

2023 Edition — Quality of Care: Maternal Health and Childbirth

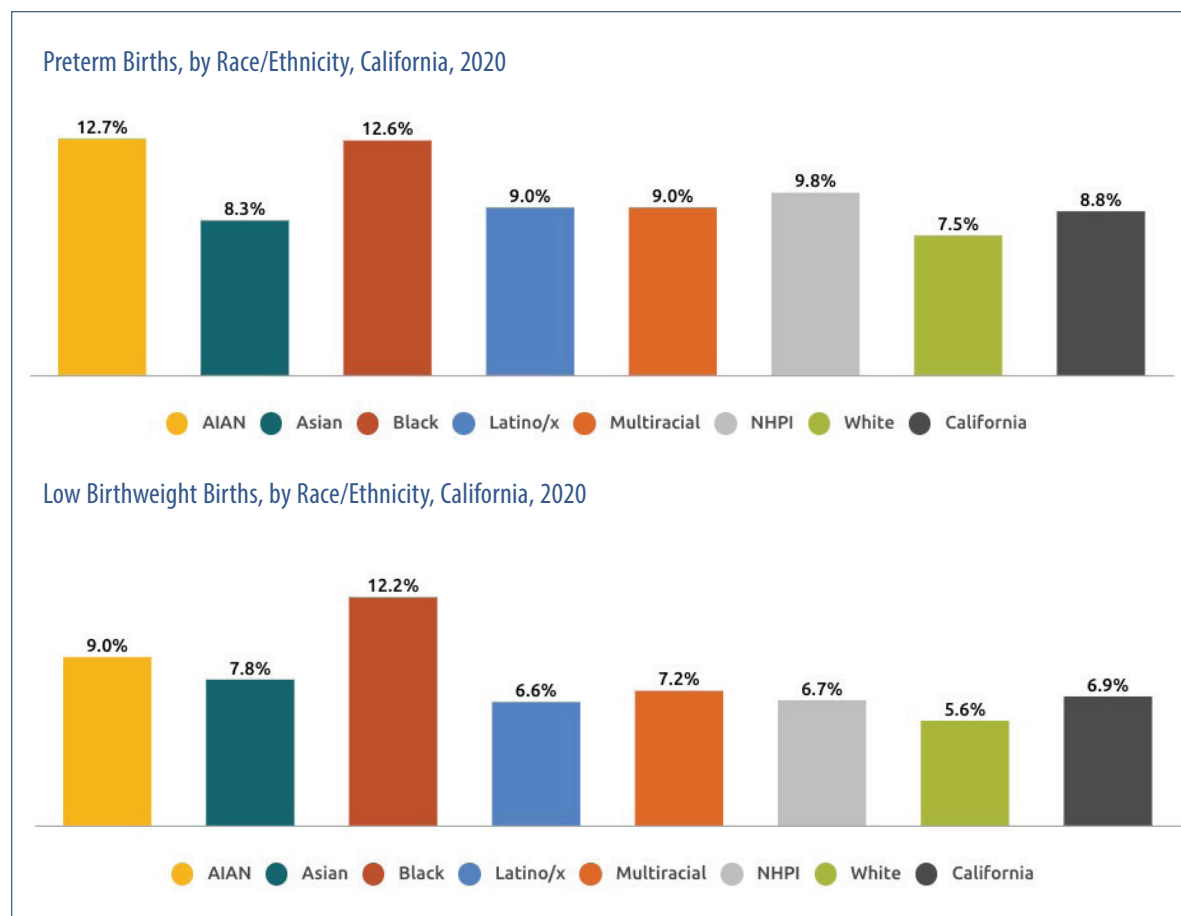
Jen Joynt, Independent Health Care Consultant

Over the last few decades, the measurement and reporting of health care quality outcomes has grown significantly. As health care evolves, it is important to continue to monitor and report on the quality of care delivered to patients in California and across the US. This set of quality measures is part of a series CHCF publishes on the quality of care in the state. Topics range from maternal to end-of-life care and include measures on behavioral health, chronic conditions, and providers.

This set of quality measures focuses on maternal health and childbirth.

American Indian and Alaska Native infants and Black infants were more likely to be born preterm than infants of other races/ethnicities.

About one in eight American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) infants and Black infants was born preterm in 2020. Nearly one in eight Black infants was born with a low birthweight. Infants born preterm or with a low birthweight have increased risk for lifelong health problems or of dying before their first birthday.

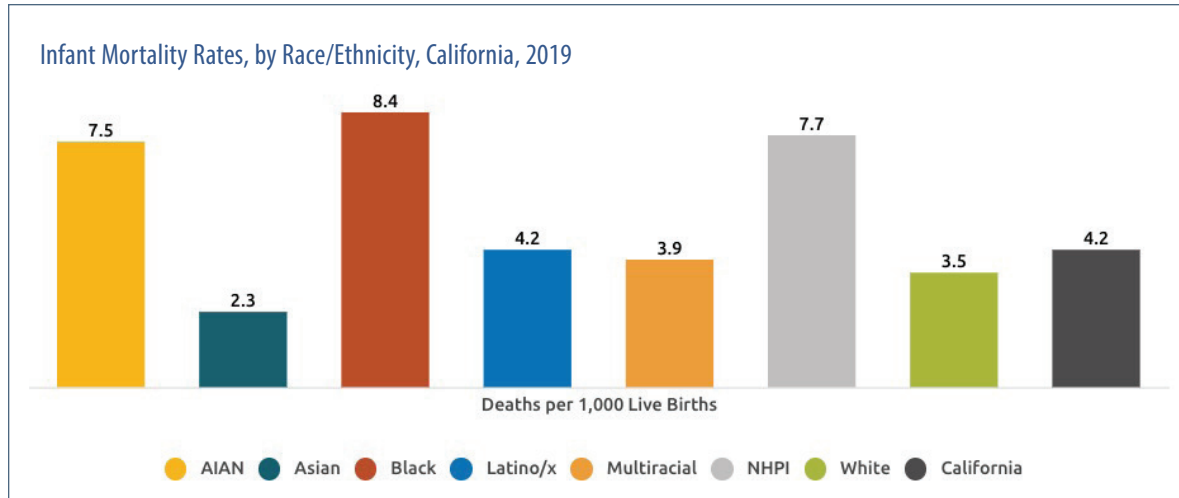


Notes: *Preterm* is less than 37 weeks of gestation based on the obstetric estimate. *Low birthweight* is less than 2,500 grams. AIAN is American Indian and Alaskan Native. NHPI is Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander.

Source: Preterm Birth and Low Birthweight Dashboard, California Dept. of Public Health.

Infant mortality rates varied by race/ethnicity.

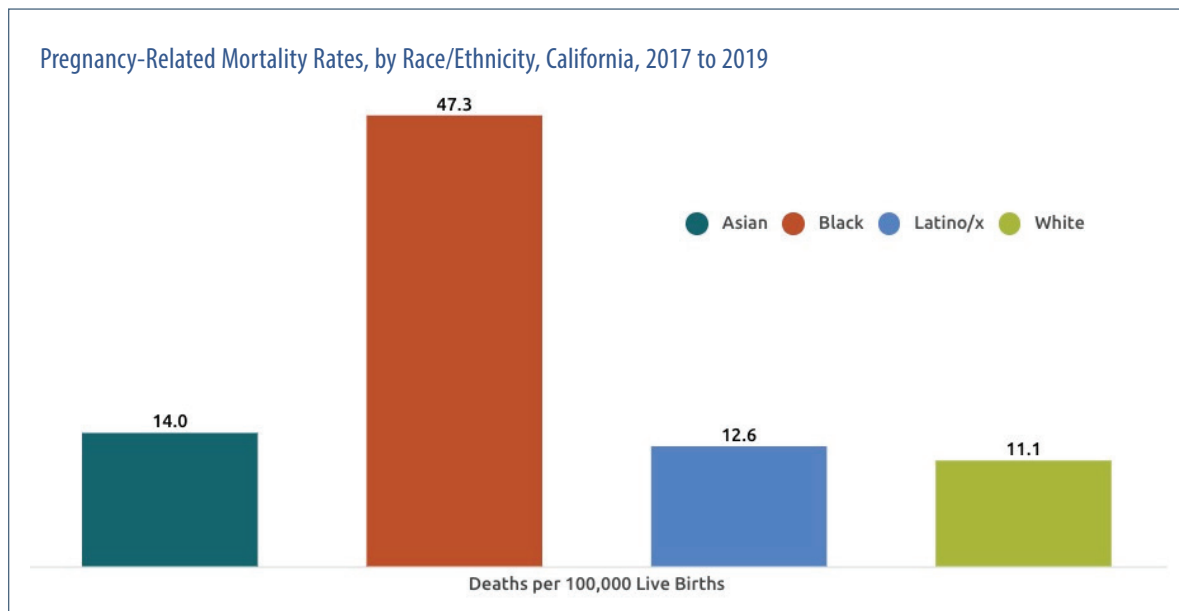
In 2019, Black, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and AIAN infants had higher mortality rates than infants of other races/ethnicities. Only Asian, White, and multiracial infants had mortality rates lower than the Let’s Get Healthy California target of 4.0 deaths per 1,000 live births.



Notes: Infant deaths within one year of birth. AIAN is American Indian and Alaskan Native. NHPI is Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander. Source: Preterm Birth and Low Birthweight Dashboard, California Dept. of Public Health.

Black birthing people had a higher pregnancy-related mortality rate than birthing people of other races/ethnicities.

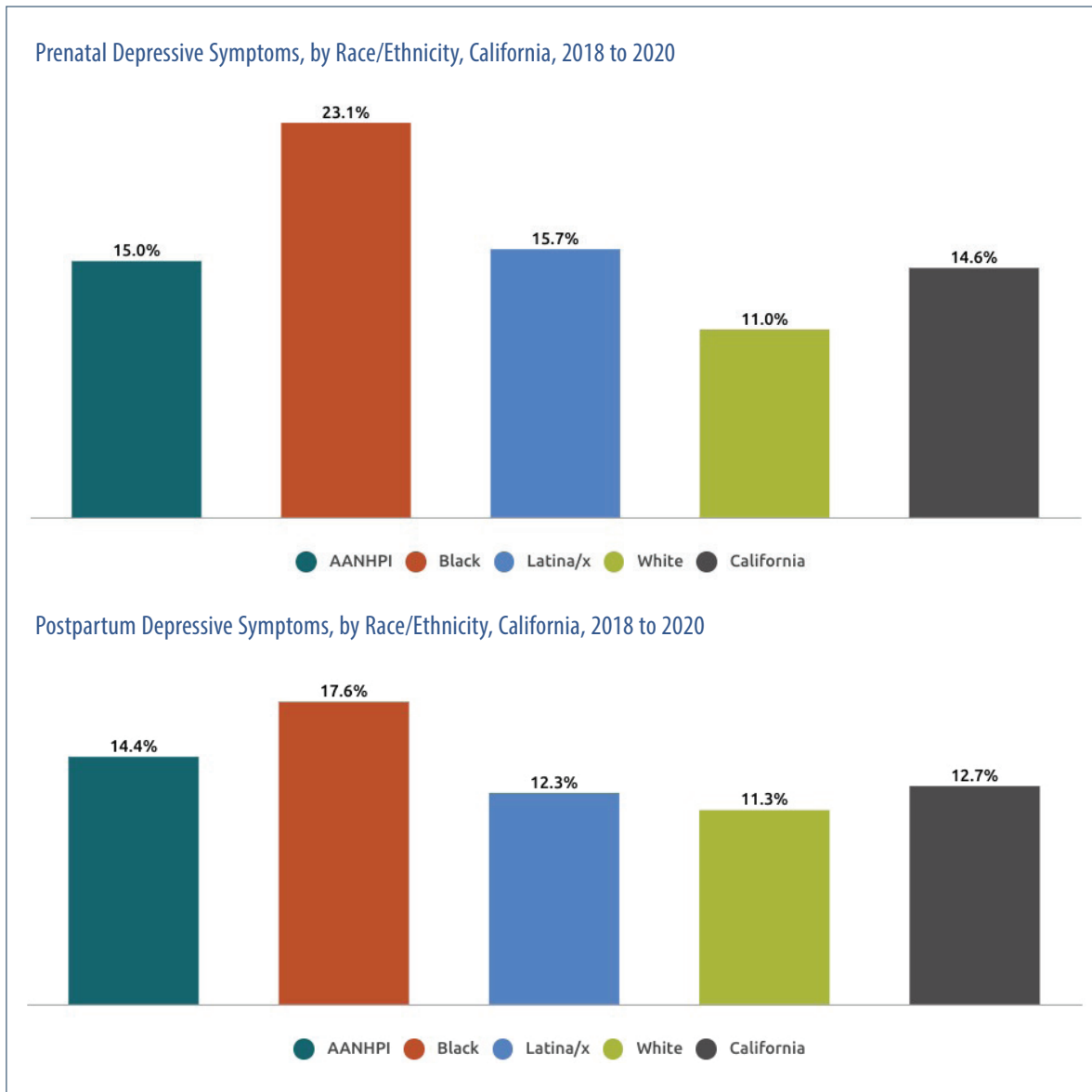
From 2017 to 2019, Black birthing people died from pregnancy-related causes at rates three to four times higher than birthing people of other races/ethnicities.



Notes: Pregnancy-related deaths include deaths within a year of pregnancy from causes related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management. Pregnancy-related deaths, as defined in the California Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System, do not include deaths from suicide, homicide, drug overdose or most other injury. Cause of death was determined by expert committee review. Source: Pregnancy-Related Mortality Dashboard, California Dept. of Public Health.

Prenatal and postpartum depressive symptoms were reported by about one in five Black birthing people.

About one in seven California birthing people reported experiencing symptoms of prenatal depression, and about one in eight reported experiencing symptoms of postpartum depression from 2018 to 2020. Black birthing people were more likely to report both prenatal and postpartum depressive symptoms than birthing people of other races/ethnicities. Prenatal and postpartum depression can negatively impact the birthing person and child.



Notes: Data from a population-based survey of California resident women with a recent live birth; 2018, 2019, and 2020 data were combined. Percentage of women who had a live birth who always or often reported feeling down, depressed, or hopeless, or who reported having little interest or little pleasure in doing things you usually enjoyed during pregnancy (prenatal) or since most recent live birth (postpartum). *AANHPI* is Asian American / Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander.

Source: Maternal Mental Health Dashboard, California Dept. of Public Health.

2023 Edition — Quality of Care: Maternal Health and Childbirth

The companion Excel data file, which provides these data and more, is available for download at www.chcf.org/publication/2023-edition-quality-care-maternal-health-childbirth. These materials are part of CHCF's California Health Care Almanac, an online clearinghouse for key data and analyses describing the state's health care landscape. See our entire collection of current and past editions of Quality of Care at www.chcf.org/collection/quality-care-almanac.