterm births per 100 live births in that group.
- In this graph percent preterm births (rate per 100) is presented on the y-axis, mothers' education is presented on the x-axis, and the bars in the graph represent the groups being compared (mothers' race).
- The focus is on one time period, 2019-2021, and the three-year average preterm birth rates are shown.
- Preterm birth rates stratified by race and education may result in smaller groups and a wider 95%CL. Caution should be used in interpreting rates as significantly different from one another.
- The data shows greater maternal education is associated with decreases in the risk of preterm birth. However, Black women with a Master's Degree or beyond have the nearly same risk of preterm birth as White women with less than a high school education.

For information on the strategies of the AAIMM Initiative, please visit **www.blackinfantsandfamilies.org**