

Fast Facts: Prenatal Care & Birth Outcomes

Wisconsin Women & Health Disparities

3x

Wisconsin's infant mortality rate is nearly 3x higher for African American women than for white women, and double (or more) compared to most other minority groups in the state.

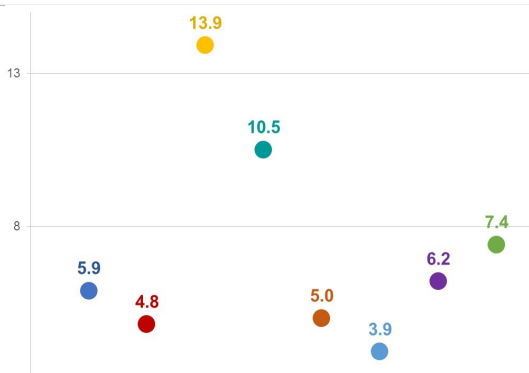
Nationally, Wisconsin has the highest infant mortality rate for African American women.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Wisconsin The infant mortality rate for African American women in Wisconsin was 13.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, for the period 2014-2016 (3-yr avg).

- Nearly three times the corresponding rate for white women (4.8 per 1,000);
- This rate is 1.3 times the rate for Native American women, who have the second highest infant mortality rate in the state; and
- Two to three times higher than for all other racial/ethnic groups reported.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births by Race & Ethnicity, Wisconsin, 2014-2016 (3-yr avg.)



*Infant mortality is defined as less than 365 days. Source: Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH), Infant Mortality Module, accessed 4/9/19.

Nationally Wisconsin has the highest infant mortality rate in the nation for non-Hispanic black women, at 14.28 deaths per 1,000 live births. In 2018, only seven states had infant mortality rates significantly higher than the U.S. rate: Michigan (12.10), Illinois (12.11), North Carolina (12.24), Indiana (13.26), Alabama (13.40), Ohio (13.46), and Wisconsin (14.28).

Among all states, Wisconsin ranks 15th for all women (statewide), 15th for Hispanic, 20th for white (non-Hispanic) and 51st for black (non-Hispanic). Note: Ranking first denotes "best", 51st "worst." The CDC report provides data only for white and black non-Hispanic, and Hispanic women.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births

selected groups, Wisconsin & US, 2013-2015 (3-yr avg.)

	Wisconsin		US Rate
	Rate	Rank	
All Women	5.92	15	5.89
White, non-Hispanic	4.71	20	4.95
Black, non-Hispanic	14.28	51	11.10
Hispanic	5.16	15	4.99

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, "State Variations in Infant Mortality by Race and Hispanic Origin of Mother, 2013-2015," NCHS Data Brief, No. 295, January 2018

Legend

- All
- White (Non-Hispanic)
- Black/African American (Non-Hispanic)
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Hispanic
- Laotian or Hmong (Non-Hispanic)
- Other (Non-Hispanic)
- Two or More Races (Non-Hispanic)

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

Wisconsin 15.1% of African American non-Hispanic infants (1 out of 6.7 births) are born low birthweight* — twice that of all infants (7.5%) and higher than for any other racial or ethnic group.

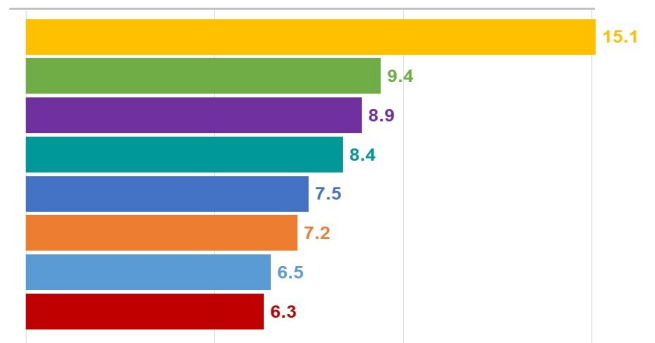
Twice (or more) the percentages for:

- White non-Hispanic (6.3%);
- Native American (8.4%),
- Hispanic (7.2%);
- Laotian/Hmong (6.5%) infants.

Nationally African American, white and Hispanic infants in Wisconsin are more likely than their counterparts nationally to be low birthweight — 11.4%, 5.21% and 6.04%, respectively.¹

Percentage Low Birthweight*

by Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin, 2015-2017



*Low birthweight is defined as less than 2,500 grams. Source: Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH), Low Birthweight Module, accessed 4/9/19.

Low birthweight contributes substantially to infant mortality and leave many infants more at risk for short-and long-term health issues.³

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Over
1/3

... of pregnant
African American
Hispanic
Native American
Laotian/Hmong
women in the state
did not receive early
prenatal care.

FIRST-TRIMESTER PRENATAL CARE

Early prenatal care is linked to a reduced incidence of low birthweight and a healthier pregnancy — and holds whether risks derive from medical or sociodemographic factors, or both.⁴

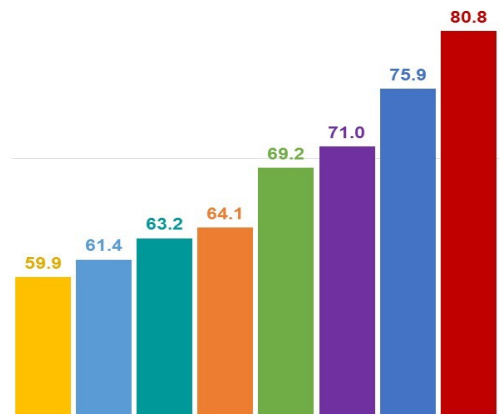
About one-quarter of **all pregnant women**, on average, in Wisconsin did not receive early prenatal care. This on-par with the national average.²

And yet, the statewide average — 75.9% receiving early care and 24% not receiving care — masks much worse statistics for pregnant women who belong to the state's minority racial and ethnic groups.

More than one-third of Pregnant **African American**, **Hispanic**, **Native American**, and **Laotian/Hmong** women did not receive early care — with about 60% to 64% receiving first-trimester prenatal care compared to 76% statewide average (see chart).

Women in all minority populations are less likely than **white** women to have received early prenatal care. For example, **59.9% of African American** received such care, compared to **80.8% of white women**. Overall, there is about a **20% disparity** in early prenatal care between pregnant women who belong to state's largest **minority groups** and **white** women.

Percentage of Mothers Who Received First-Trimester Prenatal Care by Race & Ethnicity, Wisconsin, 2015-2017



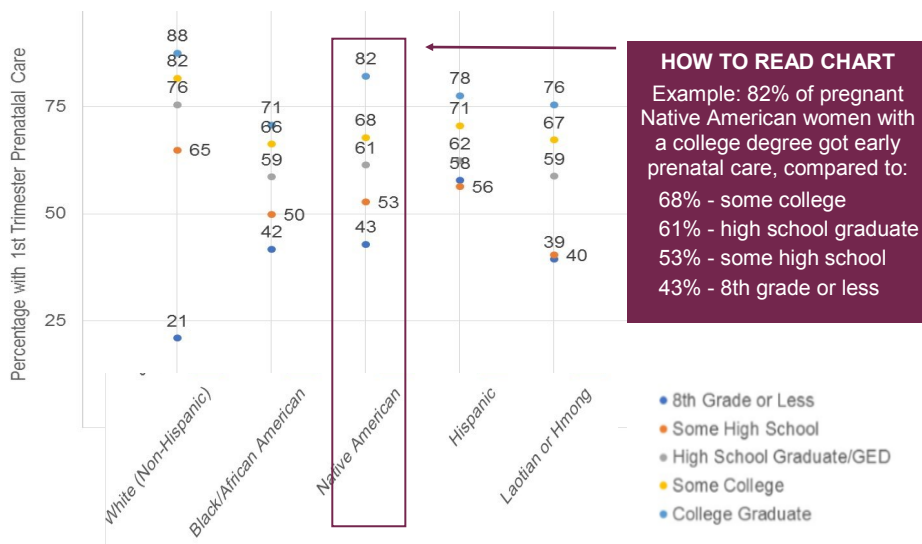
Source: Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH), Prenatal Care Module, <https://wish.wisconsin.gov/>, accessed 4/9/19.

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Percent of Women Receiving First-Trimester Prenatal Care: Race/Ethnicity & Increasing Levels of Mother's Educational Attainment

Education reduces, but does not eliminate, racial disparities in early prenatal care
Wisconsin, 2015-2017 (3-yr avg.)



HOW TO READ CHART
Example: 82% of pregnant Native American women with a college degree got early prenatal care, compared to:
68% - some college
61% - high school graduate
53% - some high school
43% - 8th grade or less

Footnotes: from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics: ¹Singleton Low Birthweight Rates, by Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, 2006–2016, NCHS Data Brief No. 306, March 2018; ²Timing and adequacy of prenatal care in the United States, 2016, National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 67 No 3, May 30, 2018. ³ Centers for Disease Control, National Environmental Health Public Tracking, Reproductive and Birth Outcomes, <https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/>. ⁴National Institutes of Health, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, "What is prenatal care and why is it important?" health topics <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/>.

About the Women's Council

Wisconsin Women's Council promotes initiatives to empower women, conducts research on the status of women, and engages in unique partnerships to address barriers and inequalities affecting Wisconsin women.

The Council is comprised of a 15-member board appointed by the Governor and Legislative leaders.

Mary Jo Baas, Chair

Christine Lidbury Executive Director
Tayler Palkowski Research Assistant

Source: Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH), Prenatal Care Module, accessed 4/26/19.