

## HEALTH DISPARITIES IN CONNECTICUT

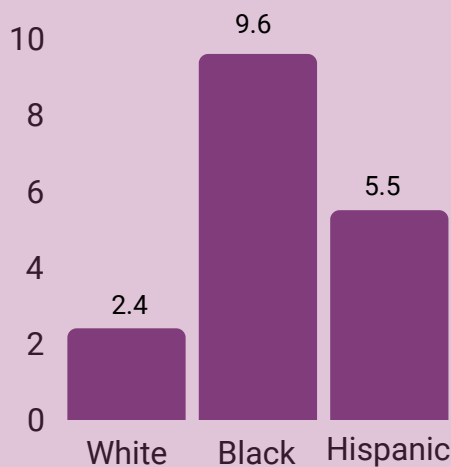
# INFANT AND MATERNAL HEALTH

## INFANT MORTALITY

Babies born to Black women in Connecticut are significantly more likely to die before their first birthday than babies born to white women.

### Infant mortality, Connecticut, 2020<sup>1</sup>

Per 1,000 live births

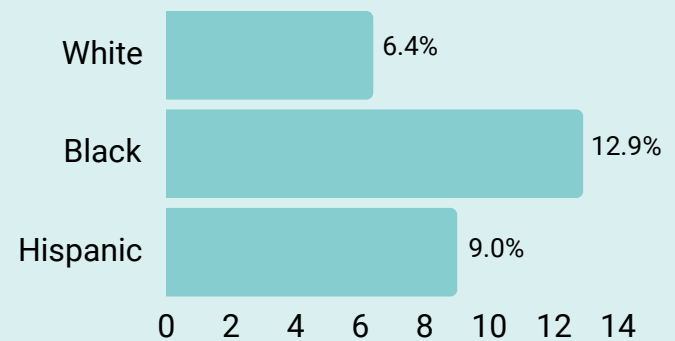


## LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

Black babies are twice as likely as white babies to be born weighing less than 5½ pounds, which can put them at higher risk for serious health and developmental consequences.

### Percent of babies with low birthweight, Connecticut, 2021<sup>2</sup>

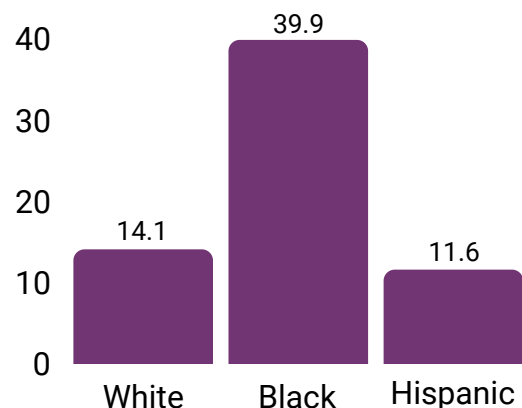
Low birthweight is less than 5 ½ pounds.



## MATERNAL HEALTH

There are significant racial and ethnic health disparities in pregnancy-related deaths. Black women are nearly three times as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes as white women.

### Pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births, U.S., 2017-2019<sup>3</sup>



Note: White and Black categories include only those who did not identify as Hispanic

While socioeconomic differences often correspond to differences in health outcomes, they do not fully explain these differences. A recent study<sup>4</sup> found that Black women with a college degree or higher were 1.6 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women without a high school diploma.

Among those with a college education or higher, Black women were 5.2 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women.

“Most pregnancy-related deaths can be prevented, and significant racial/ethnic disparities in pregnancy-related mortality need to be addressed,” the study authors wrote.

**“The lifelong effects of race, racism, social class, poverty, stress, environmental influences, health policy, and other social determinants of health are reflected in the elevated rates of adverse outcomes and persistent disparities.”** -Connecticut Department of Public Health, *Healthy People 2025*<sup>5</sup>

## SOURCES

1 KFF, [“Total Infant Deaths by Race/Ethnicity,”](#) 2020

2 KFF, [“Births of Low Birthweight as a Percent of All Births by Race/Ethnicity,”](#) 2021

3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [“Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System, Pregnancy-Related Deaths by Race/Ethnicity”](#) 2023

4 Petersen EE, Davis NL, Goodman D, et al. [Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths – United States, 2007–2016.](#) MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2019;68:762–765.

5 Connecticut Department of Public Health, [“Health Connecticut 2025: State Health Assessment,”](#) 2019, page 78