

Birth outcomes in Clark County

Clark County Public Health – Health Assessment & Evaluation

Updated May 2024



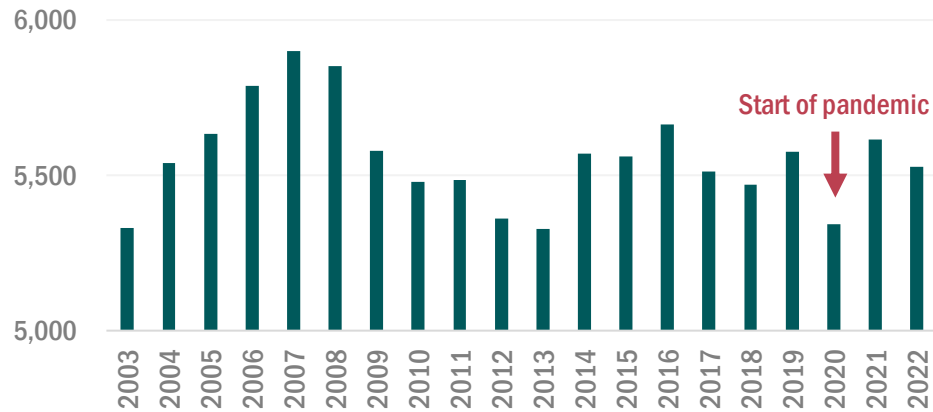
Birth rate



Births in Clark County

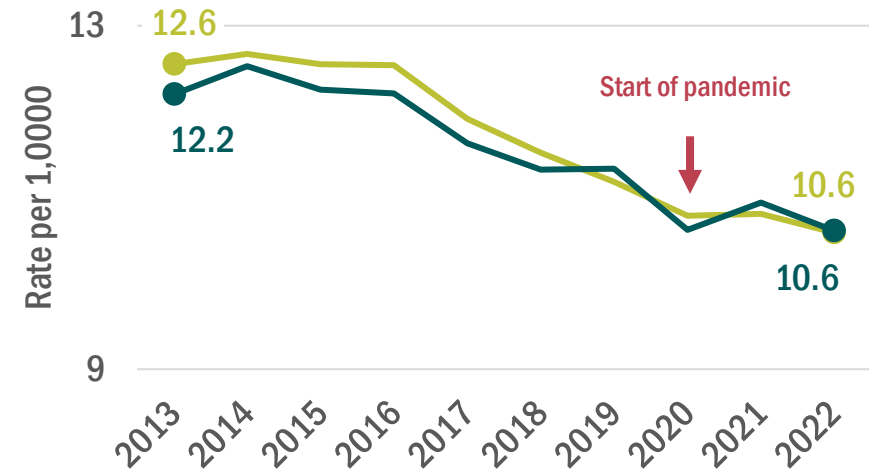
Number of births in Clark County, 2003-2022

On average, there are about 5,500 births in Clark County every year.



Birth rate in Clark County & WA State

Between 2013-2022, the birth rate per 1,000 population in **Clark County** decreased by about 13% and decreased by 16% in **Washington State**.



Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics Birth Certificate Data, Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT). Data represent births among Clark County residents.

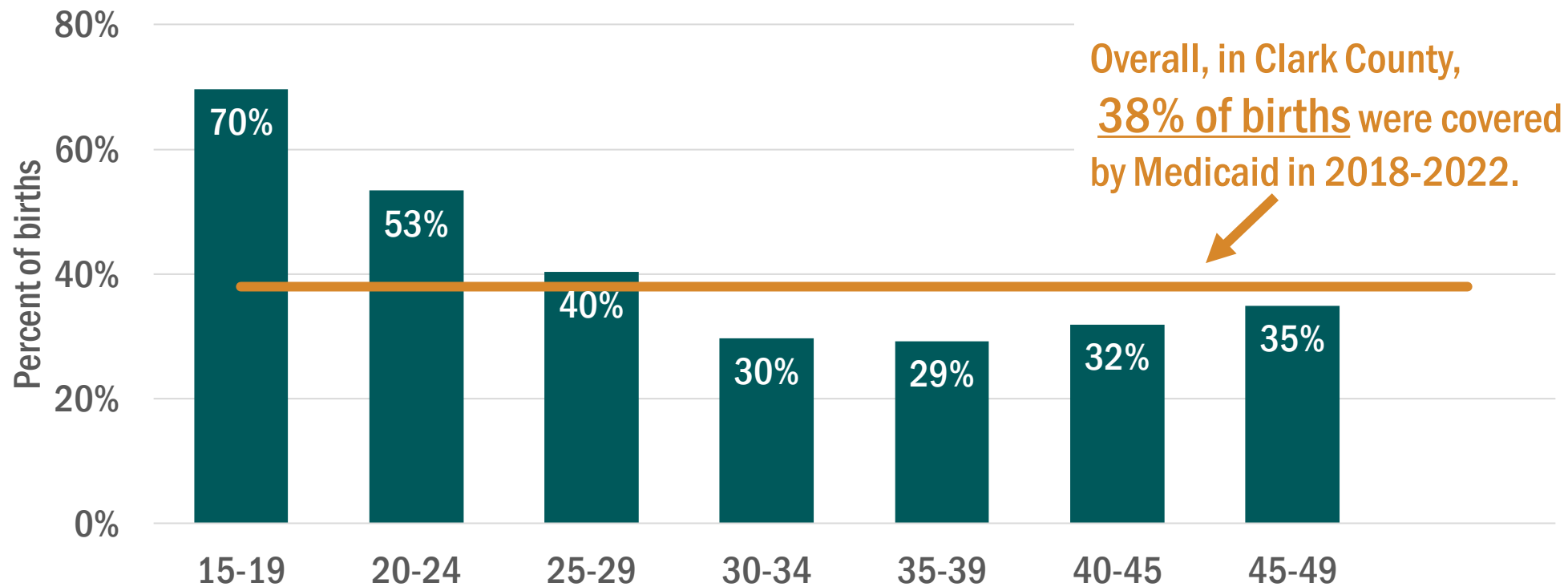


Demographics of Medicaid Births



Medicaid births by age

Between 2018-2022, the highest rates of Medicaid births in Clark County were among younger birthing parents in their teens and early 20s.



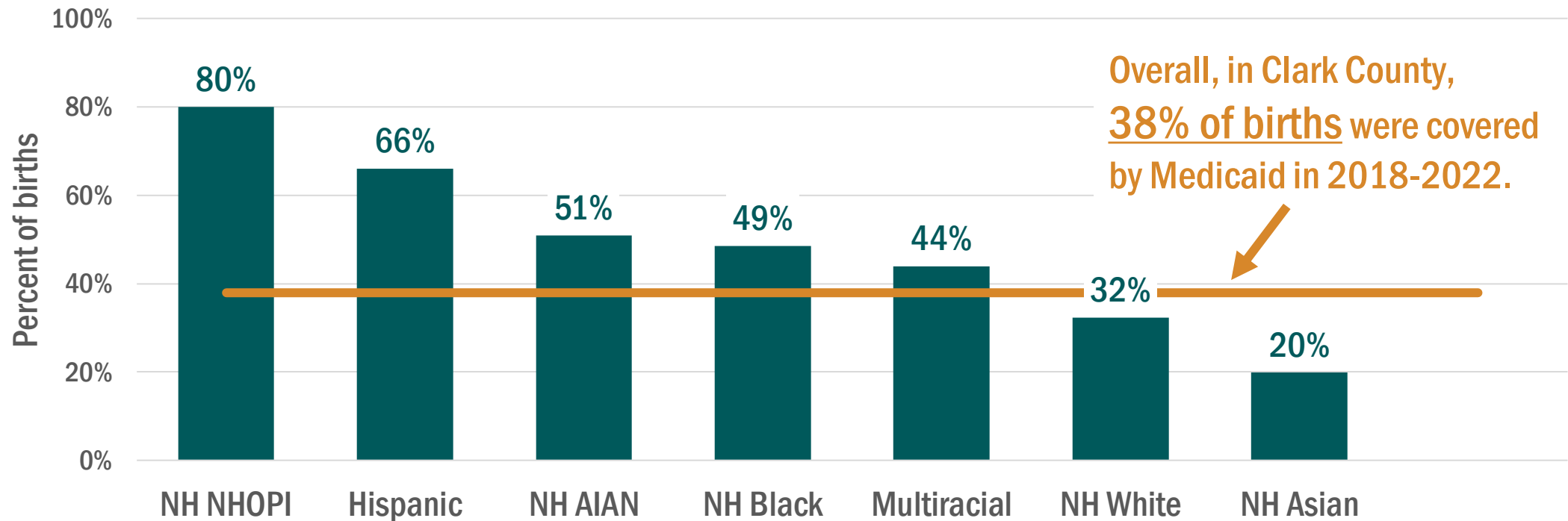
Overall, in Clark County, 38% of births were covered by Medicaid in 2018-2022.



Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics Birth Certificate Data. Data represent births among Clark County residents.

Medicaid births by race/ethnicity

Between 2018-2022, the highest rates of Medicaid births in Clark County were among Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and Native American birthing parents.



Overall, in Clark County, 38% of births were covered by Medicaid in 2018-2022.



Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics Birth Certificate Data. Data represent births among Clark County residents.

Access to prenatal care

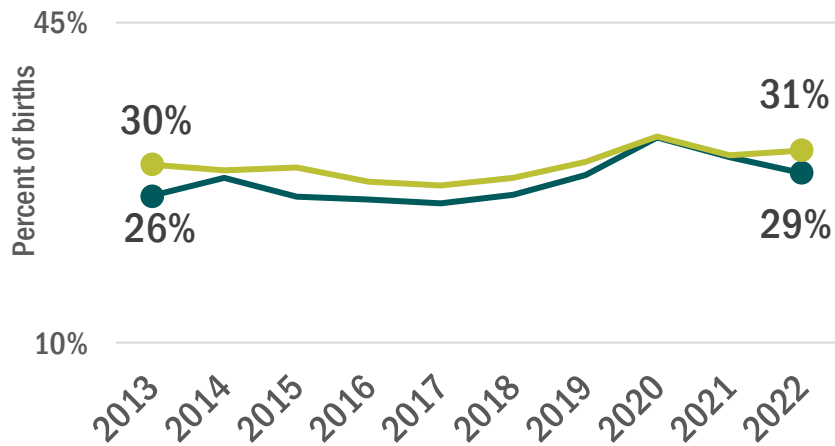


Inadequate Prenatal Care

In 2022, about **29%** of birthing persons in Clark County received **inadequate prenatal care**. (received less than 80% of expected visits).

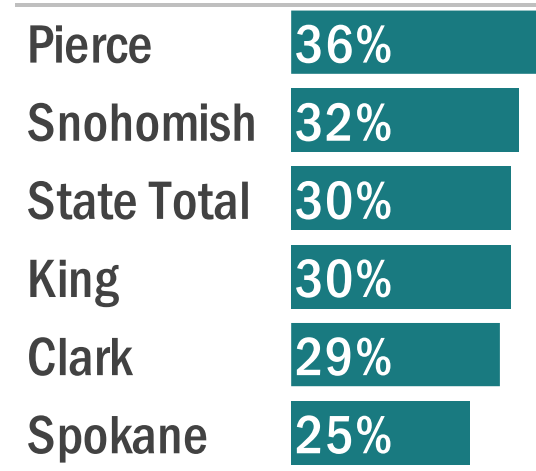
Inadequate prenatal care trend

The percent of birthing parents with inadequate prenatal care increased in **Clark County** & **Washington State** between 2013 and 2020.



Prenatal care in counties like us

Between 2018-2022, rates of inadequate prenatal care in Clark County was similar to Washington State and slightly lower compared to counties like us.



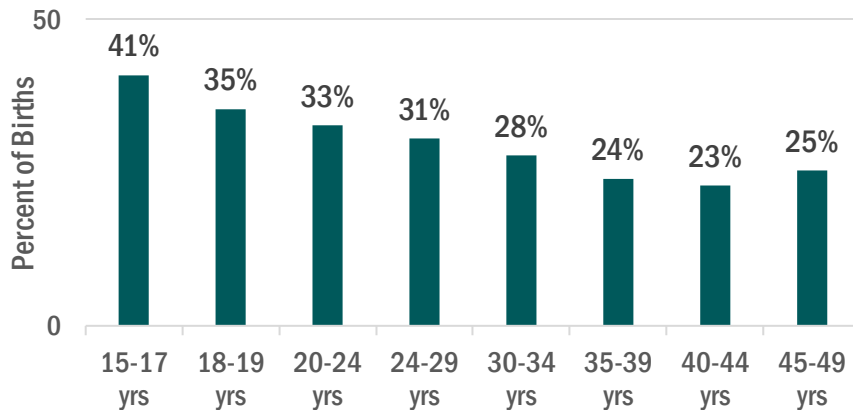
Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics Birth Certificate Data, Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT). Data represent births among Clark County residents.

Inadequate Prenatal Care by age & race

In 2022, about **29%** of birthing persons in Clark County received **inadequate prenatal care**. (received less than 80% of expected visits).

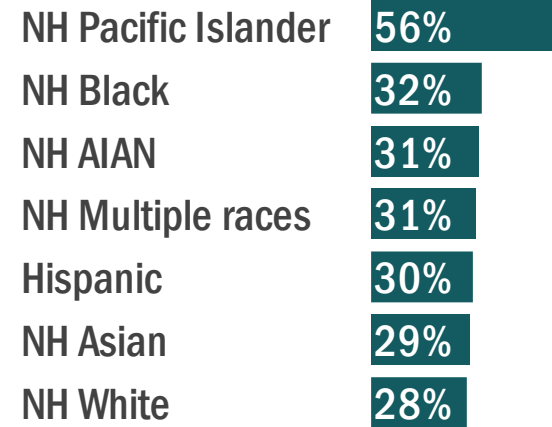
Prenatal care by age groups

Younger birthing parents especially under age 20 were more likely than older birthing parents to receive inadequate prenatal care between 2018-2022 in Clark County.



Prenatal care by race/ethnicity

Non-Hispanic (NH) Pacific Islander birthing parents were **twice as likely** compared to NH White birthing parents to receive inadequate prenatal care between 2018-2022 in Clark County.



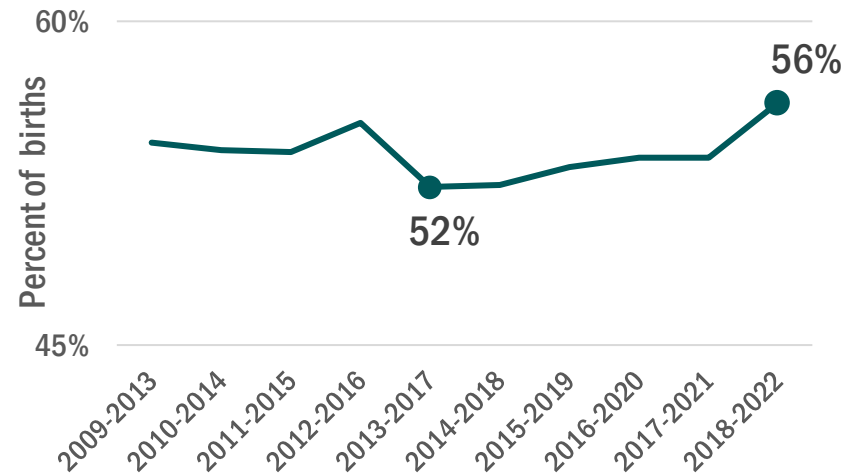
Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics Birth Certificate Data, Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT). Data represent births among Clark County residents.

Inadequate Prenatal Care among Pacific Islanders

Between 2018-2022, about **56%** of birthing persons identifying as Pacific Islander in Clark County received **inadequate prenatal care**. (received less than 80% of expected visits).

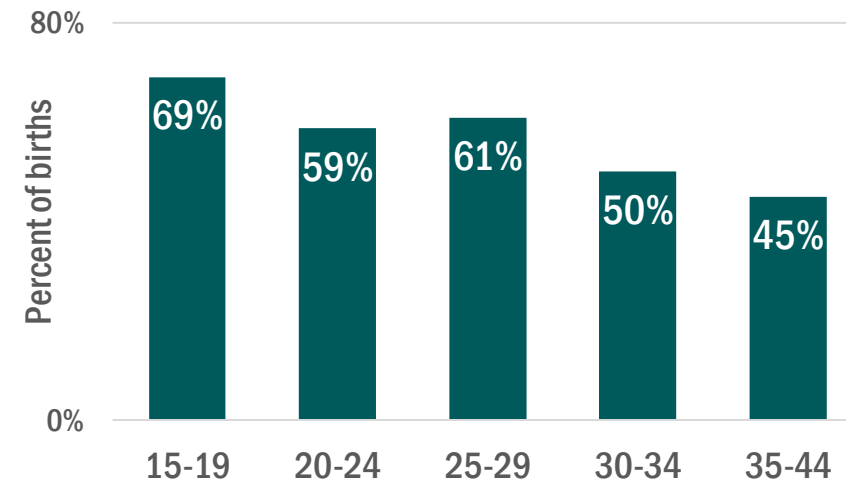
Inadequate prenatal care trend among NHOPI

The percent of Pacific Islander birthing parents with inadequate prenatal care has been increasing in Clark County since 2017.



Prenatal care by age groups among NHOPI

Younger Pacific Islander birthing parents, especially under age 20 were more likely than older Pacific Islander birthing parents to receive inadequate prenatal care between 2018-2022 in Clark County.



Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics Birth Certificate Data, Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT). Data represent births among Clark County residents.



Pregnancy risk factors: Gestational diabetes & hypertension

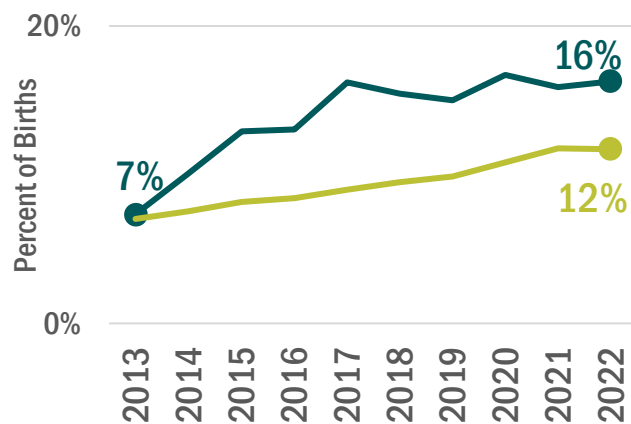


Gestational Diabetes

In Clark County in 2022, about 16% of births were affected by gestational diabetes.

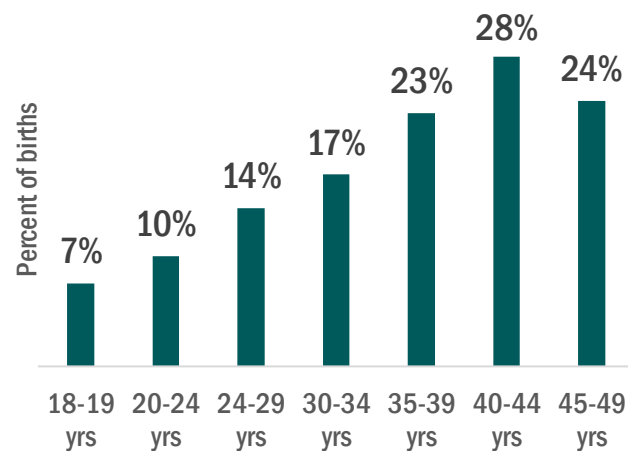
Gestational diabetes trend

The percent of birthing parents with gestational diabetes increased between 2013 and 2022 in **Clark County & WA State**.



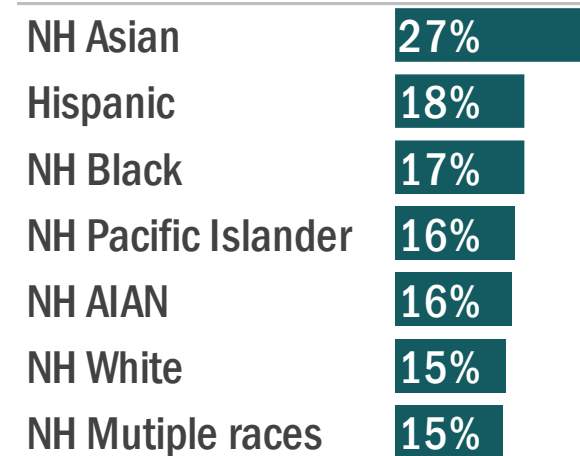
Age

In 2018-2022, the risk of gestational diabetes was highest among older birthing parents in Clark County.



Race/ethnicity

In 2018-2022, **Non-Hispanic Asian** birthing parents had the highest risk of gestational diabetes in Clark County.



Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics Birth Certificate Data, Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT).
Data represent births among Clark County residents.

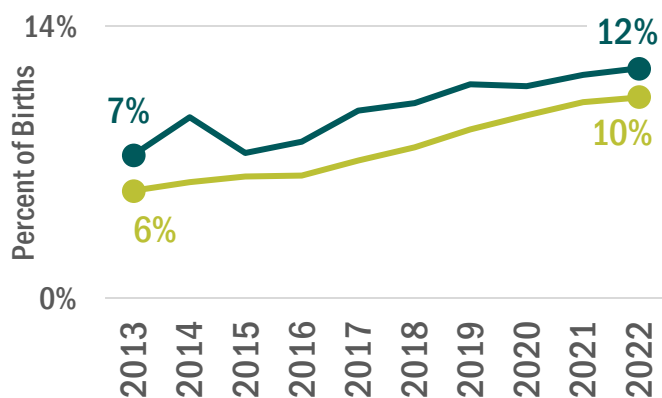


Gestational Hypertension

In Clark County in 2022, about 12% of births were affected by gestational hypertension.

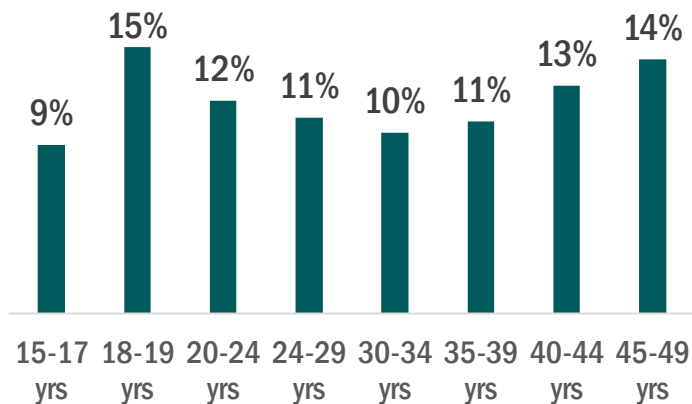
Gestational hypertension trend

The percent of birthing parents with gestational hypertension increased between 2013-2022 in **Clark County** & **WA State**.



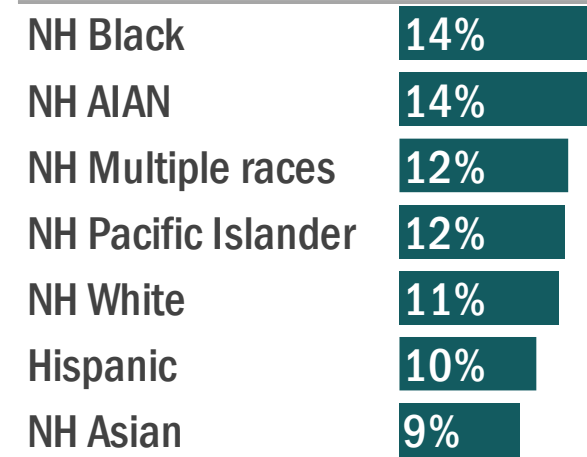
Age

In 2018-2022, the risk of gestational hypertension was highest among birthing parents ages 18-19 and 40+.



Race/ethnicity

In 2018-2022, **Non-Hispanic Black** and **American Indian/Alaska Native** birthing parents had the highest risk of gestational hypertension in Clark County.



Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics Birth Certificate Data, Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT). Data represent births among Clark County residents.



Birth outcomes: C-section, premature birth, low birth weight

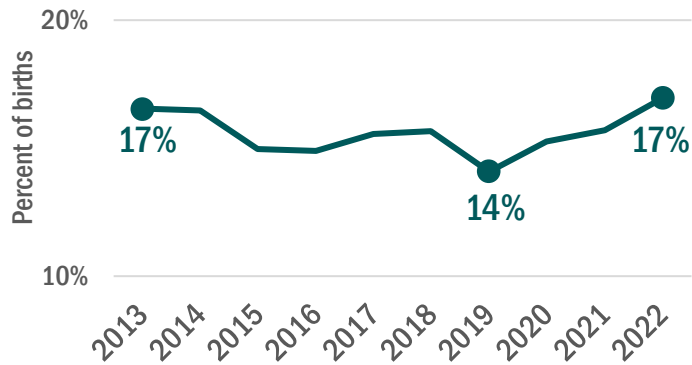


C-section

In 2022, about **17%** of birthing persons in Clark County had a primary c-section. (without a previous c-section)

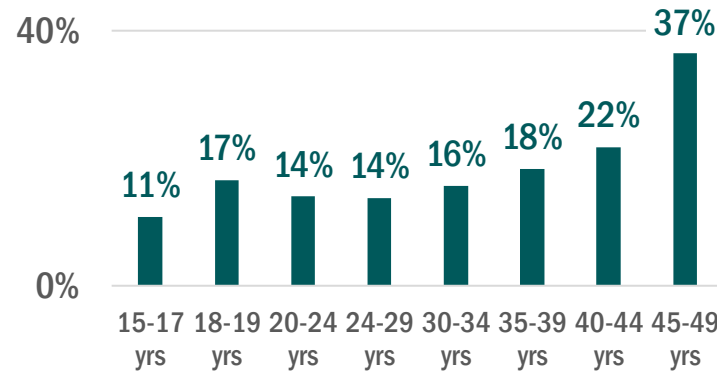
Primary c-section in Clark County

The percent of birthing parents with a primary c-section **increased** between 2019 and 2022.



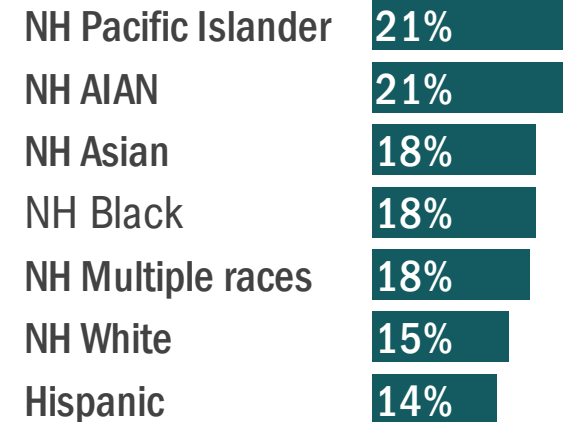
Birthing parent age

In 2018-2022, the rate of primary c-section was higher among older birthing parents in Clark County.



Birthing parent race/ethnicity

In 2018-2022, the rate of primary c-section was slightly higher among non-Hispanic **Pacific Islander and Native American** birthing parents in Clark County.



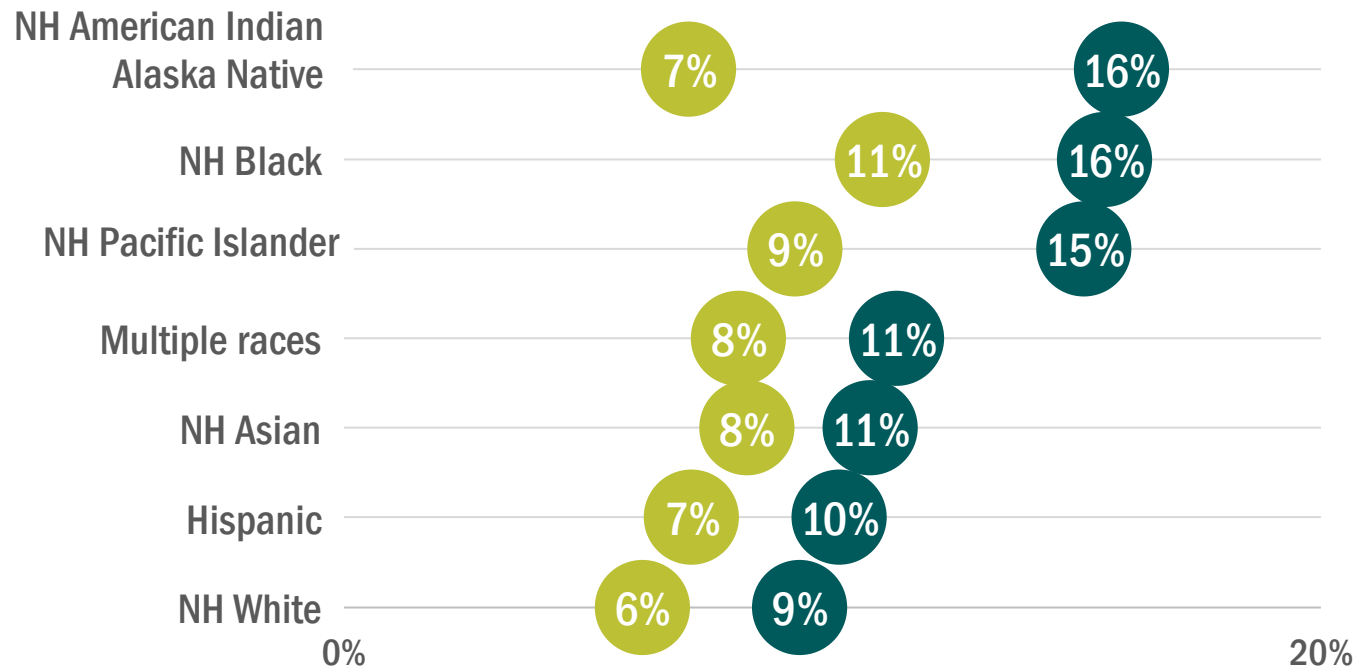
Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics Birth Certificate Data, Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT). Data represent births among Clark County residents.



Premature Birth & Low Birth Weight

In Clark County in 2022, about 10% of births were premature and 7% of births had low birth weight.

In Clark County between 2018-2022, the highest rates of **premature birth** and **low birth weight** were among Native American, Black, and Pacific Islander birthing parents.



By age, risk of premature birth and low birth weight were highest among birthing parents in their teens and over 40 years of age.

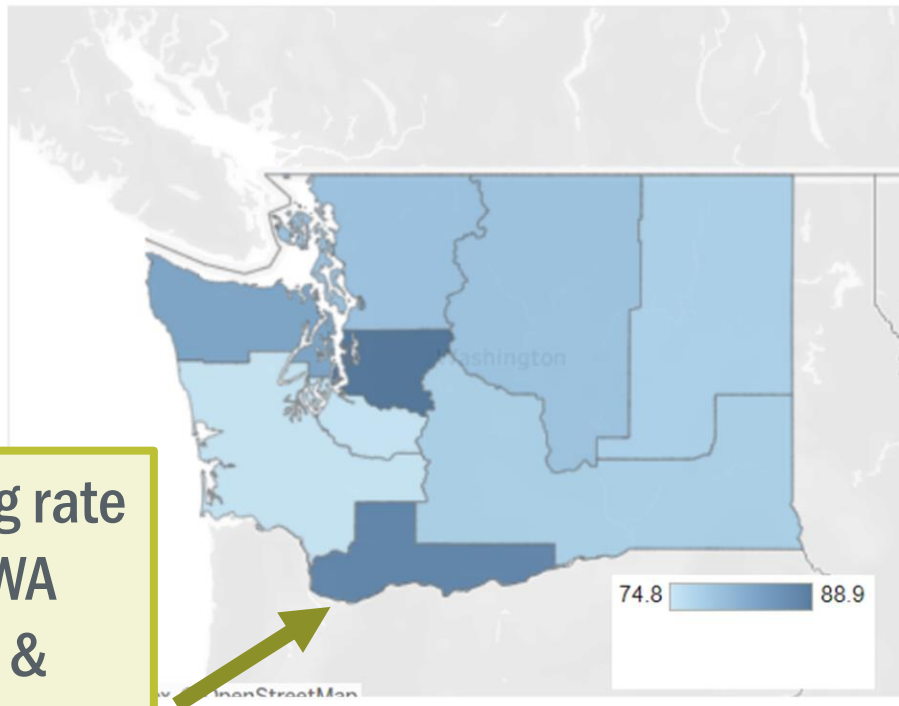


Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding at 8 Weeks - State Percent, 2019-2021

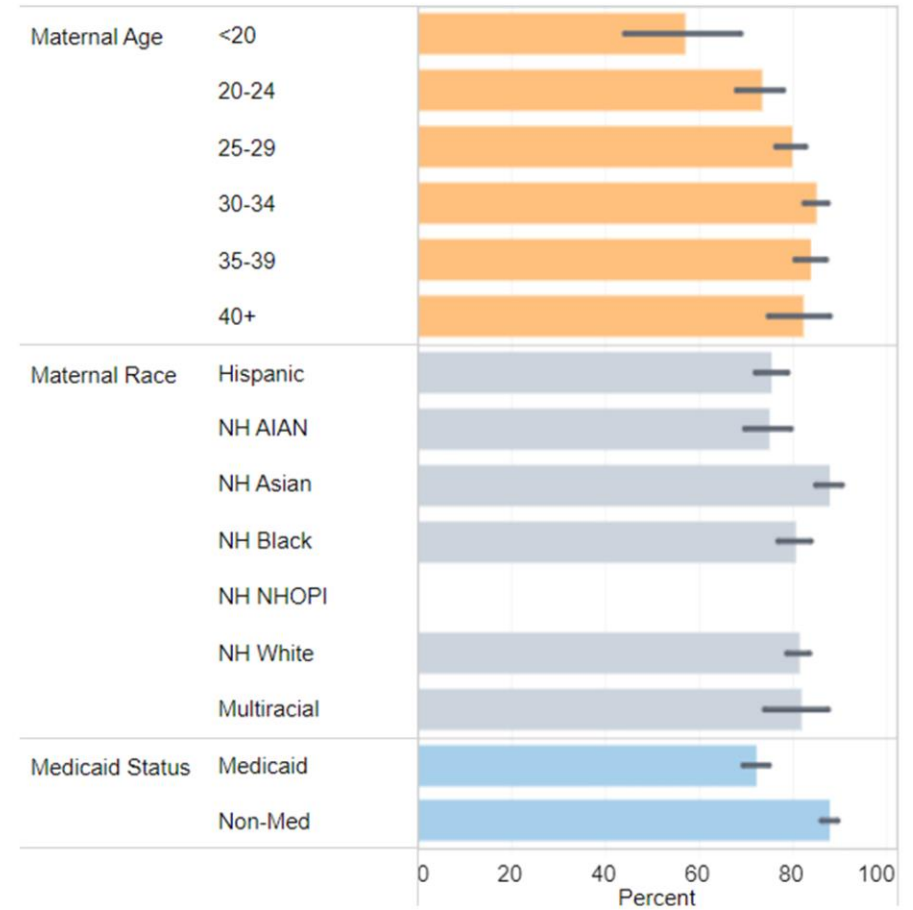
81.1%

Breastfeeding at 8 Weeks by ACH, 2019-2021



87% breastfeeding rate at 8 weeks in SW WA (Clark, Skamania, & Klickitat Counties)

Breastfeeding at 8 Weeks by Age, Race, and Medicaid Status, 2019-2021



Source: Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) - Washington State Department of Health Perinatal Dashboard

<https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/perinatal-data/dashboard>



Fetal Death

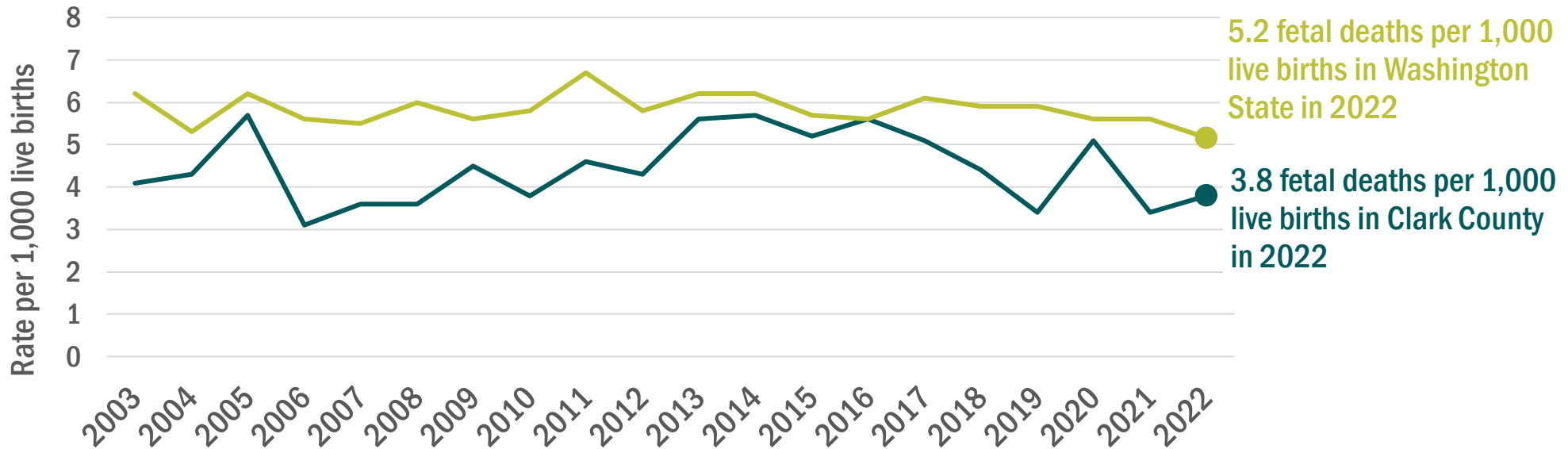


Fetal Death Rate

Fetal deaths occur when a fetus has reached 20 or more weeks of gestation but dies before birth due to natural causes.

- In 2022, the fetal death rate in **Clark County** was lower than the **Statewide** rate.
- The fetal death rate in Clark County increased between 2006-2014, decreased between 2016-2019, and increased during the pandemic in 2020.

Fetal Death Rate in Clark County & Washington State



Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Fetal Death Data. Data represent fetal deaths among Clark County residents.

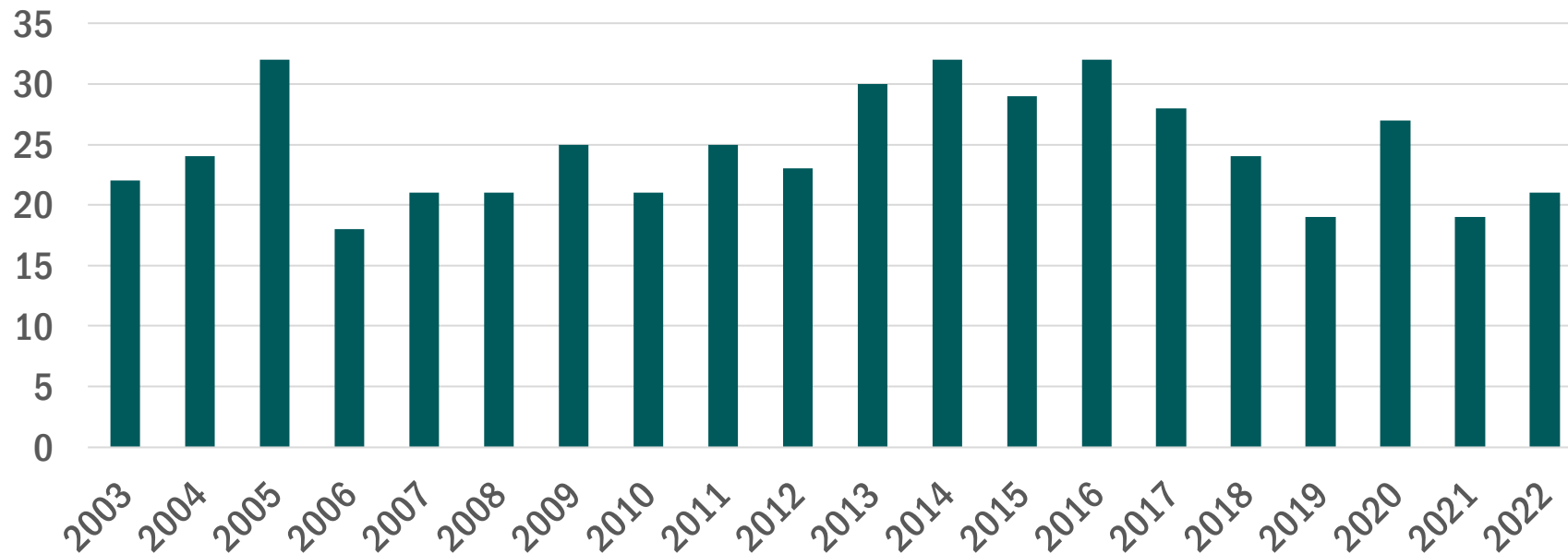
<https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/fetal-and-infant-death-data/fetal-infant-deaths-county>



Number of fetal deaths in Clark County by year

On average there were about 20 to 30 fetal deaths every year in Clark County over the last decade. The number of fetal deaths in Clark County increased between 2006-2014, decreased between 2016-2019, and increased during the pandemic in 2020.

Number of fetal deaths in Clark County, 2003-2022



Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Fetal Death Data. Data represent fetal deaths among Clark County residents.

<https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/fetal-and-infant-death-data/fetal-infant-deaths-county>



Fetal Death by race/ethnicity

Fetal death rate per 1,000 live births
Between 2016-2022, Hispanic and BIPOC birthing parents experienced higher rates of fetal death, compared to non-Hispanic White birthing parents.

Hispanic

4.8

BIPOC

4.6

NH White

3.5

Among all fetal deaths between 2016-2022 in Clark County:

- 55% were among birthing parents identifying as non-Hispanic White.
- 16% were among birthing parents identifying as Hispanic.
- 7% were among birthing parents born in Eastern Europe.

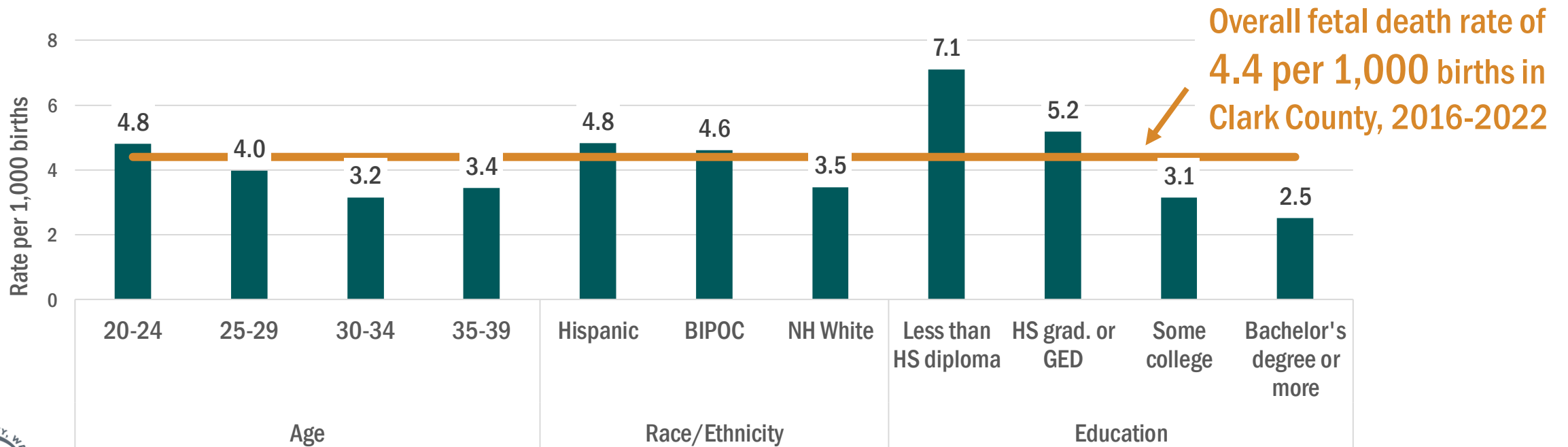
Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Fetal Death Certificate Data.
Data represent fetal deaths among Clark County residents.



Fetal death by demographics

Fetal death rate by birthing parent age, race/ethnicity, and education level in Clark County (rate per 1,000 live births)

Between 2016-2022, younger birthing parents ages 20-24, birthing parents identifying as Hispanic or BIPOC, and birthing parents with a high school diploma or less experienced higher rates of fetal death compared to the overall Clark County population.



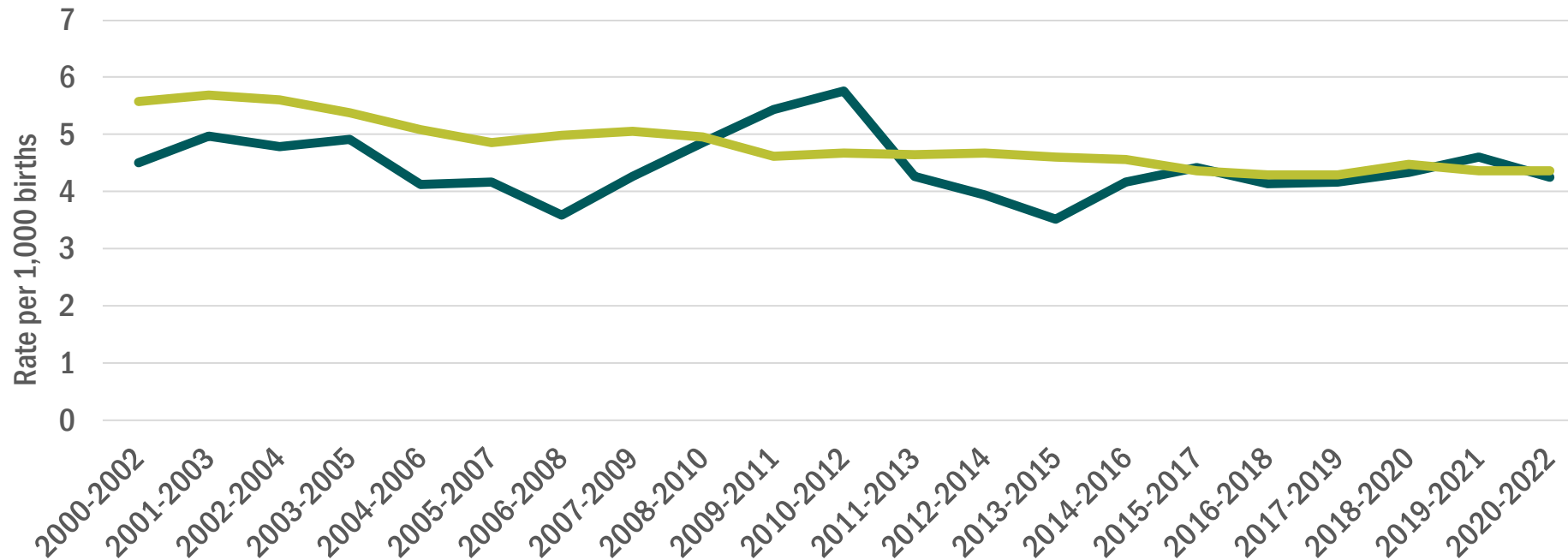
Infant Death



Total Infant Death Rate

The total infant death rate in Clark County & Washington State

In Clark County between 2020-2022, the infant death rate was 4.2 per 1,000 live births, and was similar to Washington State. Total infant death includes all deaths during the first 365 days after birth.

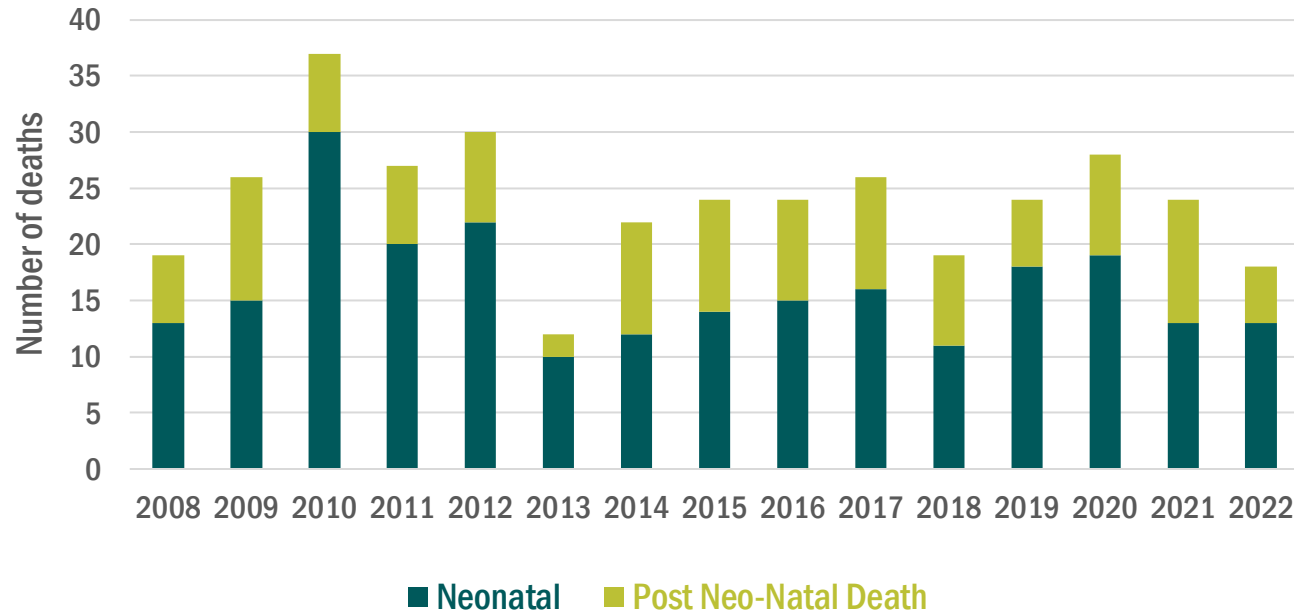


Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data. Data represent deaths among Clark County residents.



Infant Deaths in Clark County

Total infant deaths: **Neonatal** vs **Post Neonatal**
Neonatal deaths represent about two-thirds of all infant deaths in Clark County.



- Total infant deaths include deaths during the first 365 days after birth.
- **Neonatal deaths** include deaths prior to the 28th day after birth.
- **Post neo-natal deaths** include deaths from the 28th through the 365th day after birth.

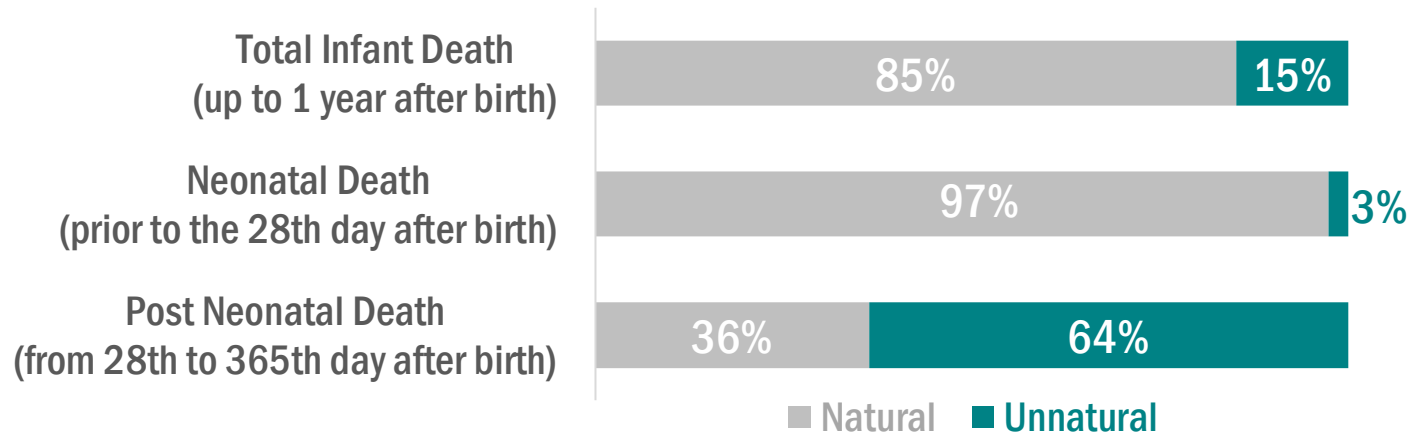
Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data. Data represent deaths among Clark County residents.



Causes of Infant Death

Natural vs Unnatural Causes of Infant Death

In Clark County between 2017-2021, most neonatal deaths (97%) were due to natural causes, while more than half of post-neonatal deaths (64%) were due to unnatural causes.



Between 2017-2021 in Clark County:

- Top natural causes of infant death were:
 - congenital anomalies (26%)
 - preterm birth (21%)
 - pregnancy complications (13%)
- Top unnatural causes of infant death were:
 - Unintentional suffocation and strangulation in bed (72%)
 - Unintentional drowning (11%)

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data. Data represent deaths among Clark County residents.



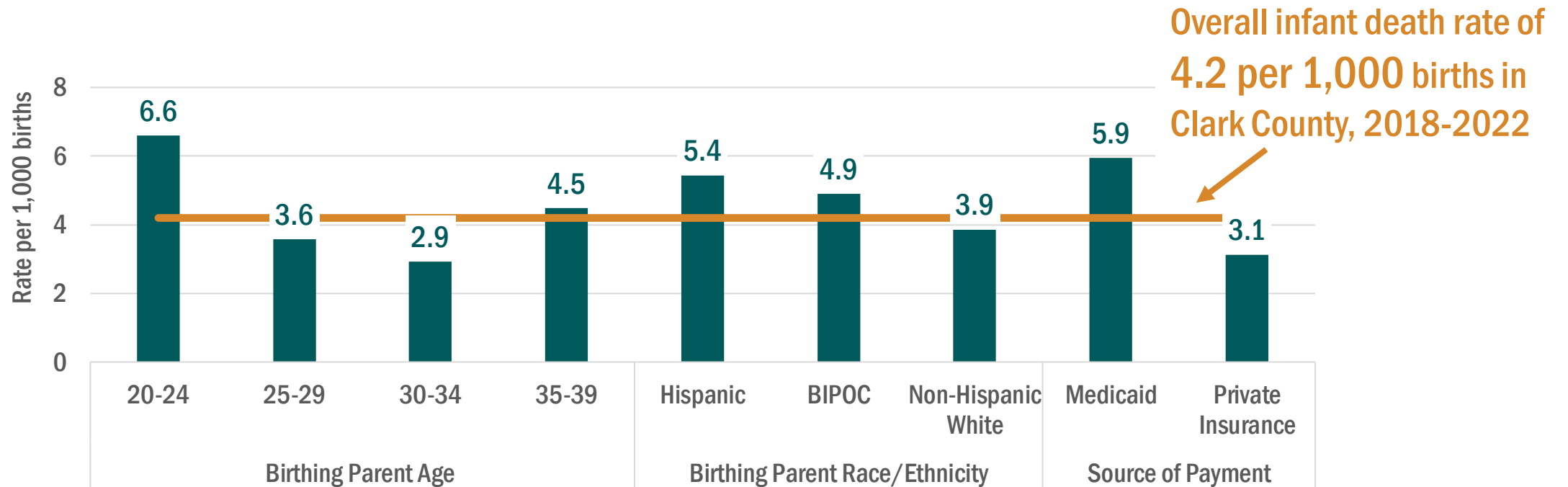
Infant Death by Demographics



Infant death by demographics

Infant death rate by age, race/ethnicity, and payer status in Clark County, 2018-2022

Younger birthing parents ages 20-24, birthing parents identifying as Hispanic or BIPOC, and Medicaid births had higher rates of infant death compared to the overall Clark County population.



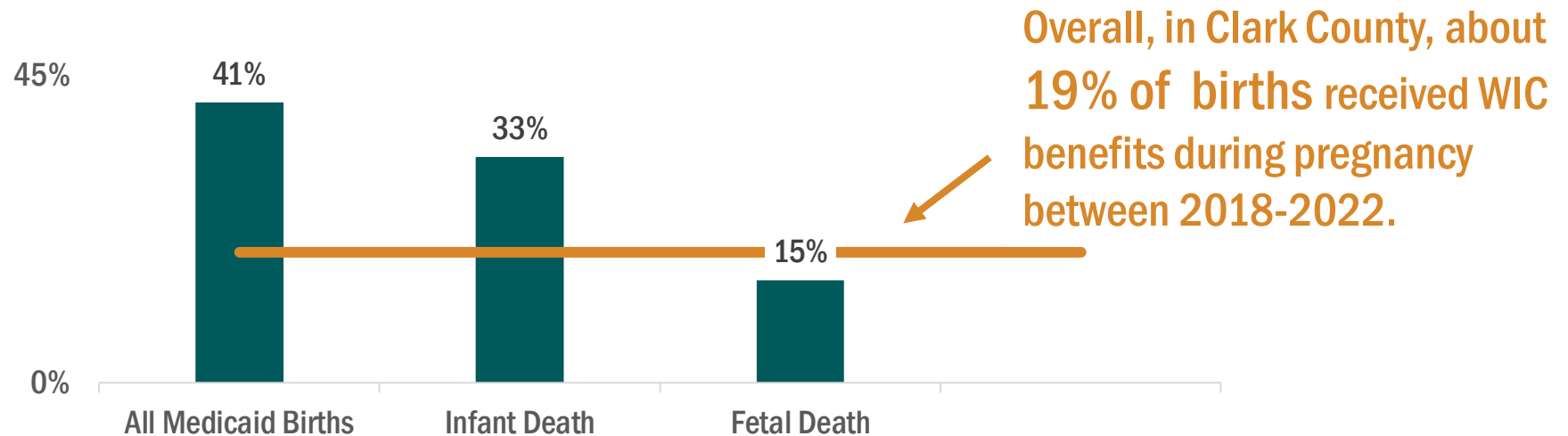
Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Linked Birth and Infant Death Certificate Data.
Data represent deaths among Clark County residents.



WIC Nutrition Program

Participation in WIC Nutrition Program during pregnancy

- Among all live births in Clark County in 2018-2022, 19% of birthing parents received WIC benefits during pregnancy. WIC participation was higher among Medicaid births (41%).
- 33% of infant deaths in Clark County in 2018-2022 received WIC benefits during pregnancy.
- 15% of fetal deaths in Clark County in 2016-2022 received WIC benefits during pregnancy.



Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth, Fetal Death, and Linked Birth-Infant Death Certificate Data.
Data represent deaths among Clark County residents.



Infant death by demographics

Top zip code areas in Clark County with infant deaths between 2018-2022



Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Linked Birth and Infant Death Certificate Data.
Data represent deaths among Clark County residents.



Sleep-related infant death



Sleep-related infant death

- Accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed is the leading cause of unnatural death among infants Clark County.
- The number of sleep-related infant deaths has been increasing over the last decade.
- Between 2018-2022, on average there have been about 3 sleep-related infant deaths every year in Clark County.



Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data. Data represent deaths among Clark County residents.



Questions?

For additional statewide indicators, explore the new WA State Dept. of Health [Perinatal Dashboard](#)

Contact Clark County Public Health – Assessment & Evaluation team with any questions or data requests:
CntyHealthHAE@clark.wa.gov

