

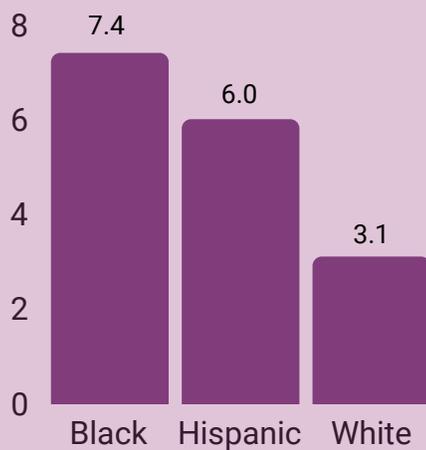
HEALTH DISPARITIES IN CONNECTICUT

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, 2023¹
 Per 1,000 live births

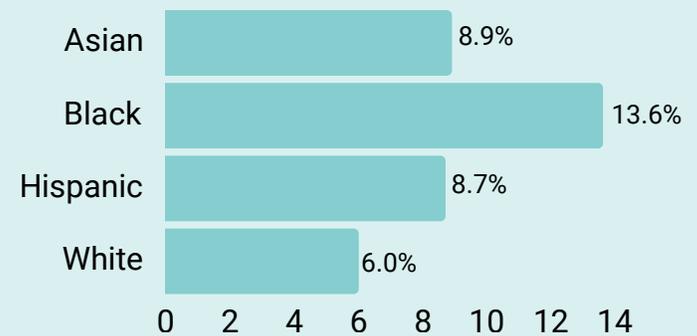


LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

Black babies are more than 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, 2023²
 Low birthweight is less than 5 ½ pounds.

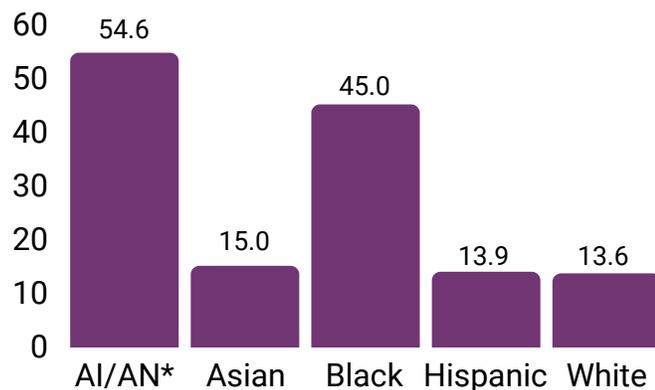
Low birthweight is less than 5 ½ pounds.



MATERNAL HEALTH

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

Pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births, U.S., 2024³

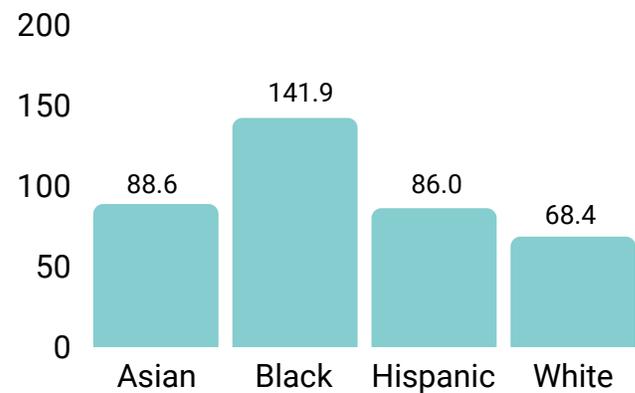


*American Indian or Alaska Native

SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY

Black women in Connecticut are twice as likely as their white counterparts to experience life-threatening complications related to pregnancy – a condition known as severe maternal morbidity. Connecticut ranks in the bottom half of the nation in this measure.

Severe maternal morbidity rates in Connecticut⁴
per 10,000 births, 2018-2020



While socioeconomic differences often correspond to differences in health outcomes, they do not fully explain these differences. A recent study⁵ 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.

ABOUT THE DATA

- White, Black, Asian, and AI/AN include only those who did not identify as Hispanic
- Rates for Asian and AI/AN populations are only included in some data sets

SOURCES

- 1 KFF, “[Total Infant Deaths by Race/Ethnicity](#),” 2023.
- 2 KFF, “[Births of Low Birthweight as a Percent of All Births by Race/Ethnicity](#),” 2023.
- 3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “[Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System, Pregnancy-Related Deaths by Race/Ethnicity](#)” 2024.
- 4 Connecticut Department of Public Health, “[Connecticut’s Severe Maternal Morbidity Report: 2010–2020](#),” 2023 (page 11).
- 5 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.

Learn more about health disparities and what we can do to improve health for everyone at www.cthealth.org.