

Birth outcomes in Clark County

Clark County Public Health – Health Assessment & Evaluation

Updated March 2025



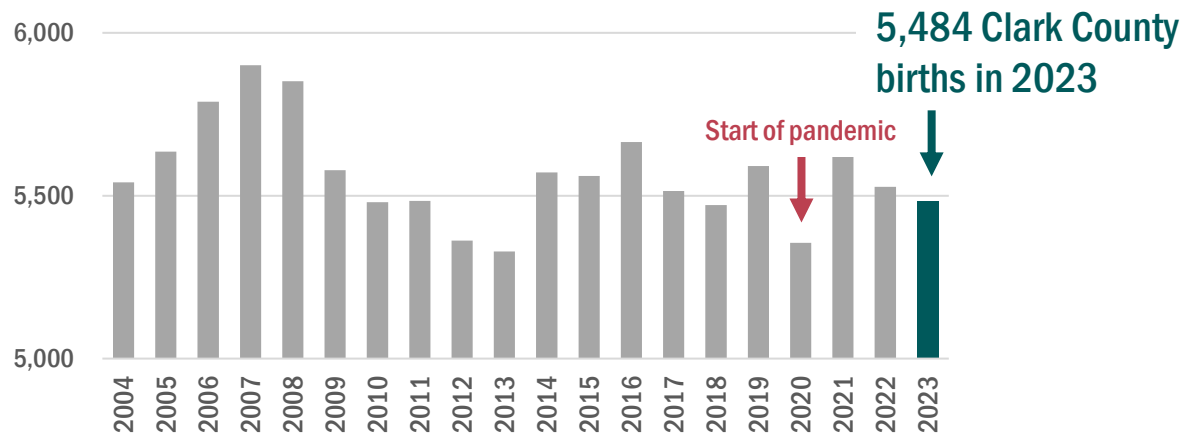
Overview of Births in Clark County



Births in Clark County

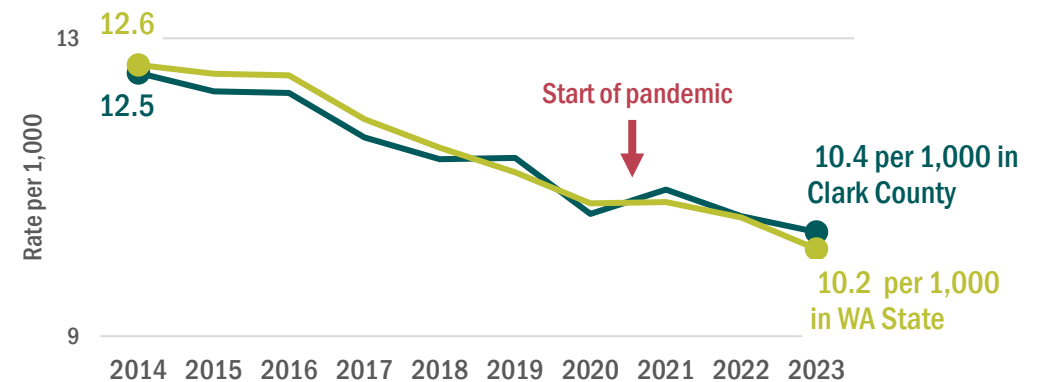
Number of births in Clark County, 2004-2023

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



Birth rate in Clark County & WA State

Between 2014-2023, the birth rate per 1,000 population in **Clark County** decreased by about 17% and decreased by 20% in **Washington State**.

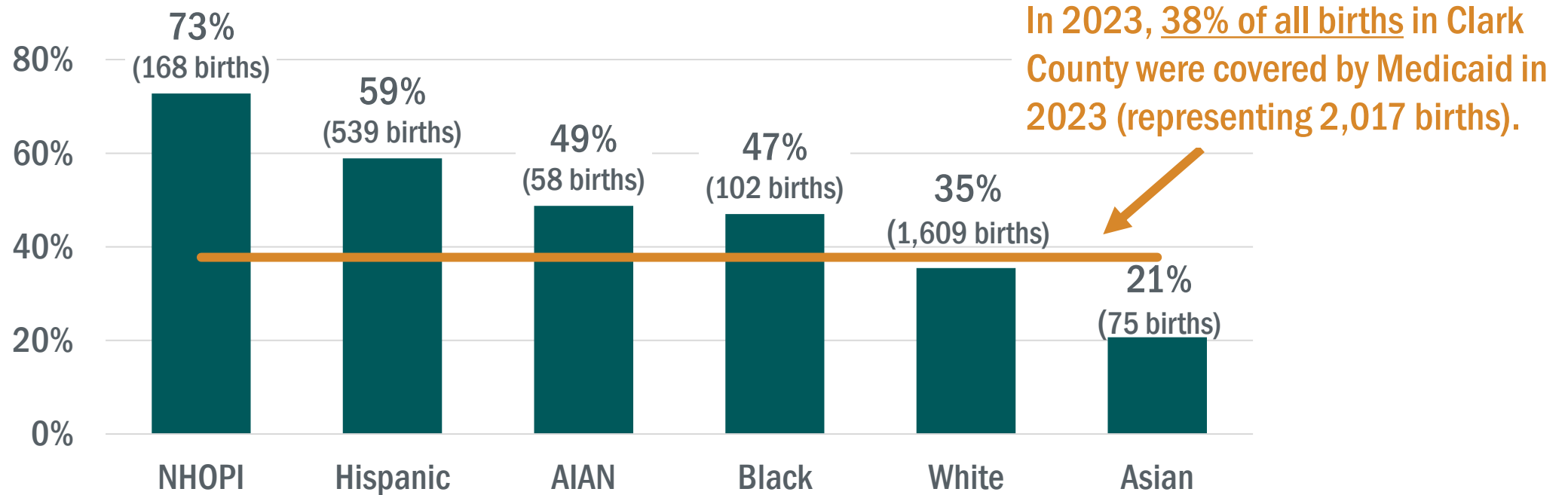


Data Source: Washington State Birth Certificate Data. Data represent births among Clark County residents.



Medicaid births by race/ethnicity

In 2023, the highest rates of Medicaid births in Clark County were among Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and Native American birthing parents.



Note: Racial/ethnicity categories not mutually exclusive. Data include birthing parents who reported a single race as well those who reported more than one race, therefore, data will not add up to 100%. Data Source: Washington State Birth Certificate Files. Data represent births among Clark County residents.



Births by facility, Clark County 2023

Facility	All Births	Medicaid Births	Private Insurance Births
Legacy Salmon Creek	53%	56%	54%
PeaceHealth Southwest	30%	34%	28%
Out of State	11%	6%	15%
Home	3%	2%	1%
Birth Center	1%	1%	1%
PeaceHealth St John	<1%	<1%	<1%

Data Source: Washington State Birth Certificate Files. Data represent births among Clark County residents.

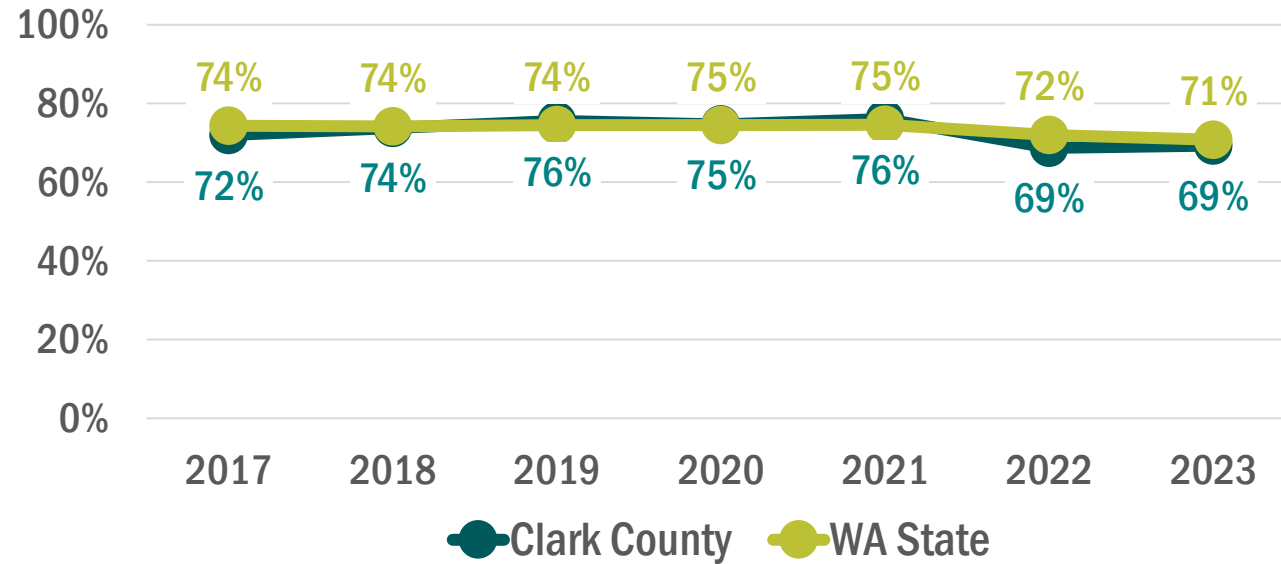


Prenatal Care Initiation by Trimester



Prenatal care initiation

Percent of births with 1st trimester prenatal care initiation in **Clark County** & **Washington State**



1st trimester PNC Initiation
in counties like us, 2023

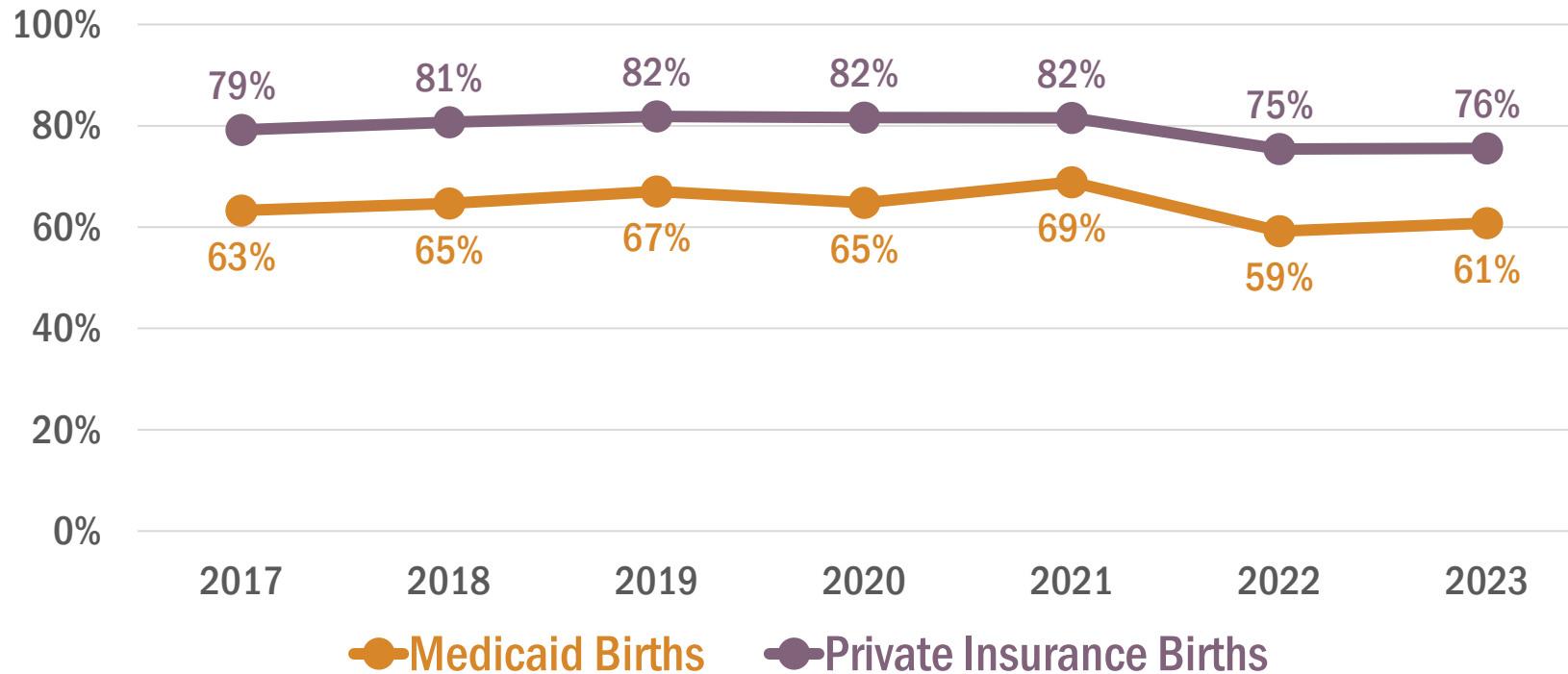
Spokane	77%
Snohomish	75%
King	72%
STATEWIDE	71%
Clark	69%
Pierce	64%

Note: Due to data quality limitations, prenatal care initiation data is missing for about 15% of birth records.
Data Source: Washington State Birth Certificate Files. Data represent births among Clark County residents.



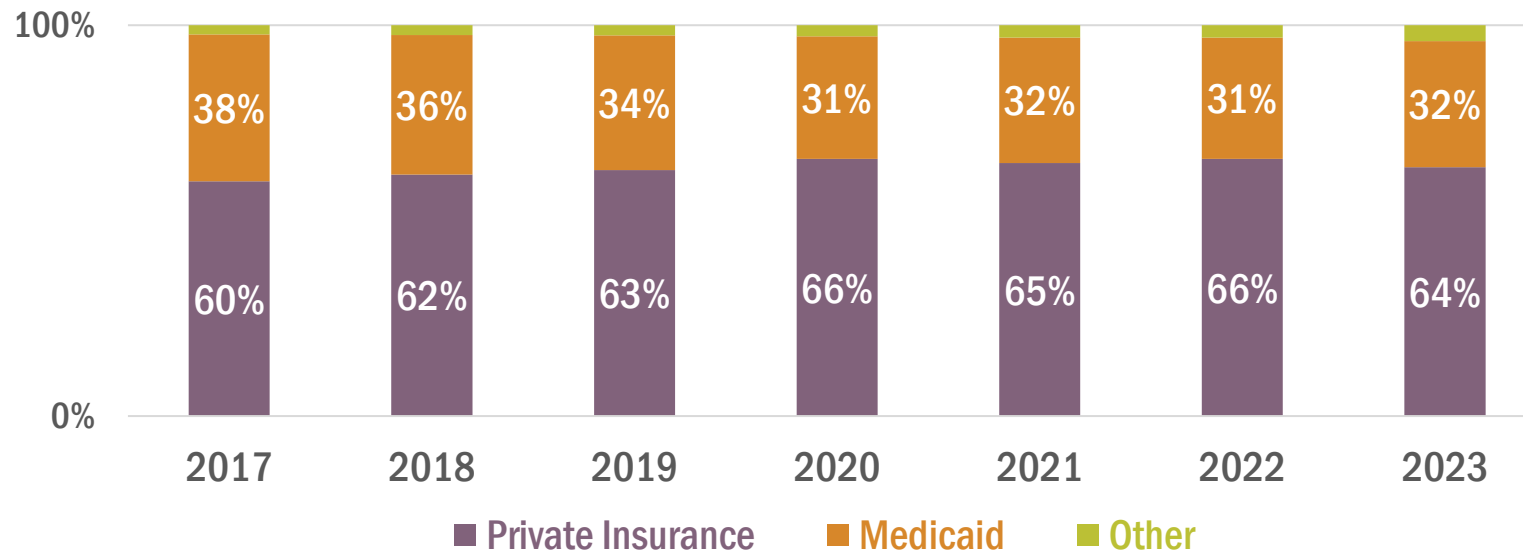
Prenatal care initiation by source of payment

Percent of births with 1st trimester prenatal care initiation among **Medicaid births** and **private insurance births**



Early prenatal care by source of payment

Percent of births with 1st trimester prenatal care initiation covered by private insurance, Medicaid, or other sources of health care coverage



Note: Less than 5% of births were covered by other sources of payment, including self-pay, military health plan, charity, other government, or unknown.



Prenatal care initiation

Prenatal care initiation by source of payment

Number and percent of births, Clark County 2023

PRENATAL CARE INITIATION	All births in Clark County			Medicaid births			Private Insurance births		
1st trimester	3,297	69%	<div></div>	1,064	61%	<div></div>	2,099	76%	<div></div>
2nd trimester	1,223	26%	<div></div>	551	31%	<div></div>	609	22%	<div></div>
3rd trimester	171	4%	<div></div>	97	6%	<div></div>	58	2%	<div></div>
No prenatal care	67	1%	<div></div>	38	2%	<div></div>	12	0%	

Note: Due to data quality limitations, prenatal care initiation data is missing for about 15% of birth records.

Data Source: Washington State Birth Certificate Files. Data represent births among Clark County residents.



Prenatal care initiation – Medicaid by race/ethnicity

Prenatal care initiation by trimester among Medicaid births by race/ethnicity

Number and percent of births, Clark County 2023

	White			Black			AIAN			Asian			NHOPI			Hispanic		
1st trimester	869	63%	<div></div>	55	63%	<div></div>	23	49%	<div></div>	47	73%	<div></div>	51	40%	<div></div>	283	63%	<div></div>
2nd trimester	418	30%	<div></div>	25	29%	<div></div>	16	34%	<div></div>	12	19%	<div></div>	49	38%	<div></div>	144	32%	<div></div>
3rd trimester	65	5%	<div></div>	<10	--	--	<10	--	--	<10	--	--	20	16%	<div></div>	17	4%	<div></div>
No prenatal care	25	2%	<div></div>	<10	--	--	<10	--	--	<10	--	--	<10	--	--	<10	--	--

Due to data quality limitations, prenatal care initiation data is missing for about 15% of birth records.

Note: Racial/ethnicity categories not mutually exclusive. Data include birthing parents who reported a single race as well those who reported more than one race, therefore, data will not add up to 100%. Data Source: Washington State Birth Certificate Files. Data represent births among Clark County residents.



Adequacy of prenatal care access



Inadequate Prenatal Care

The Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index (APNCU) measures how well pregnant women are getting prenatal care. It is based on two factors:

1. When prenatal care began
2. Number of visits during pregnancy

Inadequate prenatal care means:

- Prenatal started in month 5 or later, or
- Less than 80% of recommended visits were received

Note: Due to data quality limitations, adequacy of prenatal care data is missing for about 15% of birth records.

Inadequate prenatal care in Clark County, statewide, and in counties like us in 2023

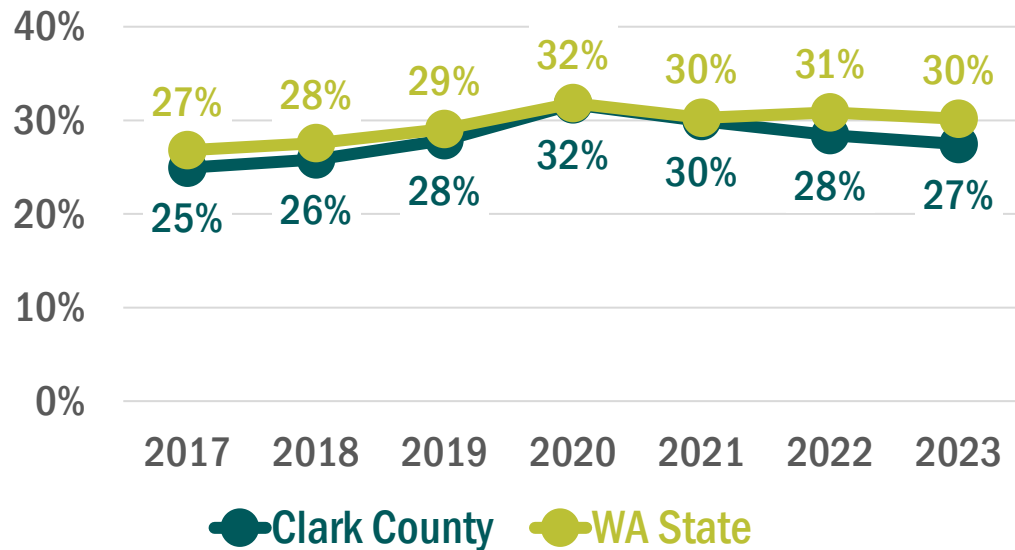
Pierce	33%
Spokane	32%
Snohomish	31%
King	31%
STATEWIDE	30%
Clark	27%

Note: Racial/ethnicity categories not mutually exclusive. Data include birthing parents who reported a single race as well those who reported more than one race, therefore, data will not add up to 100%. Data Source: Washington State Birth Certificate Files. Data represent births among Clark County residents. Reference article: [An evaluation of the Kessner Adequacy of Prenatal Care Index and a proposed Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index.](#)

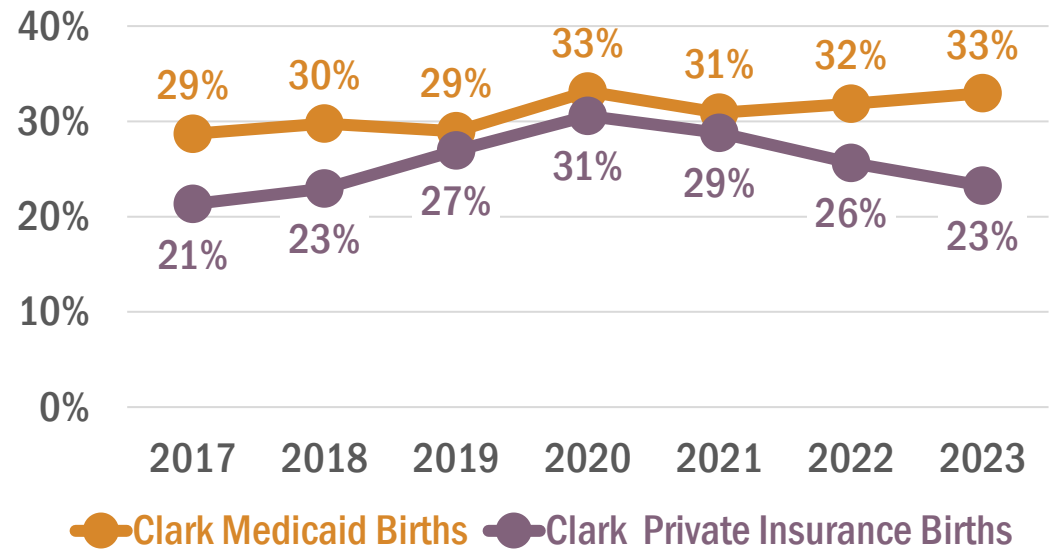


Inadequate prenatal care - trends

Percent of births with inadequate prenatal care in **Clark County** & **WA State**



Percent of births with inadequate PNC by source of payment in Clark County



Inadequate Prenatal Care - Medicaid vs private insurance

The Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index (APNCU) measures how well pregnant women are getting prenatal care. It is based on two factors:

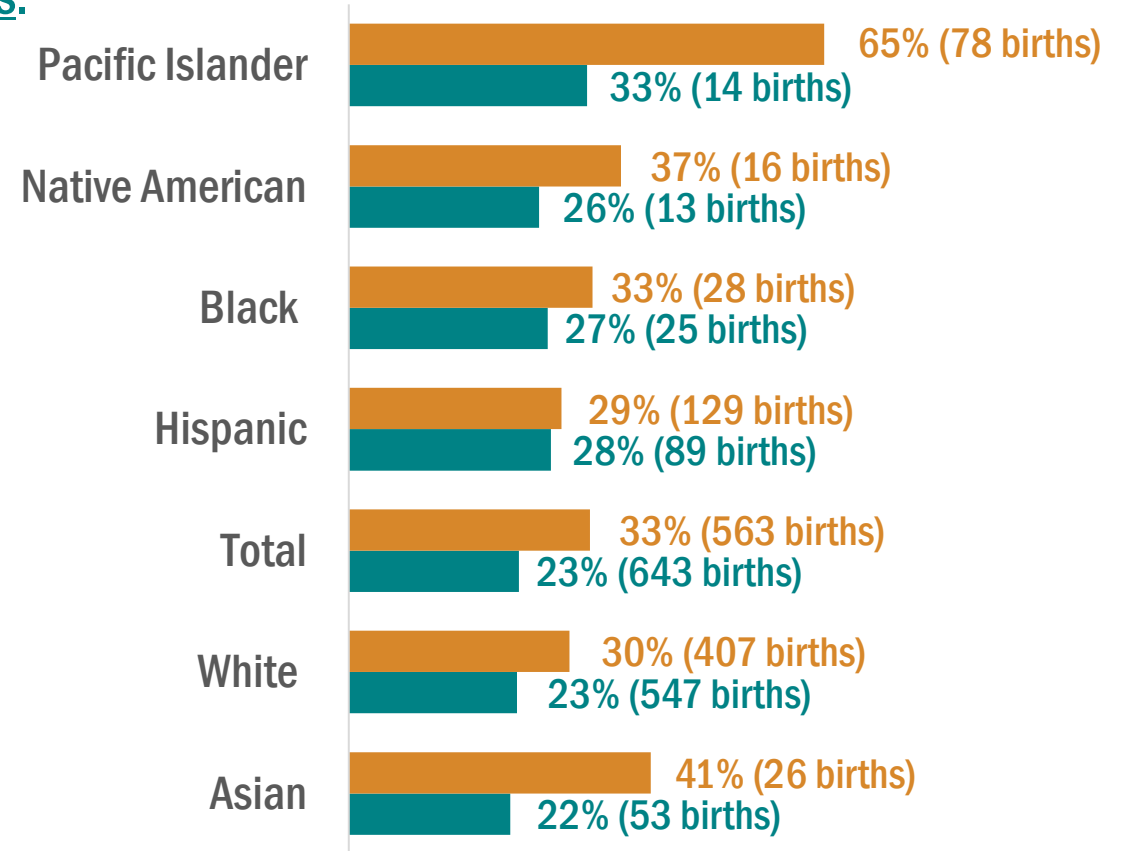
1. When prenatal care began
2. Number of visits during pregnancy

Inadequate prenatal care means:

- Prenatal started in month 5 or later, or
- Received less than 80% of recommended visits

Note: Due to data quality limitations, adequacy of prenatal care data is missing for about 15% of birth records.

Percent of 2023 Clark County births that received inadequate prenatal care among Medicaid births and private insurance births.



Note: Racial/ethnicity categories not mutually exclusive. Data include birthing parents who reported a single race as well those who reported more than one race, therefore, data will not add up to 100%. Data Source: Washington State Birth Certificate Files. Data represent births among Clark County residents. Reference article: [An evaluation of the Kessner Adequacy of Prenatal Care Index and a proposed Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index.](#)

Pregnancy risk factors:

Gestational diabetes & hypertension

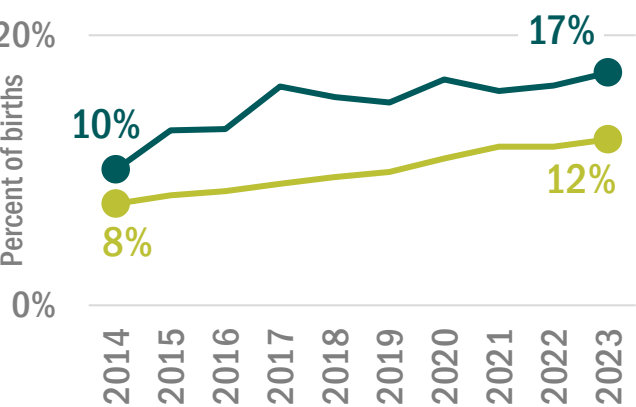


Gestational Diabetes

In Clark County in 2022, about 17% of births were affected by gestational diabetes.

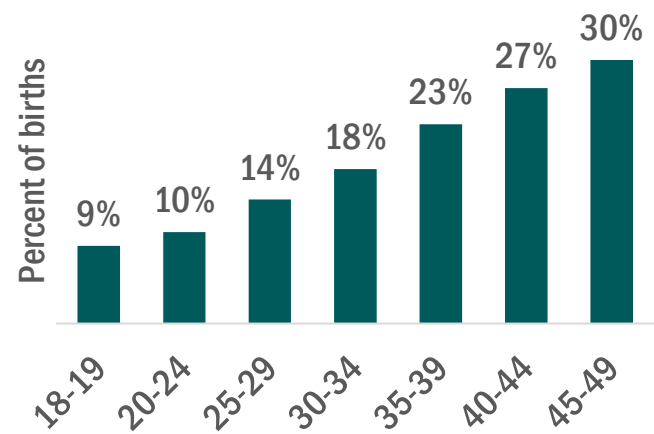
Gestational diabetes trend

The percent of birthing parents with gestational diabetes increased between 2014 and 2023 in **Clark County** & **WA State**.



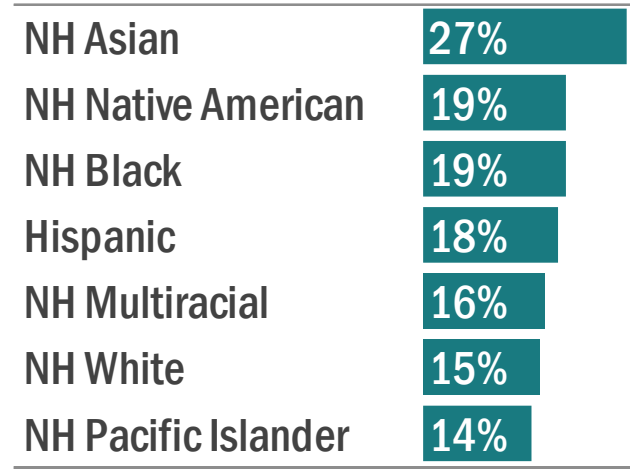
Age

In 2019-2023, the risk of gestational diabetes was highest among older birthing parents in Clark County.



Race/ethnicity

In 2019-2023, **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.

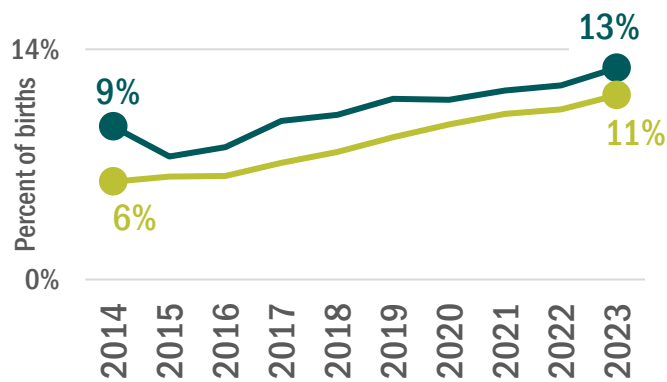


Gestational Hypertension

In Clark County in 2023, about 13% of births were affected by gestational hypertension.

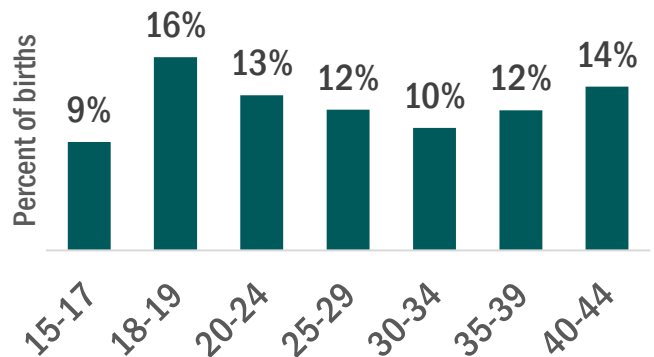
Gestational hypertension trend

The percent of birthing parents with gestational hypertension increased between 2014-2023 in Clark County & WA State.



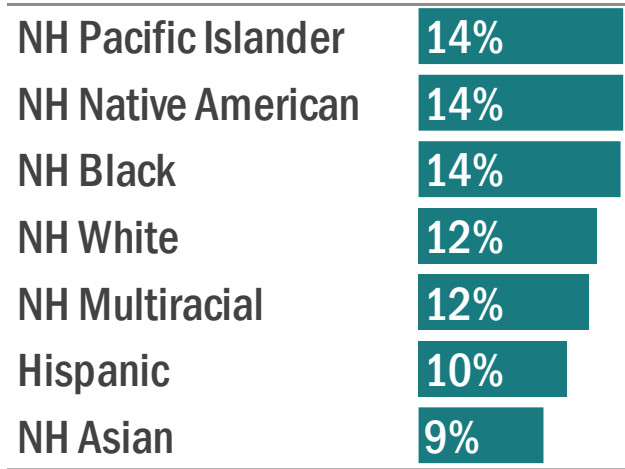
Age

In 2019-2023, the risk of gestational hypertension was highest among birthing parents ages 18-19 and 40+.



Race/ethnicity

In 2019-2023, Non-Hispanic Pacific Islander, Native American, and Black 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

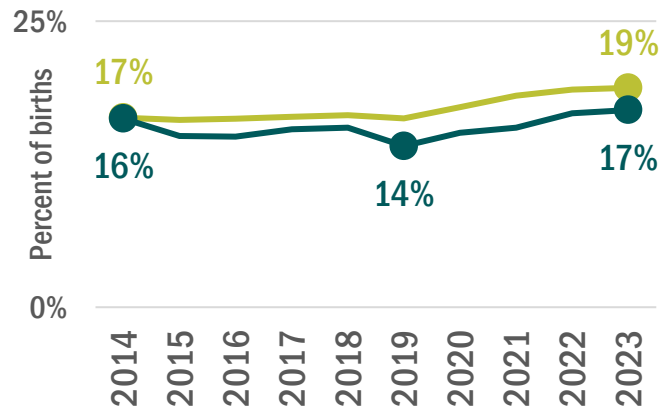


Delivery Method: Primary C-Section

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

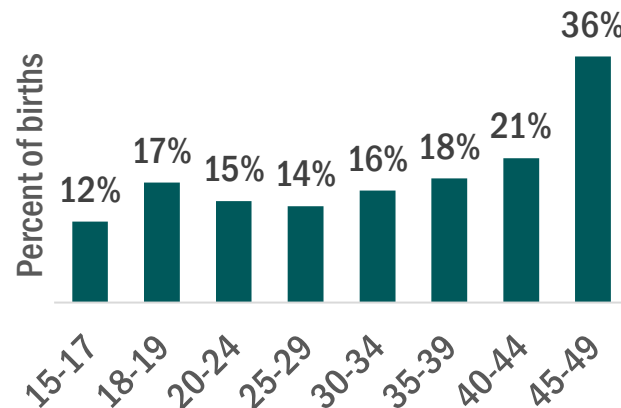
Primary c-section in Clark County

The percent of birthing parents with a primary c-section increased between 2019 and 2023 in **Clark County & WA State**.



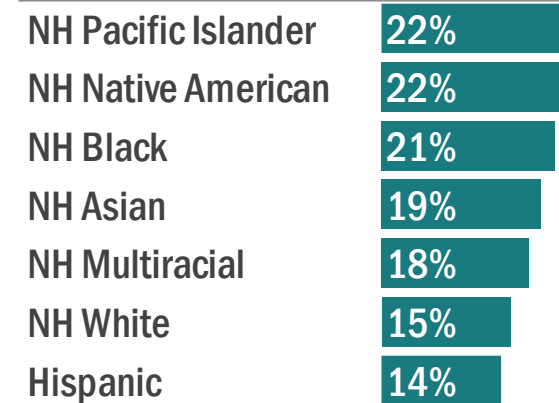
Birthing parent age

In 2019-2023, the rate of primary c-section was higher among older birthing parents in Clark County.



Birthing parent race/ethnicity

In 2019-2023, the rate of primary c-section was slightly higher among non-Hispanic **Pacific Islander, Native American, and Black** birthing parents in Clark County.



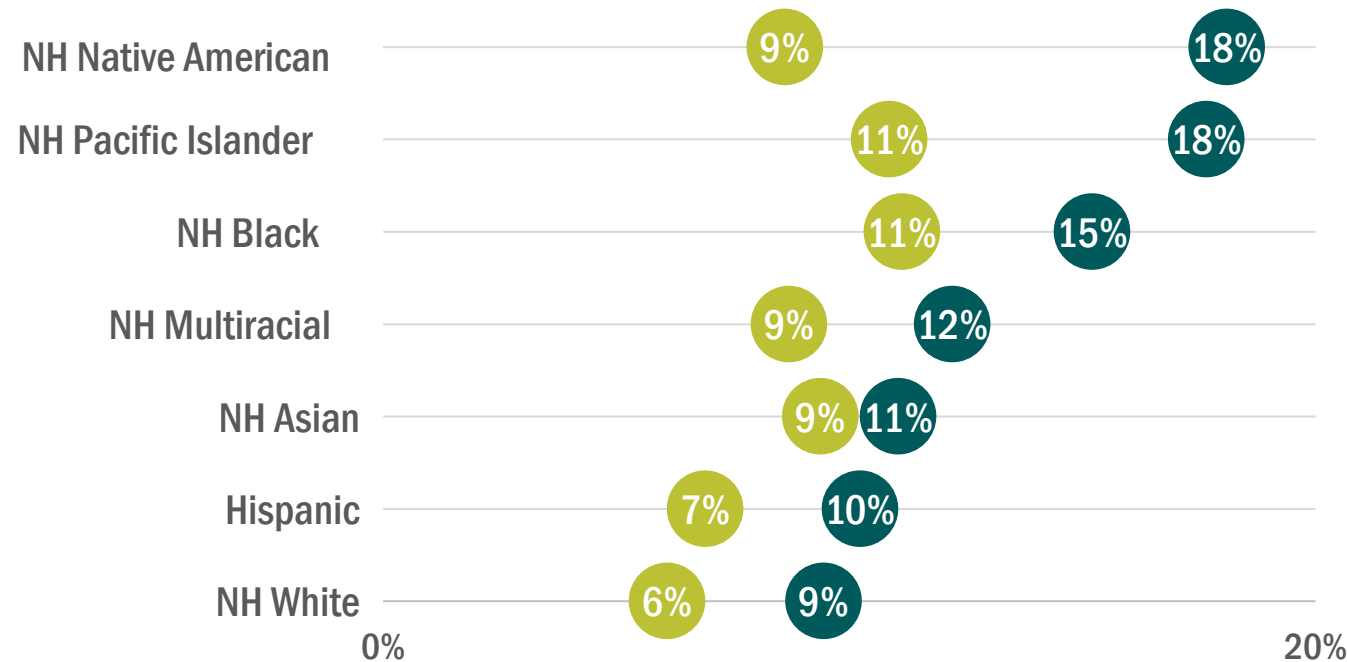
Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics Birth Certificate Data, Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT). Data represent births among Clark County residents.



Premature Birth & Low Birth Weight

In Clark County in 2023, about 10% of births were premature and 7% of births had low birth weight.

Between 2019-2023, the highest rates of **premature birth** and **low birth weight** were among non-Hispanic Native American, Pacific Islander, and Black birthing parents.

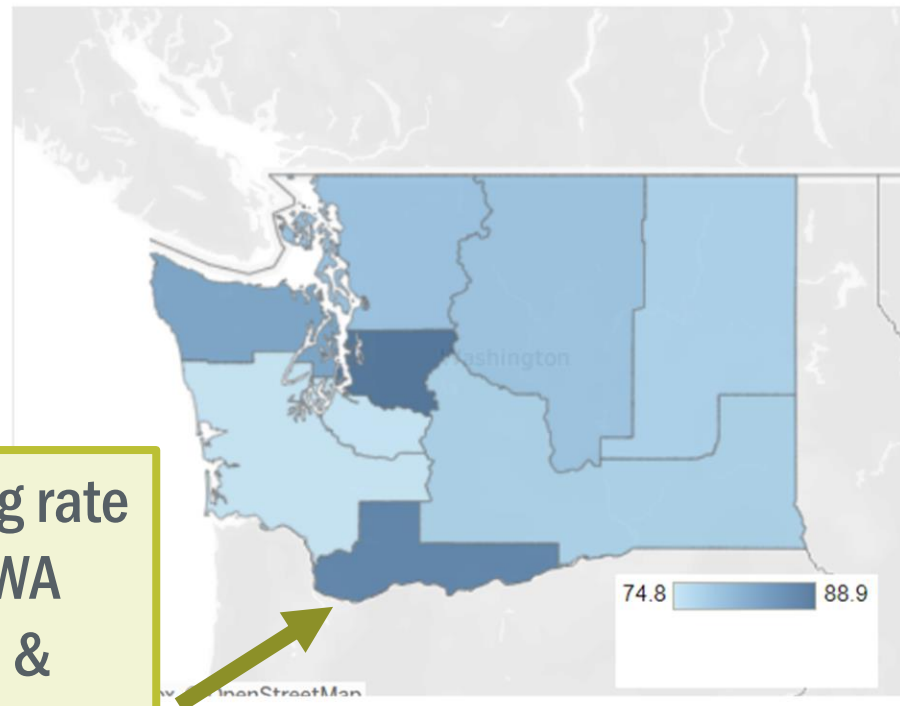


Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding at 8 Weeks - State Percent, 2019-2021

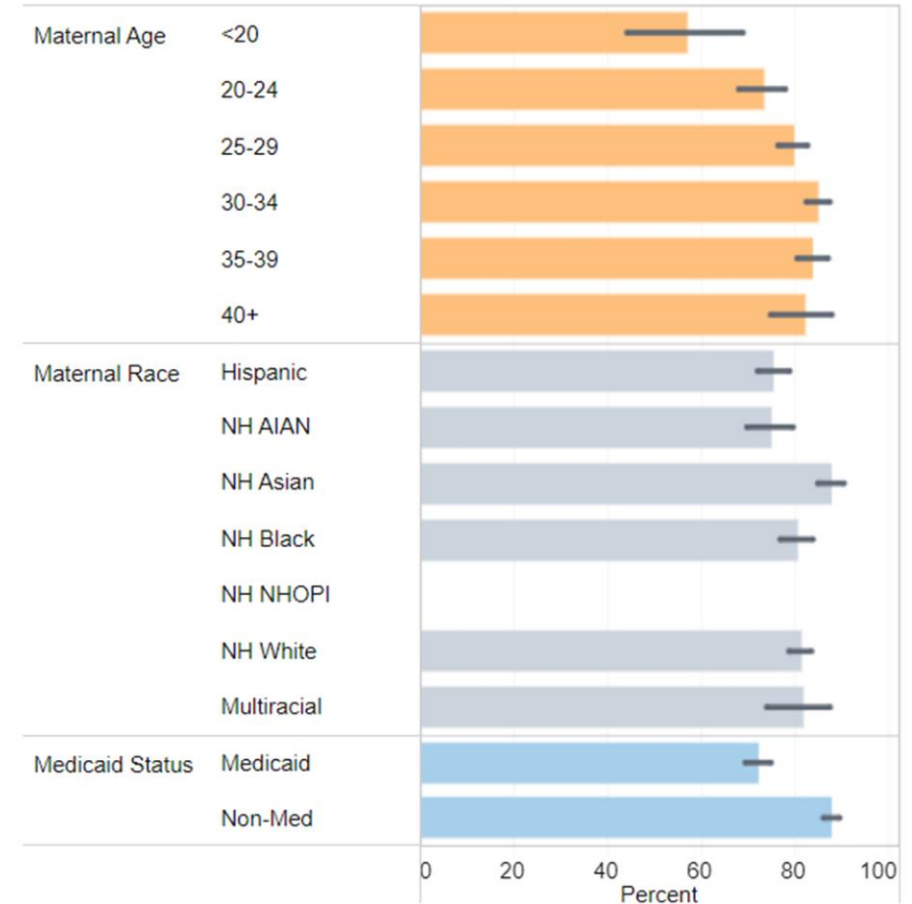
81.1%

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

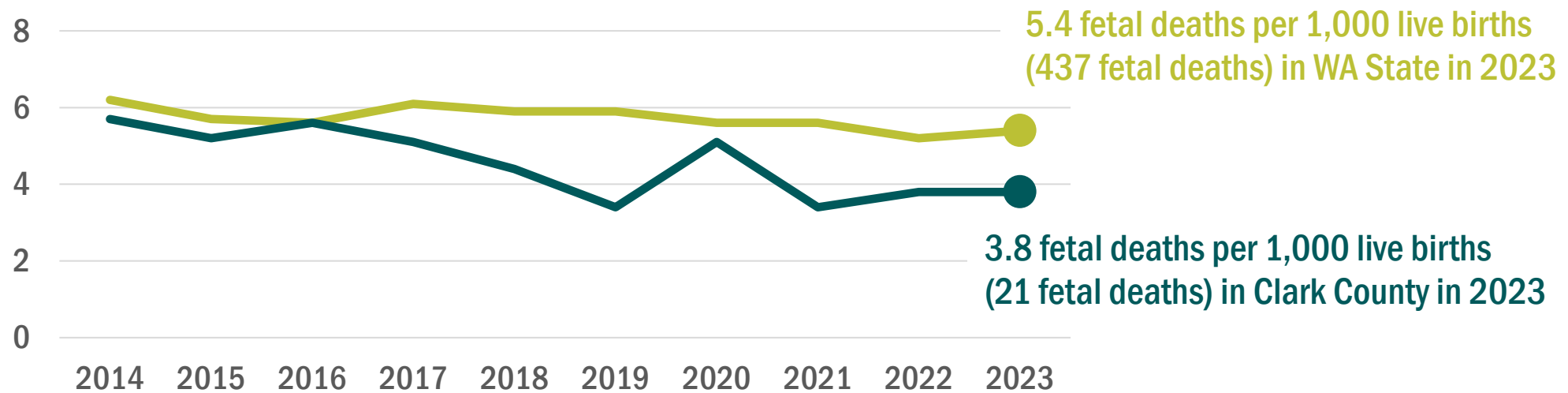


Fetal Death Rate

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

- In 2023, the fetal death rate in **Clark County** was lower than the **Statewide** rate.
- The fetal death rate in Clark County decreased between 2016-2019, and increased during the pandemic in 2020.

Fetal death rate per 1,000 live births 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>



Infant Death

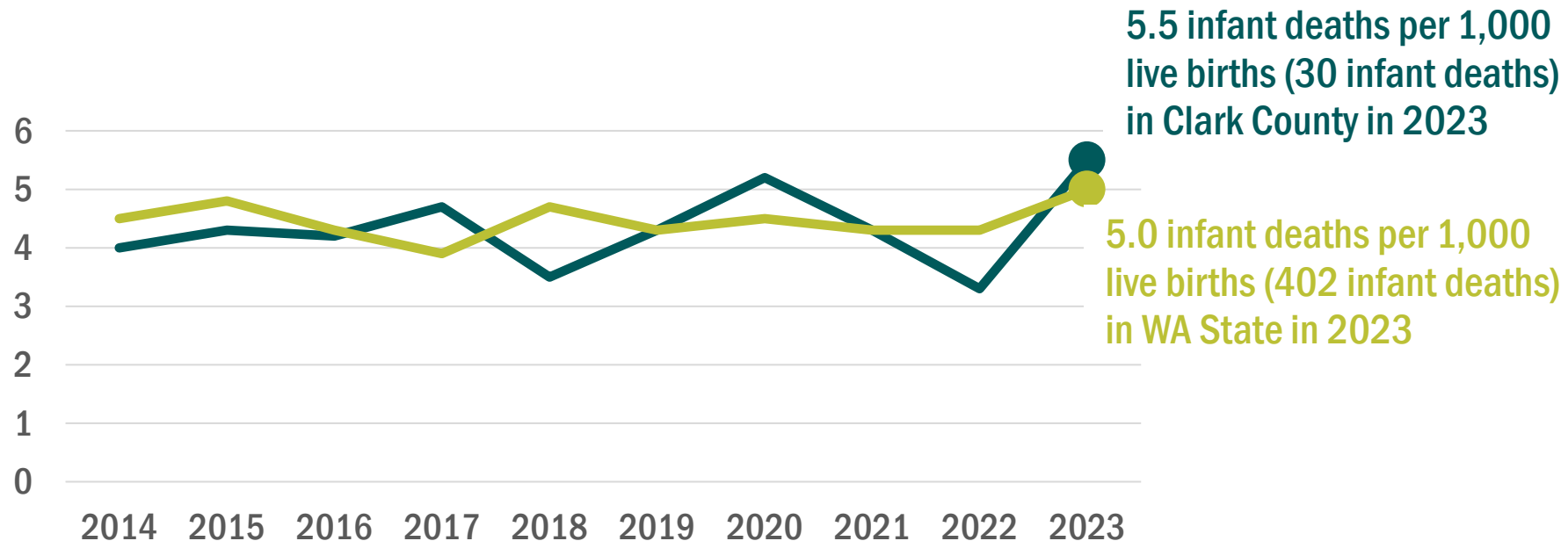


Infant Death Trend

Total infant death rate in Clark County & Washington State

The infant death rate in Clark County increased between 2022 and 2023.

Total infant death includes all deaths during the first 365 days after birth.



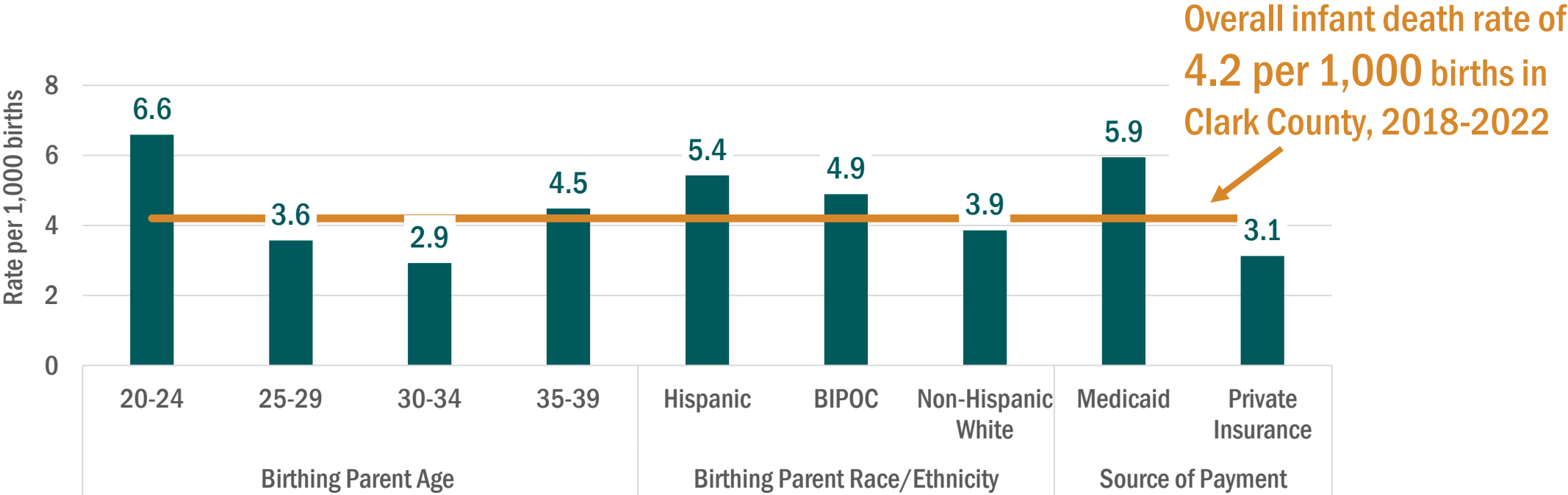
Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data. Data represent deaths among Clark County residents.



Infant 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.

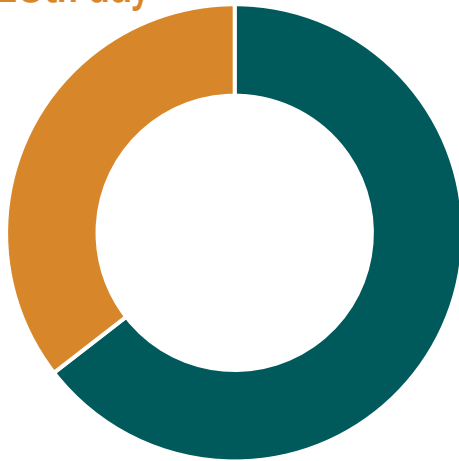


Infant Death in Clark County

Infant death by age, 2019-2023

Neonatal deaths represent about two-thirds of all infant deaths in Clark County.

35% Post-Neonatal
(prior to the 28th day
after birth)



65%, Neonatal
(from the 28th
through the 365th
day after birth)

Top causes of infant death include:

- Congenital anomalies (22%)
- Preterm birth (13%)
- Unintentional suffocation and strangulation in bed (10%)
- Pregnancy complications (9%)

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



Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID)



Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID)

- **Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID)** is a category of infant death (less than 1 year old) that includes:
 - Accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed.
 - Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).
 - Unknown cause.

There have been about 4 to 5 SUID deaths per year in Clark County over the last 10 years (2014-2023).

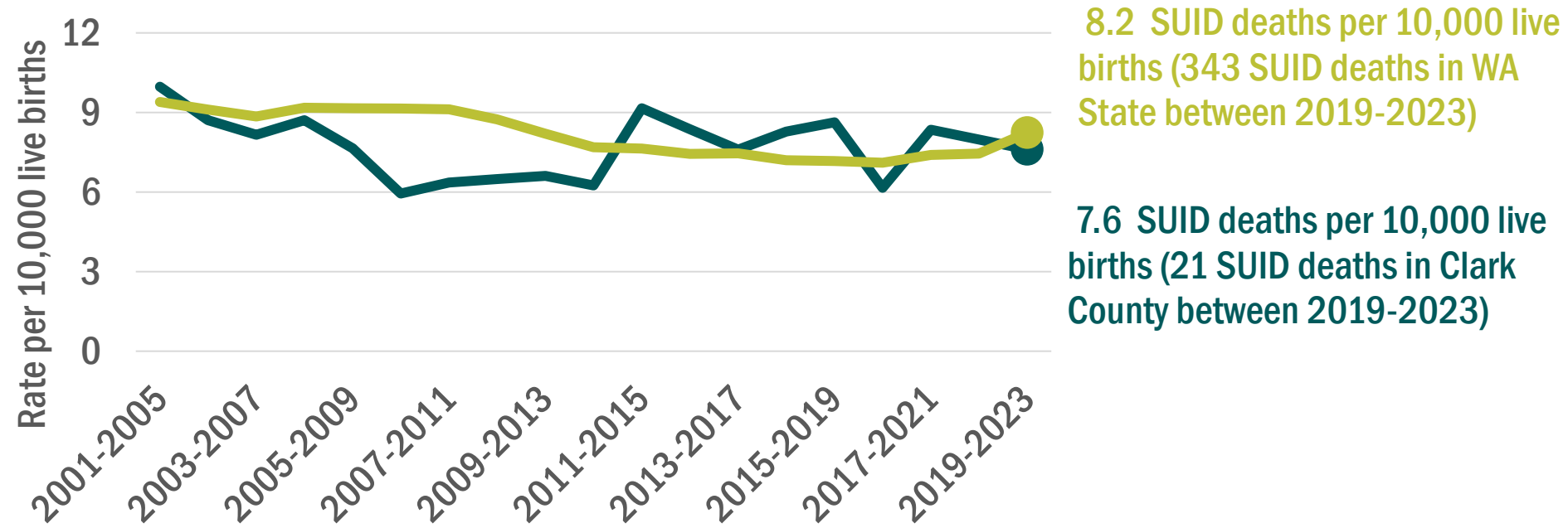
Note: SUID cases include both natural and unnatural causes.

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data, Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT);
<https://www.cdc.gov/sids/data.htm>



Trends in Sudden Unexpected Infant Death

SUID rate per 10,000 live births in **Clark County** & **Washington State**



Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data, Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT)

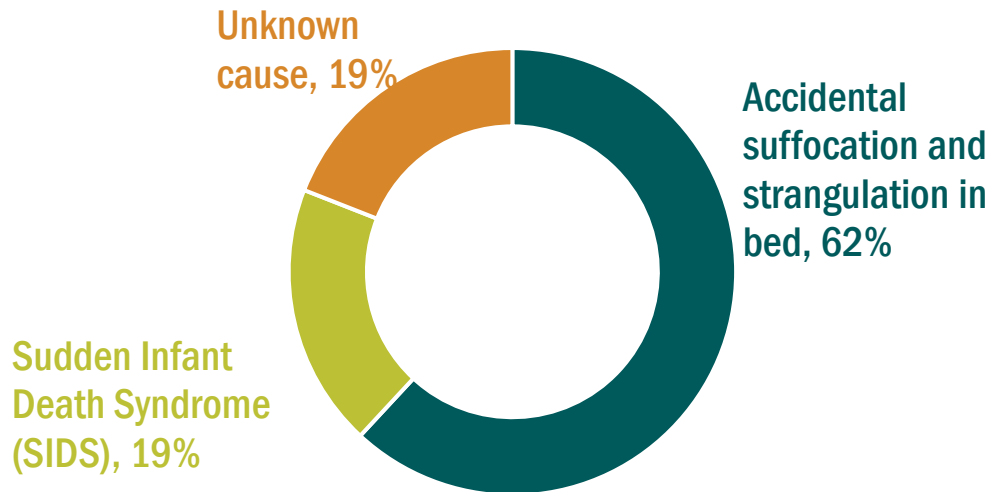


Breakdown of SUID by cause

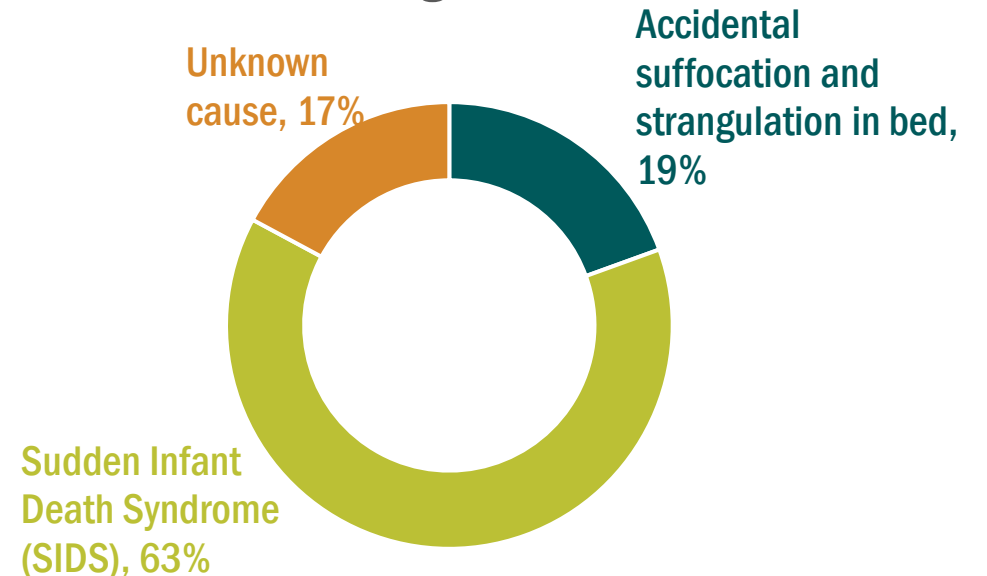
Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) by causes of death in Clark County & Washington State, 2019-2023

Between 2019-2023, most SUID deaths in Clark County were classified as **accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed**, while most SUID deaths in Washington State were classified as **Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)**.

Clark County



Washington State

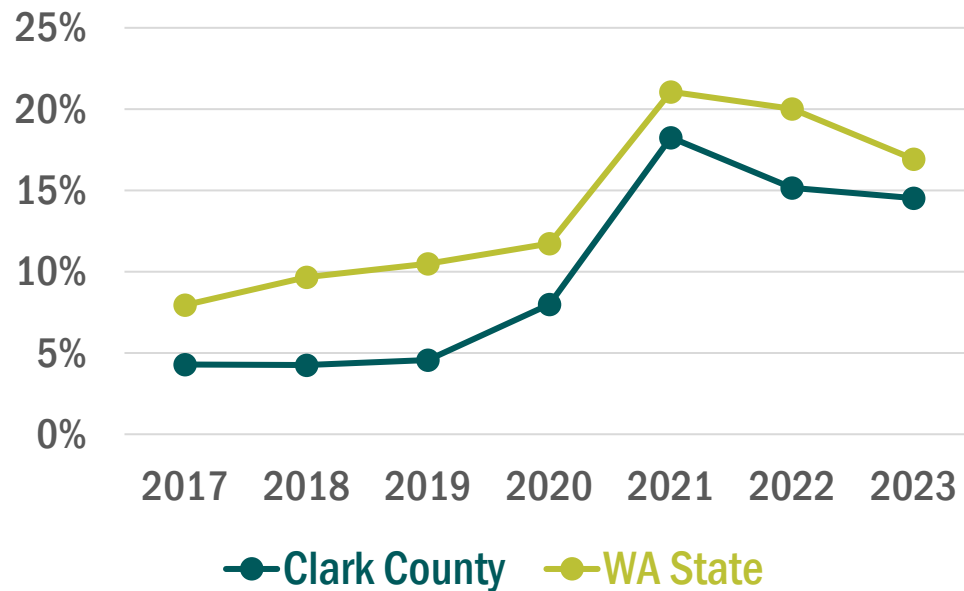


Data Quality Challenges

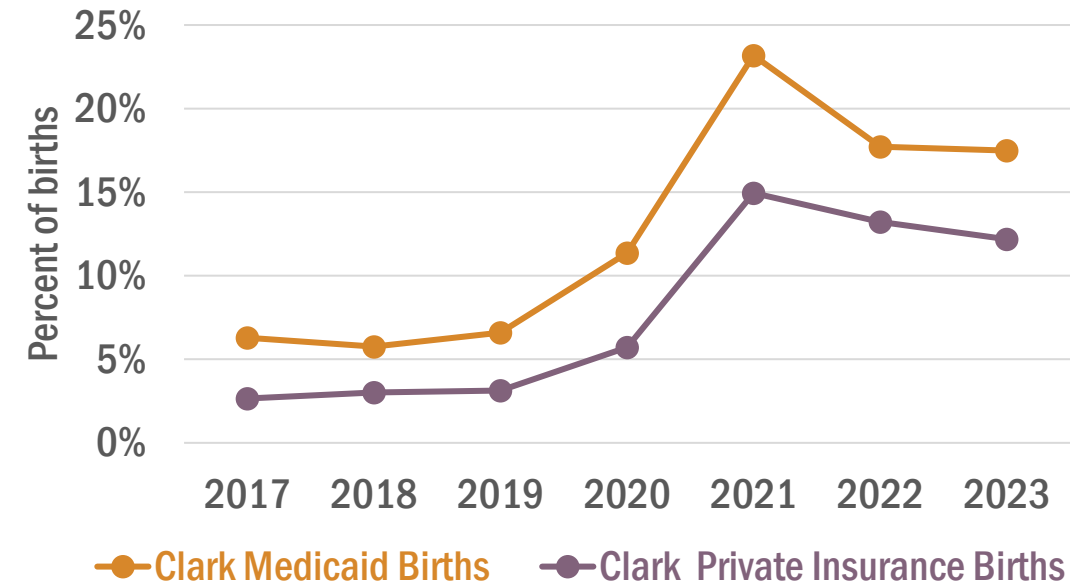


Missing prenatal care data (date of first visit or number of visits)

Percent of births missing prenatal care adequacy data



Percent of births with missing prenatal care adequacy data in Clark County by source of payment



Data Source: Washington State Birth Certificate Files. Data represent births among Clark County residents.



Missing prenatal care data by source of payment

2023 Clark County births with missing prenatal care adequacy data

	All Births		Medicaid Births		Private Insurance Births	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Pacific Islander	60	26%	48	29%	<10	--
Native American	24	20%	15	26%	<10	--
Black	30	14%	18	18%	11	11%
Hispanic	128	14%	95	18%	28	8%
White	631	14%	260	16%	328	12%
Asian	48	13%	12	16%	35	13%

Note: Racial/ethnicity categories not mutually exclusive. Data include birthing parents who reported a single race as well those who reported more than one race, therefore, data will not add up to 100%. Data Source: Washington State Birth Certificate Files. Data represent births among Clark County residents.



Missing prenatal care data by facility

Percent of births missing prenatal care adequacy data,
Clark County 2023

	All Births	Medicaid Births	Private Insurance Births
Legacy Salmon Creek	16% (469 births)	19% (223 births)	14% (231 births)
PeaceHealth Southwest	11% (178 births)	11% (79 births)	10% (89 births)

Data Source: Washington State Birth Certificate Files. Data represent births among Clark County residents.



For more information on births in Washington, visit the statewide [Birth](#) and [Perinatal](#) dashboards.

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

If you'd like to use this data for a report or presentation, we recommend using screenshot and copying into your files. If you need a customized data visual, please contact
CntyHealthHAE@clark.wa.gov

