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

Health Promotion Bureau • Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Division of Maternal, Child, & Adolescent Health

Melissa R. Franklin, EdD, MBA
Director
(213) 639-6400
mfranklin@ph.lacounty.gov

Adjoa Jones, MBA
Birth Equity Unit Chief and AAIMM Director
ajones@ph.lacounty.gov

Helen O'Connor, MSPH, MA
Perinatal Innovation Unit Chief
hoconnor@ph.lacounty.gov

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:

Chandra Higgins, MPH

Epidemiologist

Division of Maternal, Child, & Adolescent Health

Health Promotion Bureau

chiggins@ph.lacounty.gov

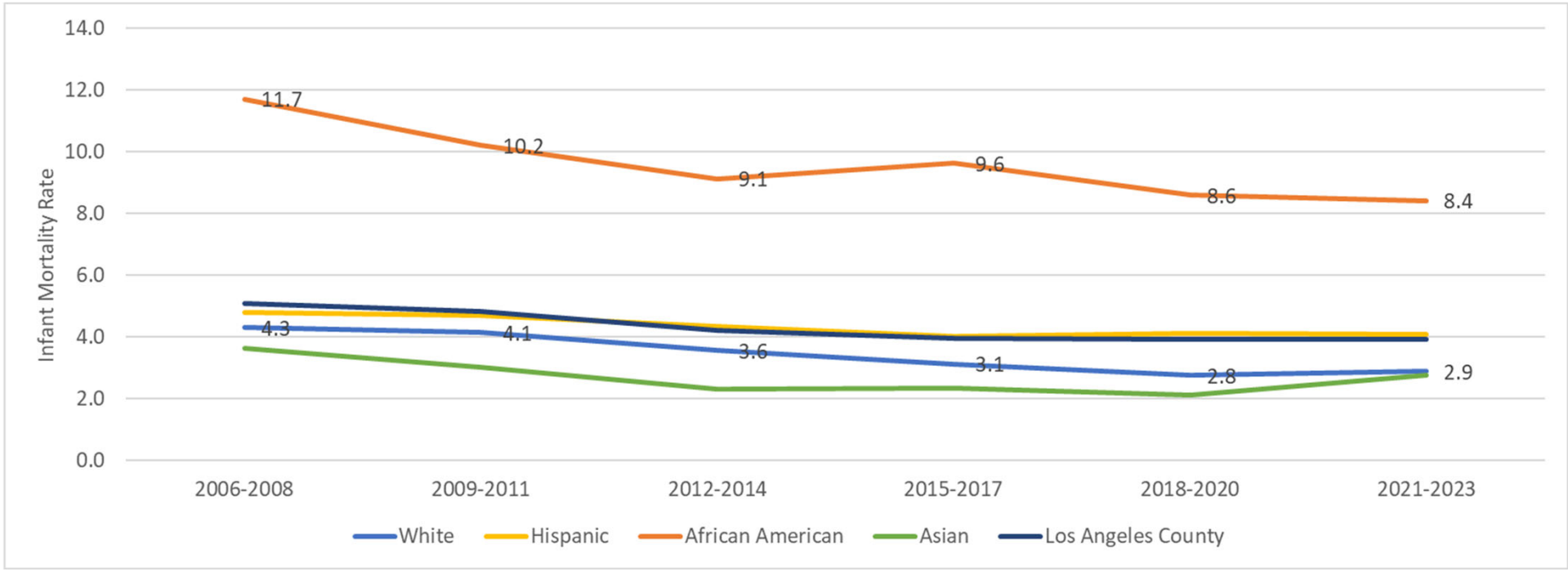
Explaining a data slide: what to look for

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

Important notes about the data

- Vital Statistics birth and death data are continually 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 (CL) 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 contact us to request 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 to provide stable estimates.

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2006-2023

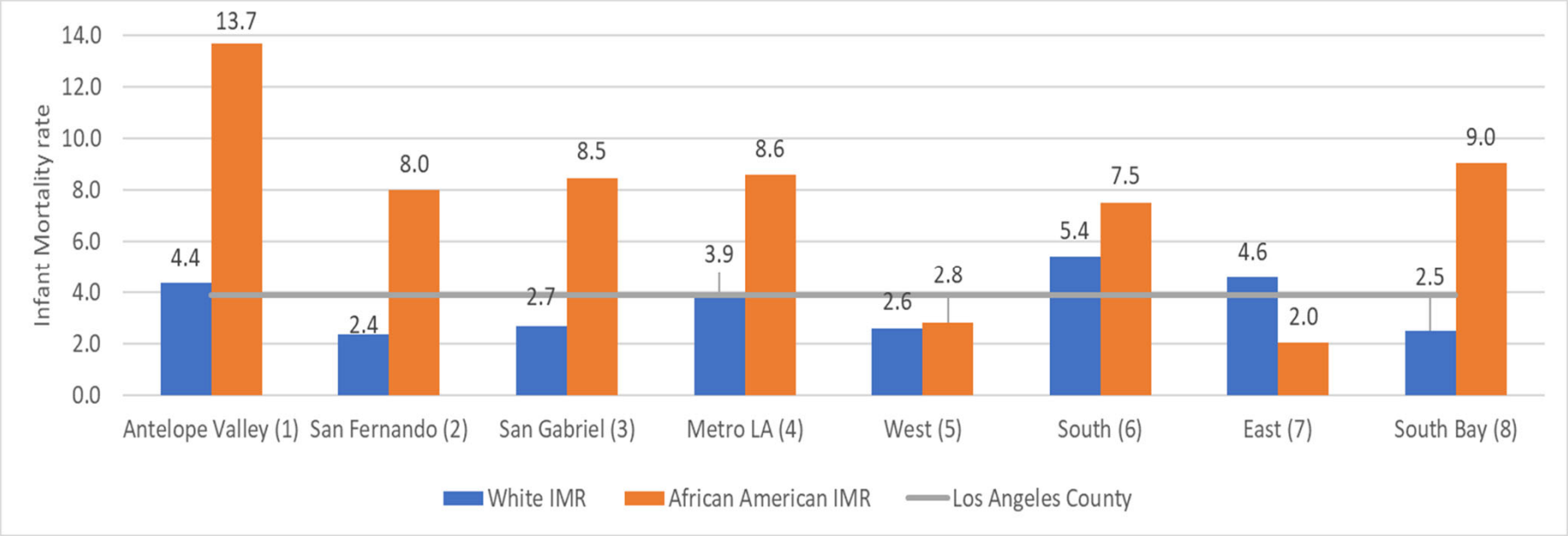


Notes: Infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths to infants within the first year of life per 1,000 live births. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates. Three-year averages are used to account for random and annual rate fluctuations.
Data Sources: 2006-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth and Death Statistical Master Files. 2018-2023 Annual Birth & Death Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2006-2023

- Infant mortality rate (IMR) is defined as the number of deaths to infants within the first year of life per 1,000 live births.
- In this graph, IMR 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 2006-2008 Black infant mortality rate was 2.7 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 2021-2023 Black infant mortality rate (8.4) was 2.9 times the White infant mortality rate (2.9).

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 births) by Mothers' Race and Service Planning Area (SPA), 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023



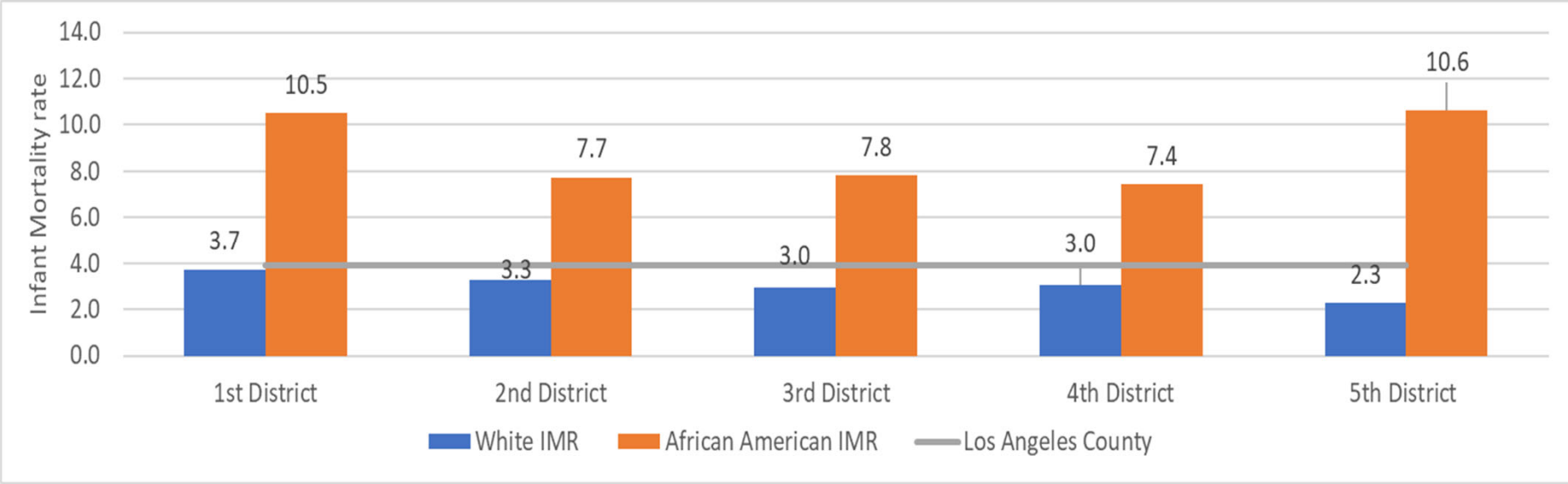
Notes: Infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths to infants within the first year of life per 1,000 live births. Data not shown for Hispanic, Asian, for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races . Three-year averages used to account for random annual rate fluctuations. SPA designations based on 2020 census data.

Data Source: 2021-2023 Annual Birth & Death Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 births) by Mothers' Race and Service Planning Area (SPA), 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

- In this graph, infant mortality rate (IMR) 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, 2021-2023, and the three-year average infant mortality rates are shown.
- IMR 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 2.9 in 2021-2023, the gap varies depending on the SPA that one resides in. For example, in SPA 8 the Black IMR is approximately 3.6 times the White IMR, whereas the Black IMR in SPA 5 is approximately 1.1 times the White IMR.

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 births) by Mothers' Race and Supervisorial District, 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023



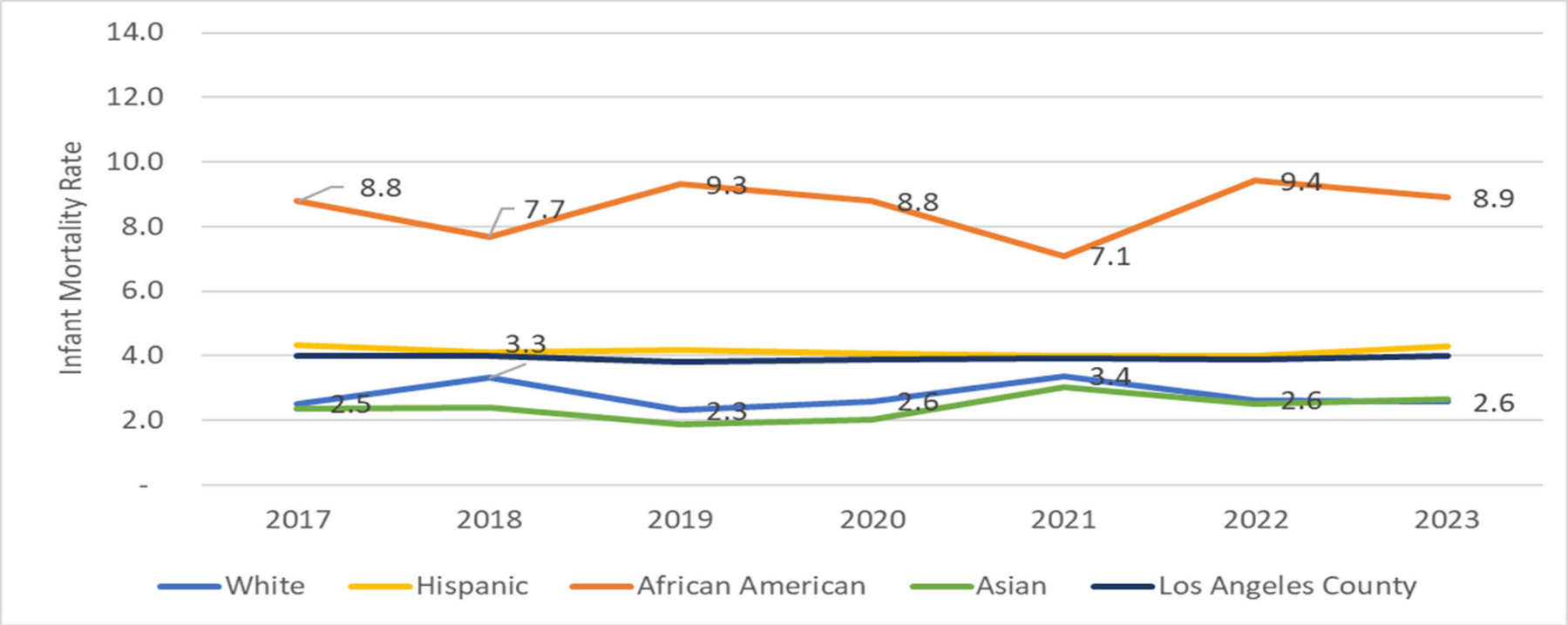
Notes: Infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths to infants within the first year of life per 1,000 live births. Data not shown for Hispanic, Asian, for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races . Three-year averages used to account for random annual rate fluctuations. Supervisorial District designations based on 2020 census data.

Data Source: 2021-2023 Annual Birth & Death Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 births) by Mothers' Race and Supervisorial District (SD), 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

- In this graph, infant mortality rate (IMR) is presented on the y-axis, the geographic location (SD) 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, 2021-2023, and the three-year average infant mortality rates are shown.
- While the overall gap between Black and White IMR was 2.9 in 2021-2023, the gap varies depending on the Supervisorial District that one resides in. For example, in SD 5 the Black IMR is approximately 4.6 times the White IMR, whereas the Black IMR in SD 2 is approximately 2.3 times the White IMR.

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2017-2023



Notes: 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 American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates.

Data Sources: 2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth and Death Statistical Master Files. 2018-2023 Annual Birth & Death Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2017-2023

- Infant mortality rate (IMR) is defined as the number of deaths to infants within the first year of life per 1,000 live births.
- In this graph, IMR 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.
- In Los Angeles County, there were 90,452 births in 2023; 19,385 White, 50,272 Hispanic, 10,906 Asian, and 6,179 Black births.
- In 2023, the California IMR was 4.1* and the Los Angeles IMR was 4.0.

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births) and counts by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

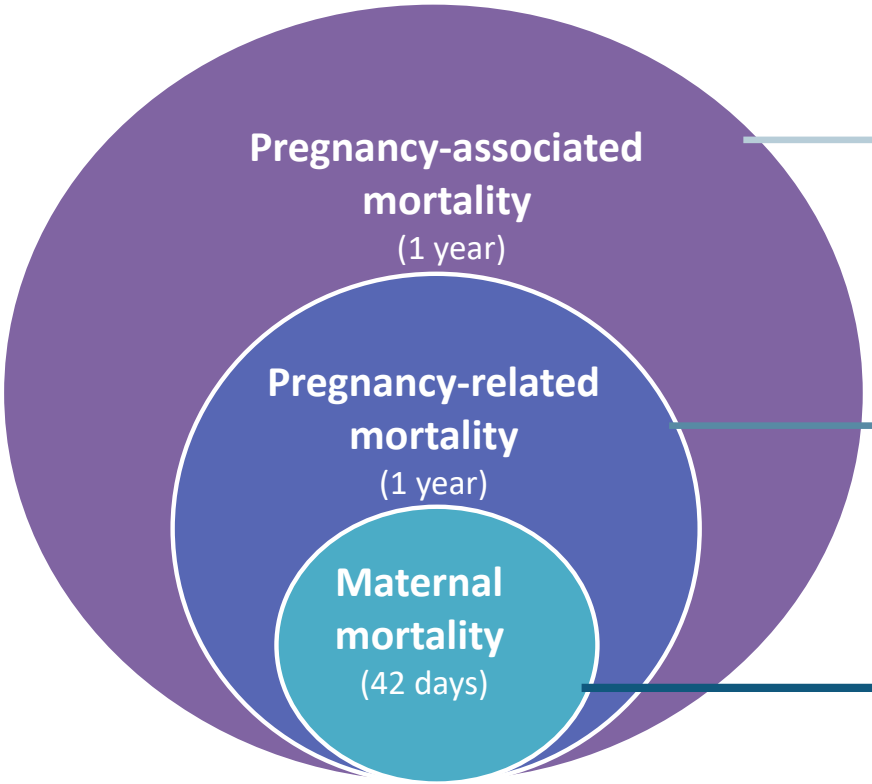
	2021					2022					2023				
	LIVE BIRTHS	INFANT DEATHS	IMR	95 % CL		LIVE BIRTHS	INFANT DEATHS	IMR	95 % CL		LIVE BIRTHS	INFANT DEATHS	IMR	95 % CL	
White	21,065	**71**	3.4	2.6	4.2	20,124	**53**	2.6	1.9	3.3	19,385	**50**	2.6	1.9	3.3
Hispanic	52,502	210	4.0	3.5	4.5	53,070	212	4.0	3.5	4.5	50,272	215	4.3	3.7	4.8
African American	7,469	**53**	7.1	5.2	9.0	6,793	**64**	9.4	7.1	11.7	6,179	**55**	8.9	6.6	11.2
Asian	11,906	36	3.0	2.0	4.0	11,527	29	2.5	1.6	3.4	10,906	29	2.7	1.7	3.6
Los Angeles County	95,734	376	3.9	3.5	4.3	95,313	370	3.9	3.5	4.3	90,452	361	4.0	3.6	4.4

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 American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates.
Data Sources: 2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth and Death Statistical Master Files. 2018-2023 Annual Birth & Death Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Infant Mortality Rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births) and counts by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

- 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 2023, there were 50 White infant deaths, and 55 Black infant deaths. It would be easy to look at those numbers and surmise that Black infant mortality isn't much 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 2023, there were over 19,000 White live births whereas there were just over 6,000 Black live births.
  - If Black infants had the same rate of infant mortality as White infants in 2023, we would have expected 16 Black infant deaths instead of the observed 55.

Types of Maternal Mortality Measures



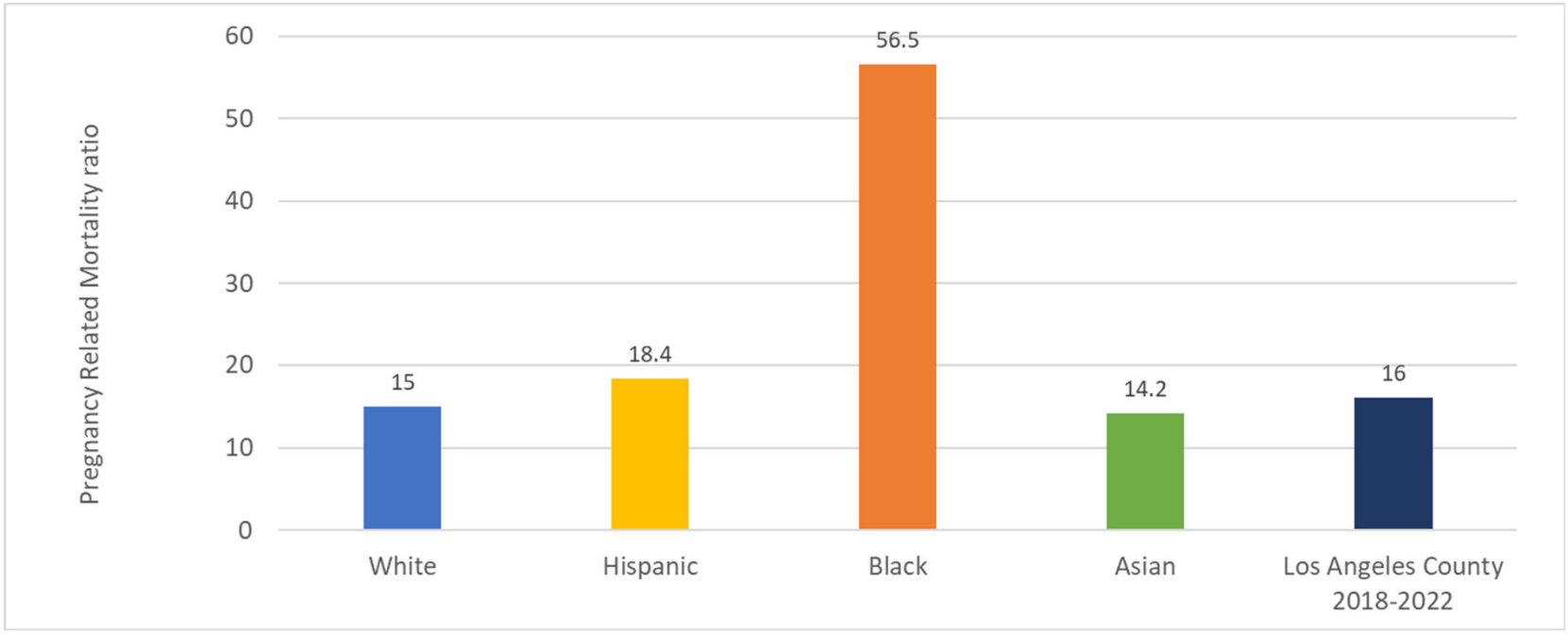
Pregnancy-associated mortality:
Deaths due to any cause during pregnancy and up to one year after pregnancy (includes deaths not related to pregnancy)

Pregnancy-related mortality:
Pregnancy-related deaths include deaths within a year of pregnancy from causes related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management, as determined by expert committee review.

Maternal mortality:
Deaths during pregnancy and up to 42 days after pregnancy that are related to pregnancy

How California is Tracking Maternal Deaths: Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System (CA-PMSS). California Department of Public Health; Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division. 2022. www.cdph.ca.gov/pmss

Pregnancy-Related Mortality Ratio (deaths/100,000 live births) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity, 3-Year Average, California 2020 – 2022

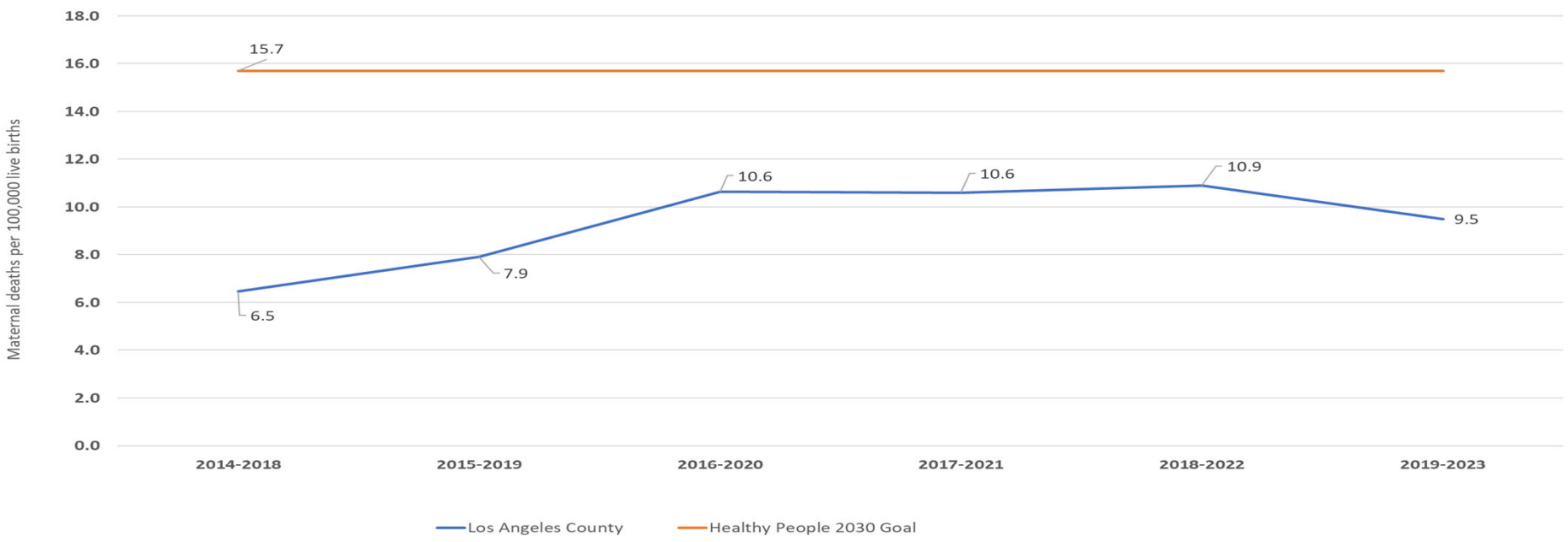


Source: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/surveillance/Pages/Pregnancy-Related-Mortality.aspx
Note: Due to small numbers, the Los Angeles County pregnancy-related mortality ratio is based on a 5-year average (2018–2022).

Pregnancy-Related Mortality Ratio (deaths/100,000 live births) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity, 3-Year Average, California 2020 – 2022

- Pregnancy-Related Mortality Ratio – Pregnancy-related deaths, including deaths within a year of pregnancy from causes related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management, as determined by expert committee review, per 100,000 live births.
- In this graph, pregnancy-related mortality ratio is presented on the y-axis, mothers' race/ethnicity is presented on the x-axis along with the Los Angeles County total.
- In California, from 2020-2022, the pregnancy-related mortality ratio for Black women (56.5) was 3.8 times the ratio for White women (15.0).

Maternal Mortality Ratio, Los Angeles County, 5-Year Moving Averages, 2014-2023

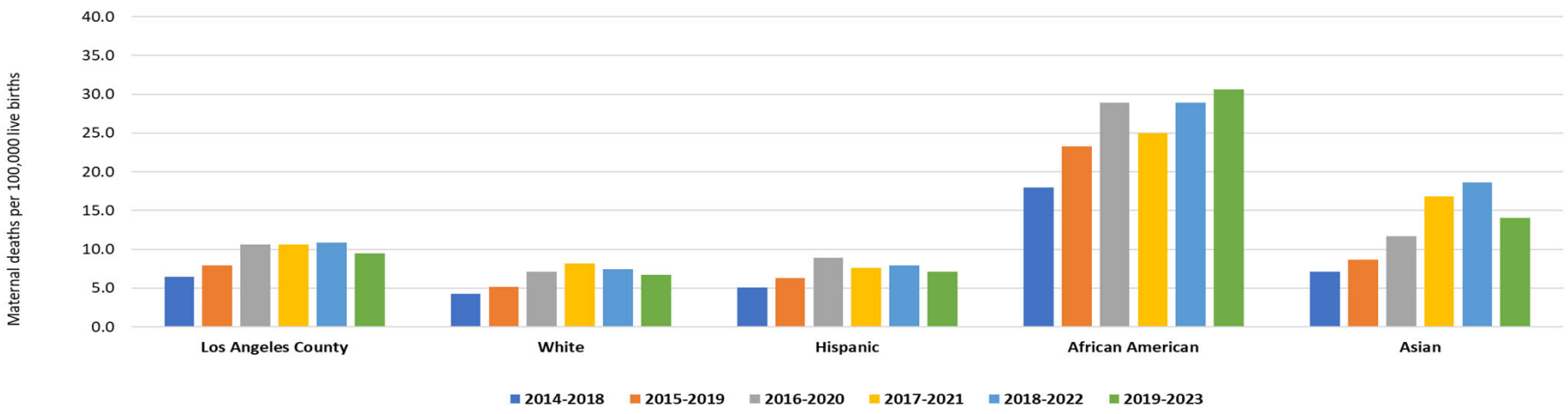


Note: Maternal deaths included to calculate MMR are defined by WHO as "the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes". Included in these deaths are ICD–10 codes A34, O00–O95, and O98–O99. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates.
Prepared by: Analysis and chart provided by Division of Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health
Data sources: California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Birth Statistical Master File, 2014 – 2017 & California Integrated Vital Records System, Births 2018-2019.
California Integrated Vital Records System, Deaths 2014-2019.
2020-2023 Annual Birth & Death Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data by Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.
More information on MMR and other measures of maternal death are available at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/Pages/Health-Topics/Maternal-Mortality.aspx
More information on the 2030 HP goal is available at https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/reduce-maternal-deaths-mich-04/data

Maternal Mortality Ratio (maternal deaths/100,000 live births) by Year, Los Angeles County and Healthy People 2030

- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) - the number of maternal deaths, defined by the WHO as "the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes" per 100,000 live births. Calculated for a specified population is a specified period. Included in these deaths are ICD–10 codes A34, O00–O95, and O98–O99.
- In this graph, MMR 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 2030 goal).
- From 2019-2023, there were a total of 46 maternal deaths in Los Angeles County.
- More information on MMR and other measures of maternal death are available at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/Pages/Health-Topics/Maternal-Mortality.aspx

Maternal Mortality Ratio by Race/Ethnicity, Los Angeles County, 5-Year Moving Averages, 2014-2023

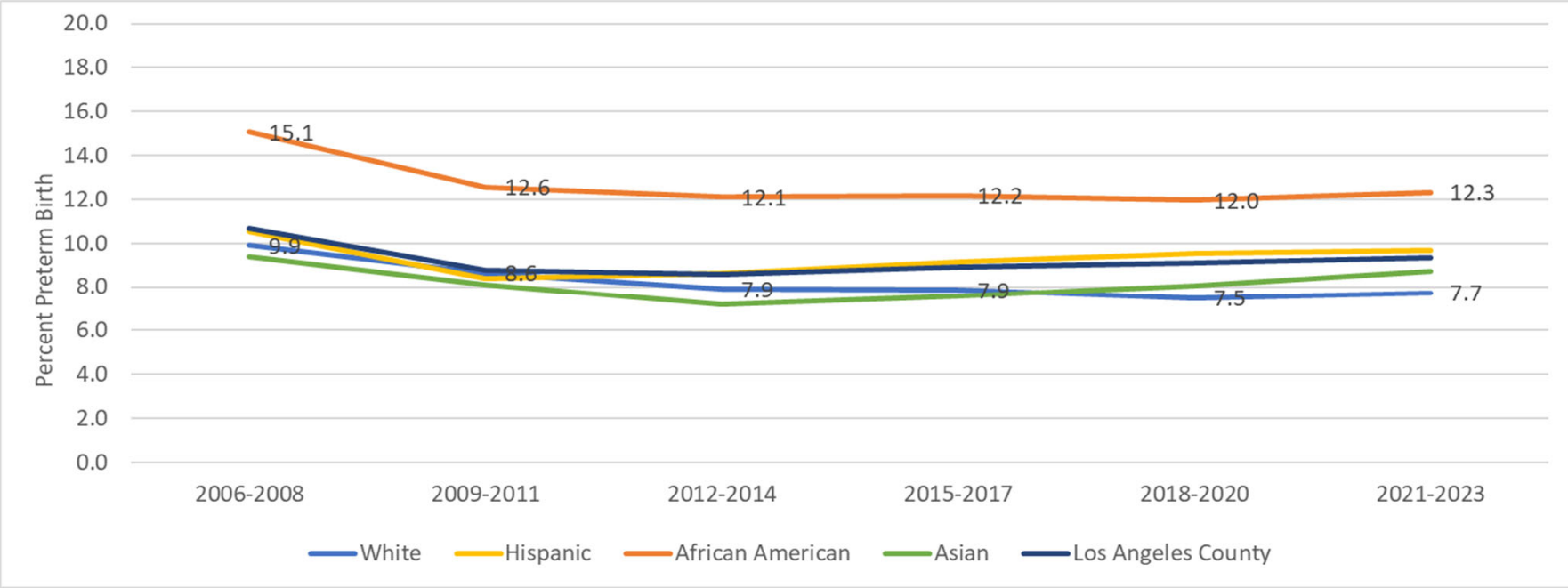


Note: Maternal deaths included to calculate MMR are defined by WHO as "the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes". Included in these deaths are ICD–10 codes A34, O00–O95, and O98–O99. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates.
Prepared by: Analysis and chart provided by Division of Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health
Data sources: California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Birth Statistical Master File, 2014 – 2017 & California Integrated Vital Records System, Births 2018-2019.
California Integrated Vital Records System, Deaths 2014-2019.
2020-2023 Annual Birth & Death Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data by Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.
More information on MMR and other measures of maternal death are available at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/Pages/Health-Topics/Maternal-Mortality.aspx

Maternal Mortality Ratio (maternal deaths/100,000 live births) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity, 5-year Moving Averages, Los Angeles County 2014-2023

- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) - the number of maternal deaths, defined by the WHO as "the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes" per 100,000 live births. Calculated for a specified population is a specified period. Included in these deaths are ICD–10 codes A34, O00–O95, and O98–O99.
- In this graph, MMR 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 2030 goal is to reduce the maternal mortality ratio to no more than 15.7 per 100,000 live births. Black women over the period of 2019-2023 had a maternal mortality ratio of 30.6, which was 4.6 times the maternal mortality ratio of White women (6.7) and 1.9 times the HP2030 goal.
- More information on MMR and other measures of maternal death are available at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/Pages/Health-Topics/Maternal-Mortality.aspx

Percent Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2006-2023

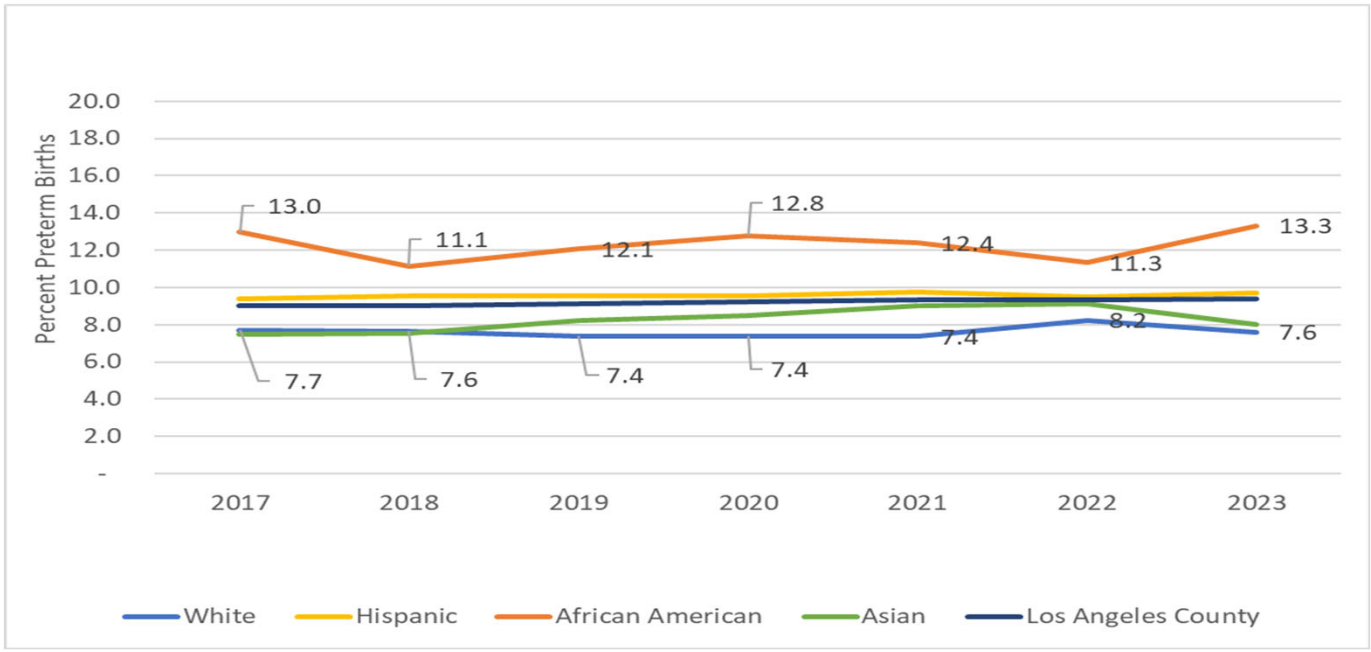


Notes: Preterm births are births occurring before 37 weeks gestation. Gestational age calculated based on first date of last menstrual period for 2006-2007 and based on obstetrical estimation for 2008-2023. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates. Three-year averages used to account for random annual rate fluctuations.
Data Sources: 2006-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files. 2018-2023 Annual Birth Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Percent Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2006-2023

- Preterm births are births occurring before 37 weeks gestation. Percent preterm birth is the number of preterm births per 100 live births in a 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 2021-2023, the percentage of Black preterm births was 1.6 times that of White preterm births.

Percent Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2017-2023



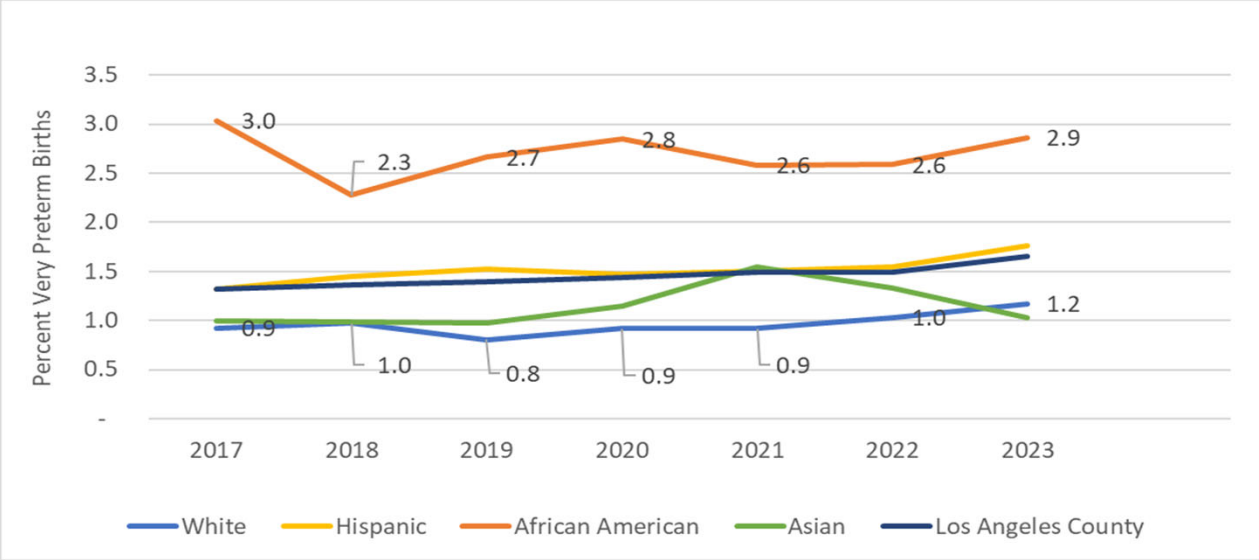
Notes: Preterm births are births occurring before 37 weeks gestation. Gestational age calculated based on obstetrical estimation . Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates.

Data Sources: 2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files. 2018-2023 Annual Birth Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Percent Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2017-2023

- Preterm births are births occurring before 37 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 2017, the gap between Black and White preterm births was 1.7. In 2023, the Black preterm rate was 1.8 times that of the White preterm birth rate.

Percent Very Preterm Births (<33 weeks) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2017-2023

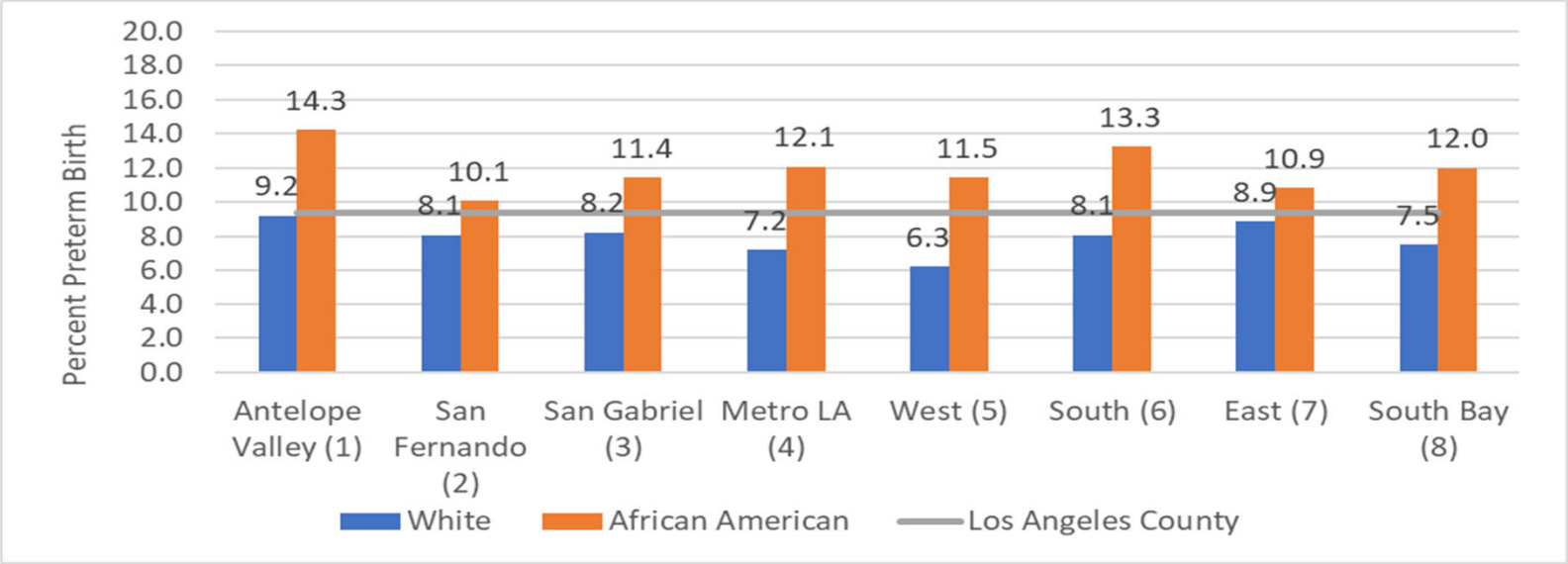


Notes: Very Preterm births are births occurring before 33 weeks gestation. Gestational age calculated based on obstetrical estimation. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates.
Data Sources: 2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files. 2018-2023 Annual Birth Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Percent Very Preterm Births (<33 weeks) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2017-2023

- Very preterm births are births occurring before 33 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 2023 was 1.8, the gap between Black and White very preterm births was 2.4. 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.

Percent Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Service Planning Area (SPA), 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

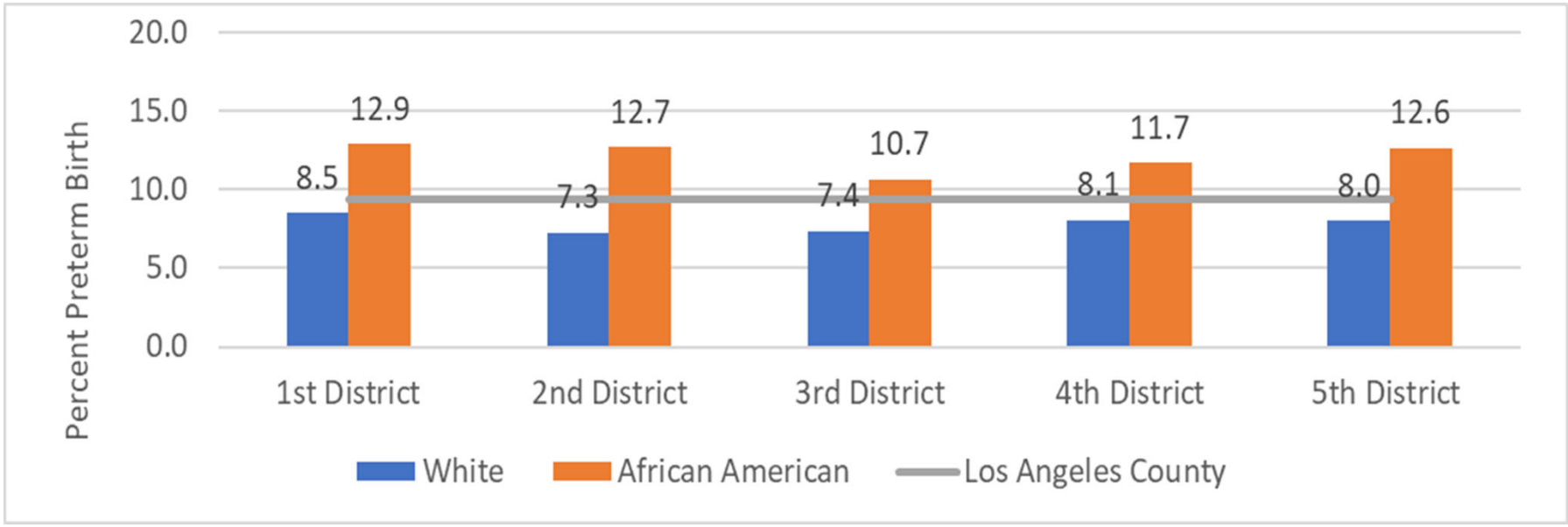


Notes: Preterm births are births occurring before 37 weeks gestation. Gestational age calculated based on obstetrical estimation . Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates. SPA designations based on 2020 census data.
Data Sources: 2021-2023 Annual Birth Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Service Planning Area (SPA), 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

- Preterm births are births occurring before 37 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, 2021-2023, 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.

Percent Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Supervisorial District, 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

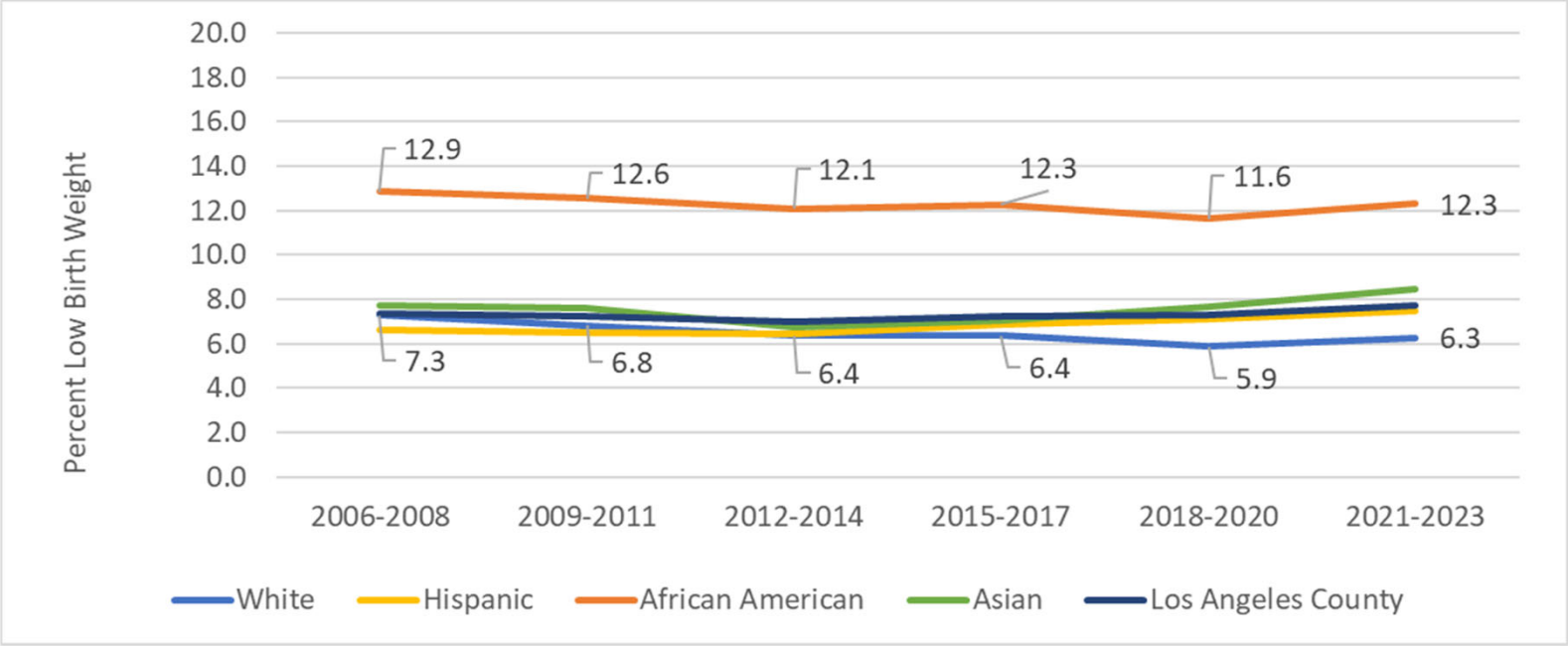


Notes: Preterm births are births occurring before 37 weeks gestation. Gestational age calculated based on obstetrical estimation . Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates. Supervisorial District designations based on 2020 census data.
Data Sources: 2021-2023 Annual Birth Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Supervisorial District (SD), 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

- Preterm births are births occurring before 37 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 (SD) 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, 2021-2023, and the three-year average preterm birth rates are shown.
- The size of the gap between Black and White preterm births varies slightly between SDs but in every SD, Black infants are more likely to be born preterm.

Percent Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2006-2023

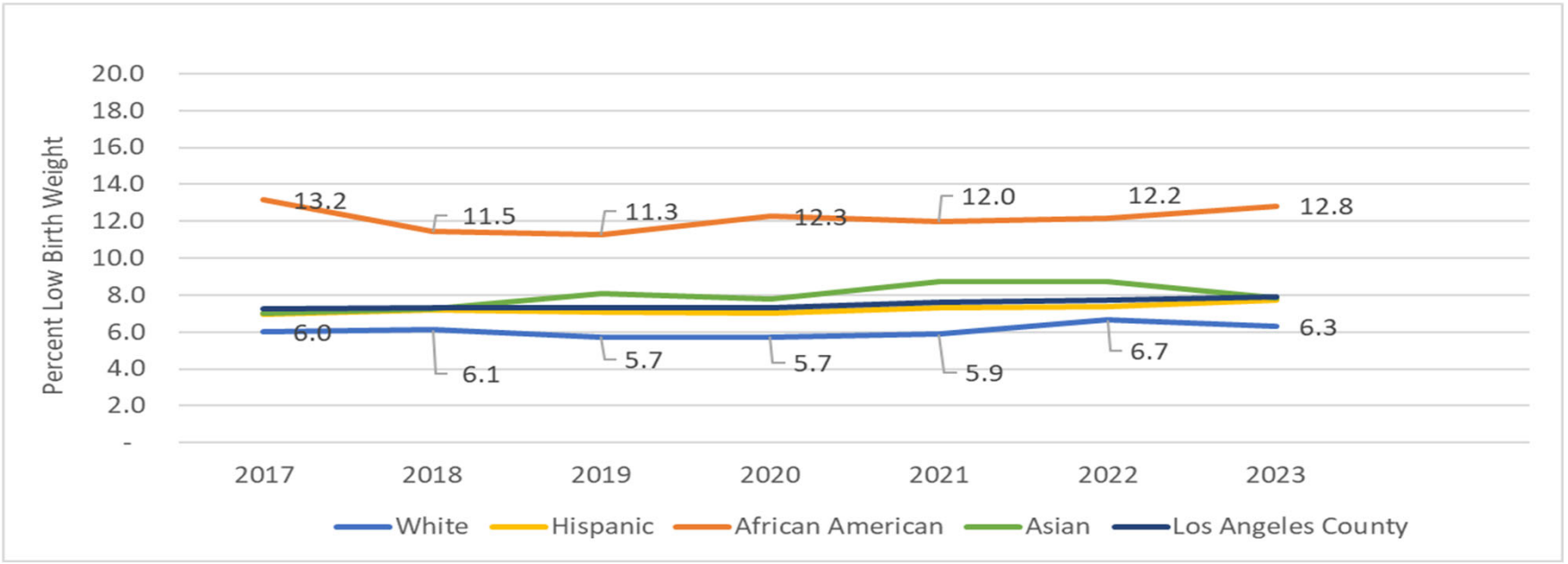


Notes: Low birth weight defined as birth weight below 2500 grams. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates. Three-year averages used to account for random annual rate fluctuations.
Data Source: 2005-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files. 2018-2023 Annual Birth Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Percent Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2006-2023

- 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 in Los Angeles County has remained relatively stable over the last 2 decades. In 2021-2023, the percent of Black low birth weight was 12.3, which was nearly 2 times that of White infants.

Percent Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2017-2023



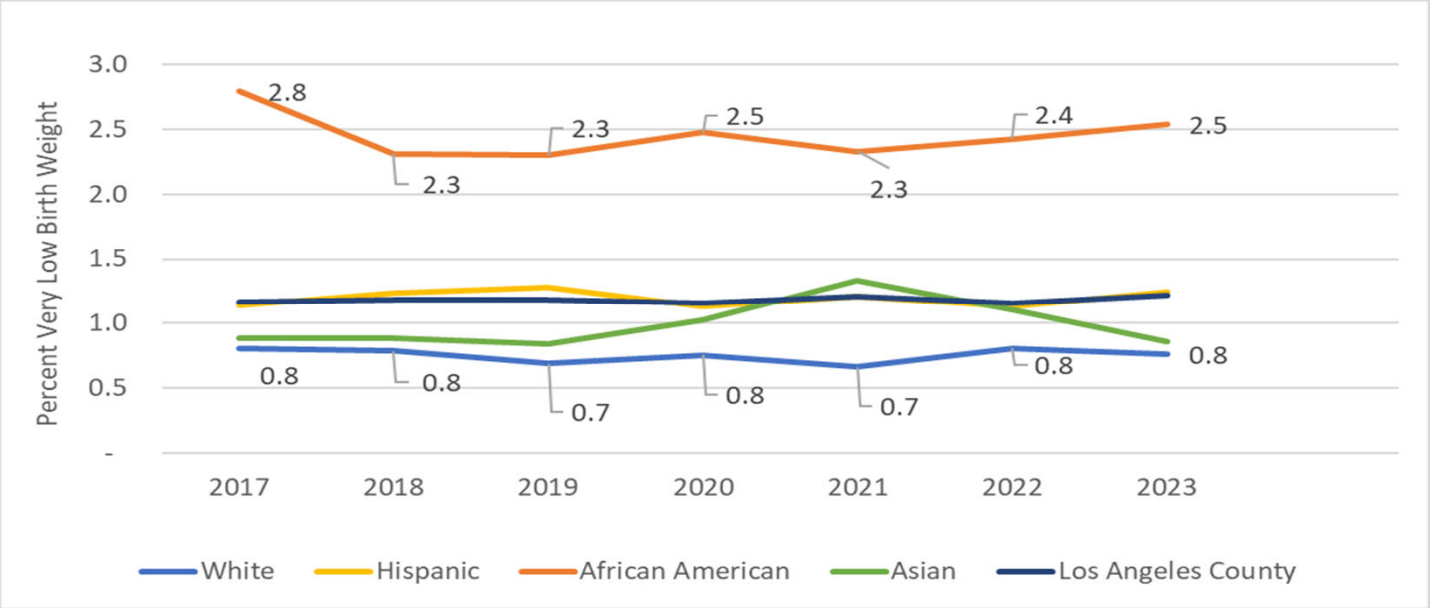
Notes Low birth weight defined as birth weight below 2500 grams at birth. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates.

Data Source: 2015-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files. 2018-2023 Annual Birth Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Percent Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2017-2023

- 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 2017 and 2023 have been mostly stable. In 2017, the percent of Black low birth weight was 2.2 times the percent of White low birth weight. In 2023, the percent of Black low birth weight continued to be 2 times the percent of White low birth weight.

Percent Very Low Birth Weight Births (<1500 grams) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2017-2023

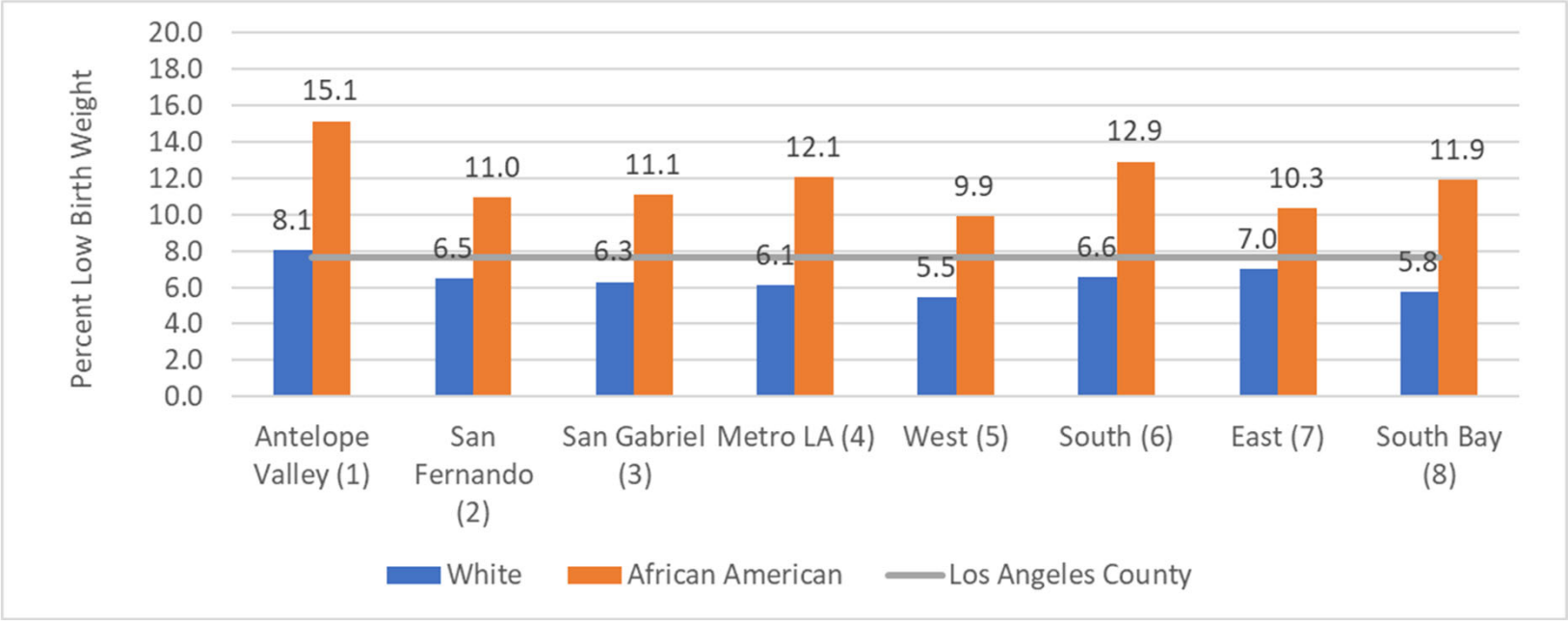


Notes: Very Low birth weight defined as birth weight below 1500 grams. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates.
Data Source: 2015-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master Files. 2018-2023 Annual Birth Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Percent Very Low Birth Weight Births (<1500 grams) by Mothers' Race/Ethnicity and Year, Los Angeles County 2017-2023

- 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 2017, the rate of very low birth weight among Black infants was 3.5 times the rate of very low birth weight for White infants. In 2023, this gap was 3.1.
- Like the trend seen among preterm and very preterm births, the Black/White gap is wider for *very* low birth weight compared to low birth weight.

Percent Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race and Service Planning Area (SPA), 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

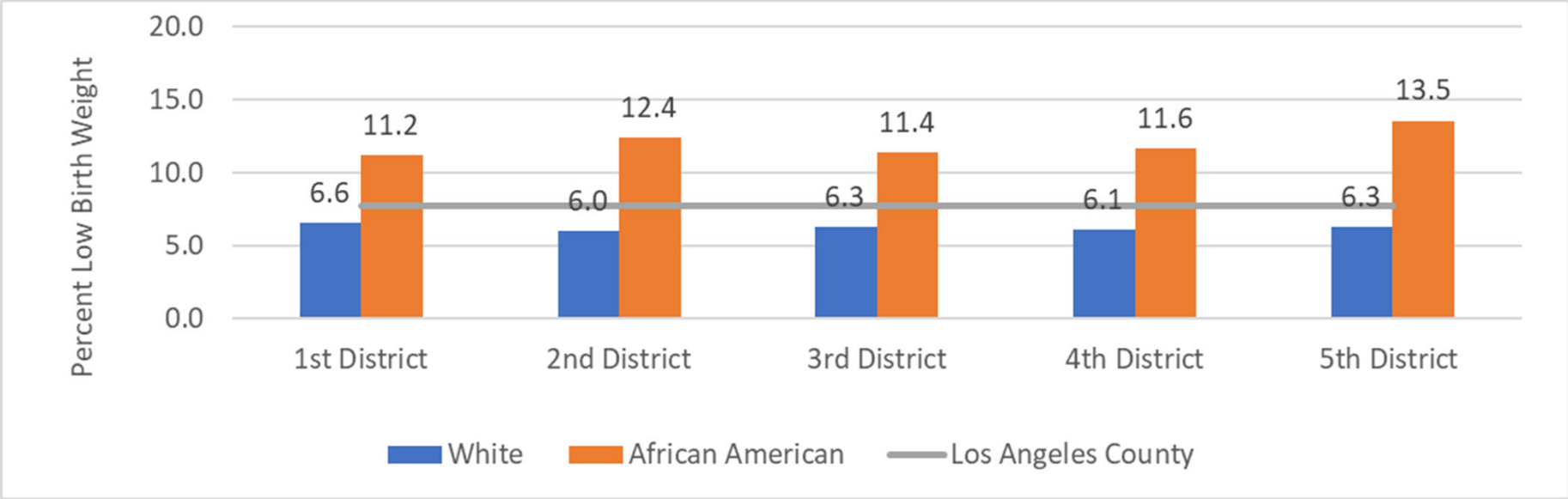


Notes: Low birth weight defined as birth weight below 2500 grams. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates. SPA designations based on 2020 census data.
Data Sources: 2021-2023 Annual Birth Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Percent Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race and Service Planning Area (SPA), 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

- 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, 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, 2021-2023, 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.

Percent Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race and Supervisorial District, 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

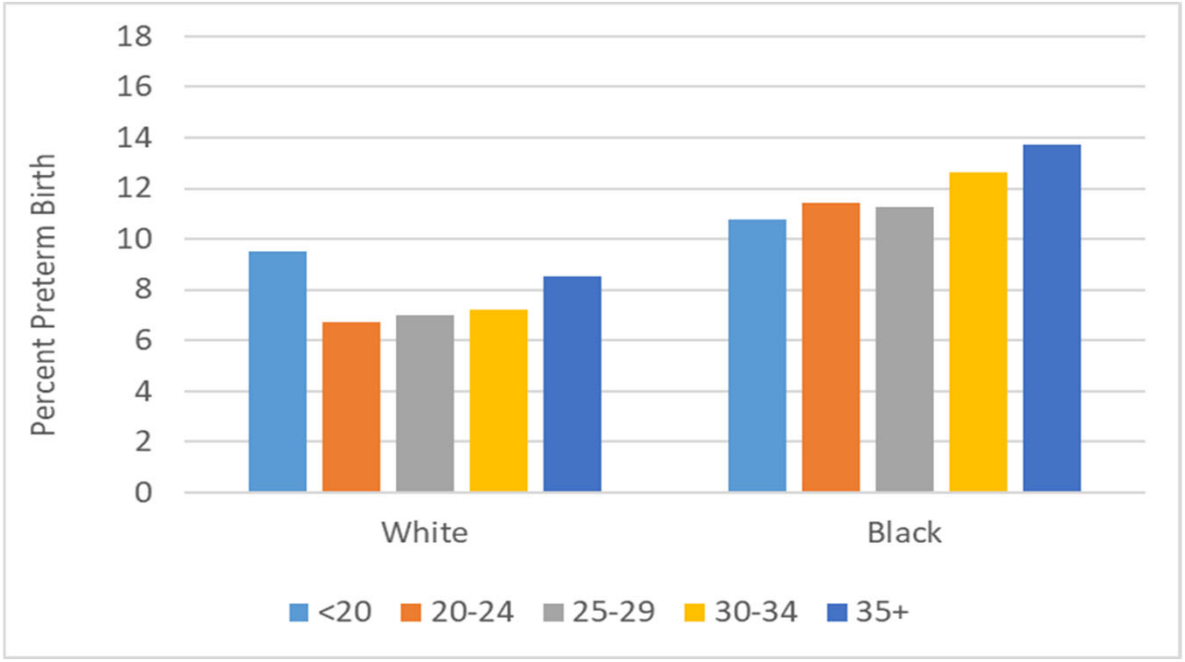


Notes: Low birth weight defined as birth weight below 2500 grams. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates. Supervisorial District designations based on 2020 census data.
Data Sources: 2021-2023 Annual Birth Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Percent Low Birth Weight Births (<2500 grams) by Mothers' Race and Supervisorial District (SD), 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

- 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, geographic region (SD) 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, 2021-2023, and the three-year average low birth weight rates are shown.
- The gap between the rate of low birth weight varies between SDs but in every SD Black infants are more likely to be born low birth weight.

Percent Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Age, 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023



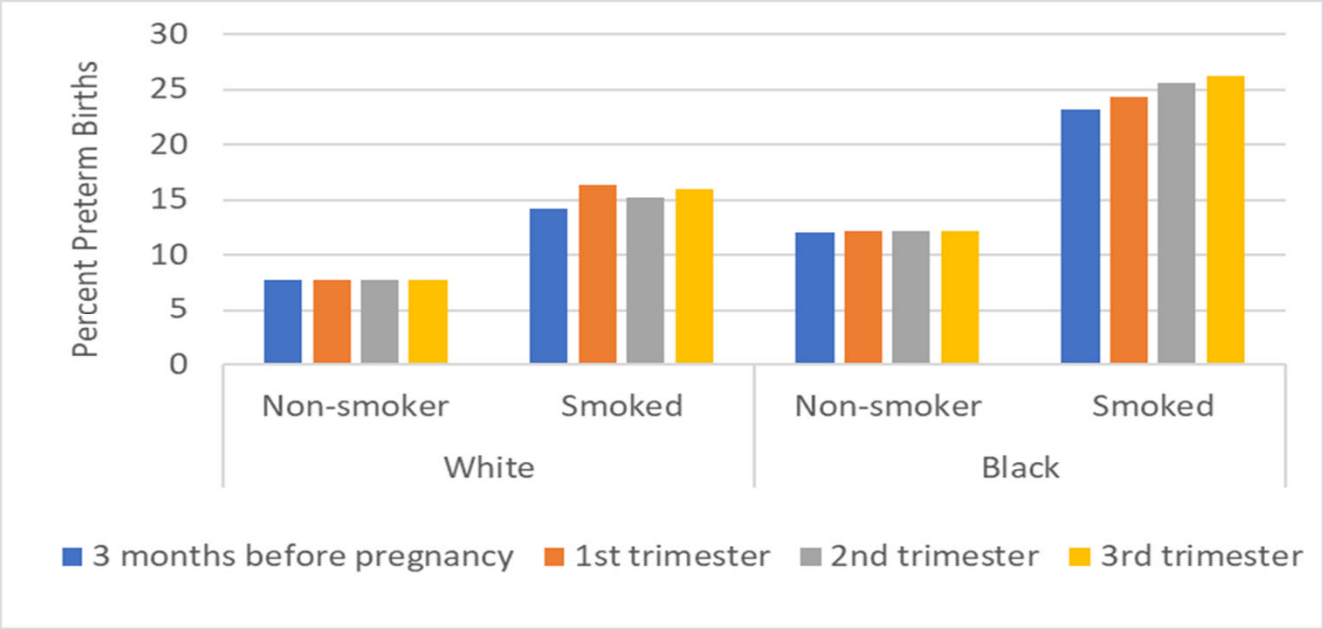
Notes: Preterm births are births occurring before 37 weeks gestation. Gestational age calculated based on obstetrical estimation. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates.
Data Sources: 2021-2023 Annual Birth Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Percent Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Age, 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

- Preterm births are births occurring before 37 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, 2021-2023, 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 may illustrate 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

Percent Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Smoking Status, 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

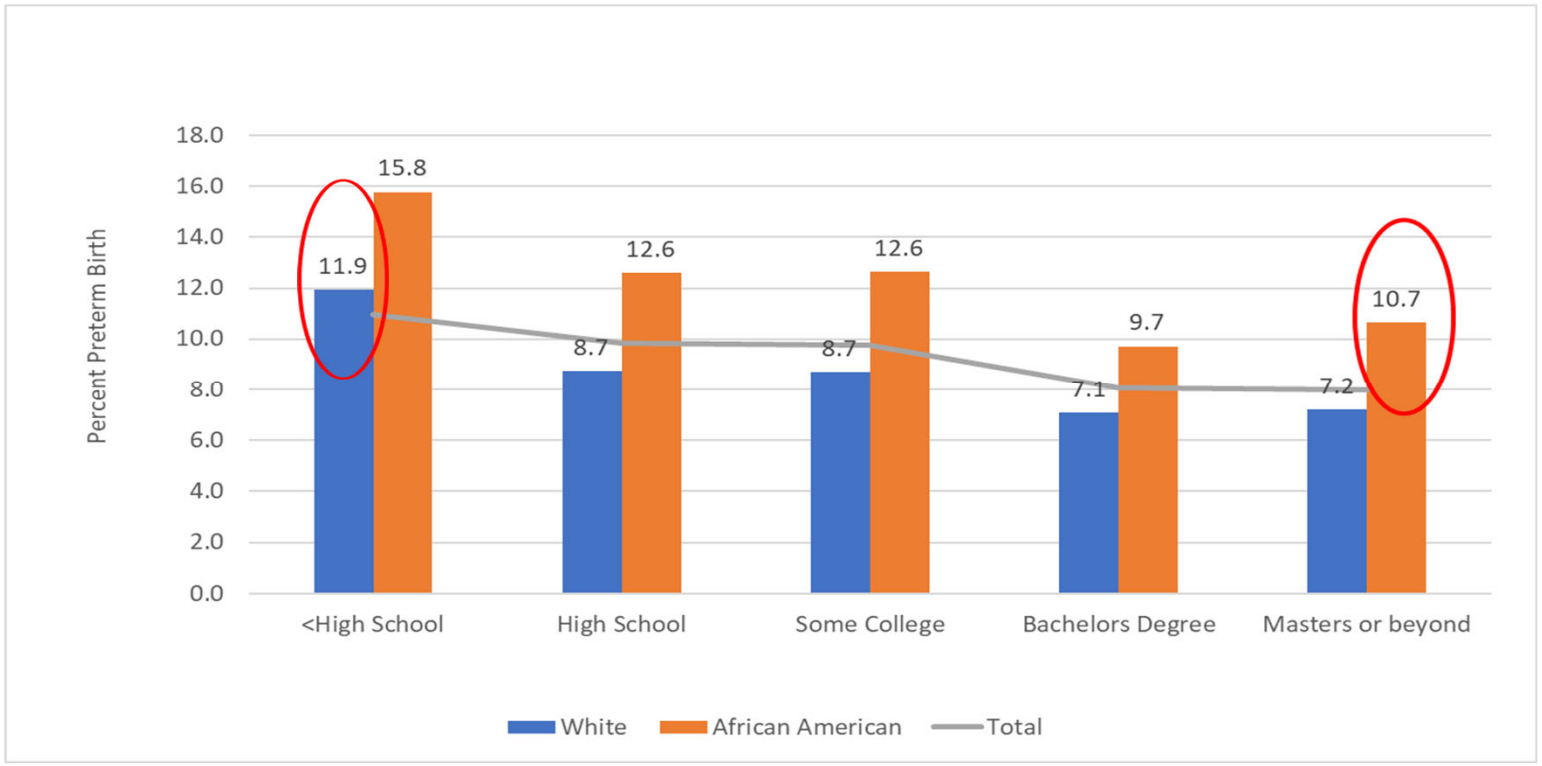


Notes: Preterm births are births occurring before 37 weeks gestation. Gestational age calculated based on obstetrical estimation. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates.
Data Sources: 2021-2023 Annual Birth Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Percent Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Smoking History, 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

- Preterm births are births occurring before 37 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, 2021-2023, 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 suggesting an effect described as "weathering."

Percent Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Education, 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023



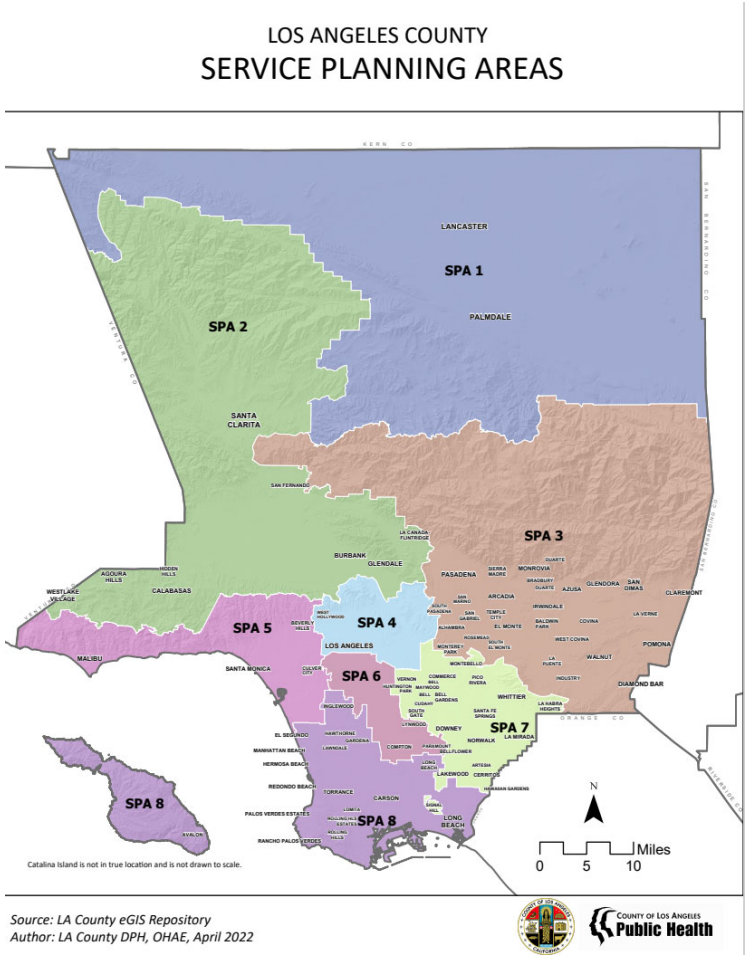
Notes: Preterm births are births occurring before 37 weeks gestation. Gestational age calculated based on obstetrical estimation. Education defined as educational attainment at time of delivery. Data not shown for American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Other, and Unknown races due to small cell sizes and unstable estimates.

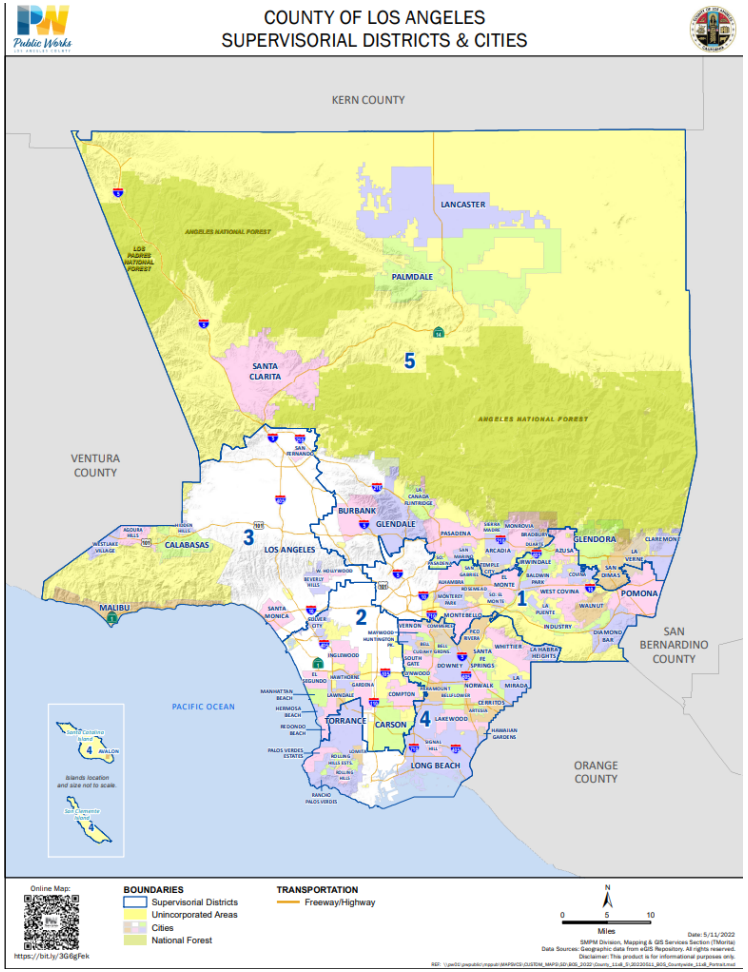
Data Sources: 2021-2023 Annual Birth Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Percent Preterm Births (<37 weeks) by Mothers' Race and Education, 3-Year Average, Los Angeles County 2021-2023

- Preterm births are births occurring before 37 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, 2021-2023, 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 show that greater maternal education is associated with decreases in the risk of preterm birth. However, Black women with a Master's Degree or beyond have nearly the same risk of preterm birth as White women with less than a high school education.

Geography Key





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