

## **Minority Health Disparities in Pennsylvania Maternal and Infant Health (2020):**

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Please keep in mind that, as you digest the data provided, many factors influence health outcomes. Where one lives, works and plays impacts one's health and quality of life. Interrelationships among the social determinants of health (SDOH), such as income, education, housing and transportation, all contribute to a community's chances to thrive.

### **The following statistics were significantly higher among black residents compared to whites:**

- Infant mortality rate (under one year of age)
- Maternal mortality rate (pregnant at time of death or up to 42 days postpartum and a natural cause of death)
- Percent low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams, or 5 lbs., 9 oz.)
- Percent no prenatal care in the first trimester
- Percent no prenatal care
- Percent teen (ages 15-17) births
- Teen (ages 15-17) pregnancy rate
- Percent of births to unmarried mothers
- Percent of mothers not breastfeeding

### **The following statistics were significantly higher among Hispanic residents compared to whites:**

- Percent low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams, or 5 lbs., 9 oz.)
- Percent no prenatal care in first trimester
- Percent no prenatal care
- Percent teen (ages 15-17) births
- Teen (ages 15-17) pregnancy rate
- Percent of births to unmarried mothers

### **The following statistics were significantly higher among Asian and Pacific Islander residents compared to whites:**

- Percent low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams, or 5 lbs., 9 oz.)

### **Data Highlights**

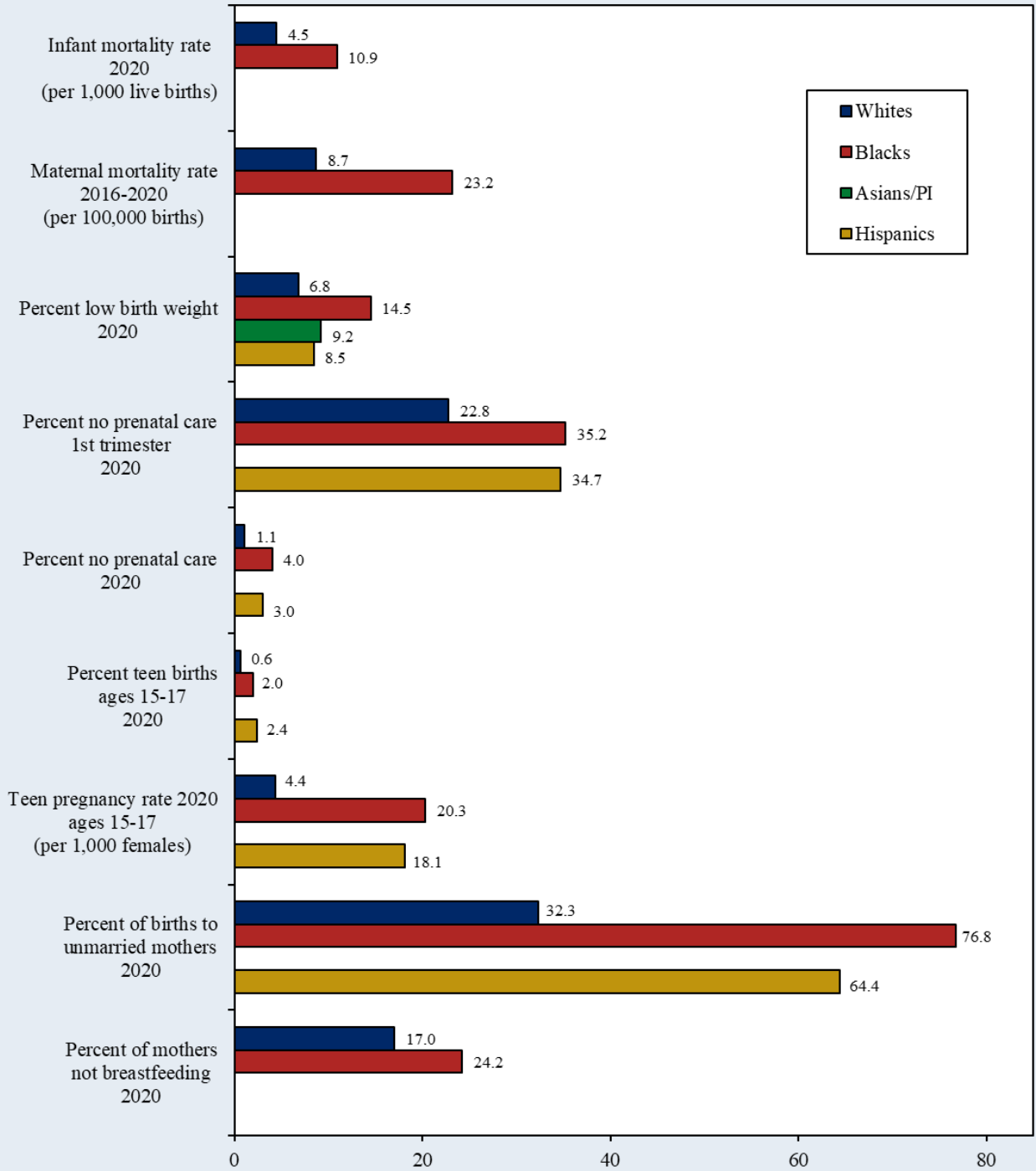
**Blacks:** The 2020 infant mortality rate for blacks in Pennsylvania was over two times higher than the rate for whites (10.9 per 1,000 births vs. 4.5). The maternal mortality rate for the five-year period 2016-2020 was also over two times as high among blacks (23.2 per 100,000 births) compared to whites (8.7). The percentage of low birth weight babies born to black mothers in 2020 was twice the percentage for white mothers (14.5 vs. 6.8). The percentage of black mothers without prenatal care (35.2 percent during the first trimester and 4.0 percent throughout the pregnancy) was significantly higher compared to white mothers (22.8 and 1.1 percent) in 2020. The teen (ages 15-17) pregnancy rate was four times higher among blacks (20.3 per 1,000) compared to whites (4.4) during 2020; however, the teen pregnancy rate among blacks has decreased sharply in recent

years, falling 66.8 percent since 2010. The percent of births to unmarried black mothers (76.8) was nearly two and one-half times higher than the percent of births to unmarried white mothers (32.3) in 2020.

**Hispanics:** The percent of Hispanic mothers without prenatal care (34.7 percent during the first trimester and 3.0 percent throughout the pregnancy) was significantly higher than the percentage among white mothers in 2020 (22.8 and 1.1, respectively). The teen (ages 15-17) pregnancy rate was four times higher among Hispanics (18.1 per 1,000) compared to whites (4.4 per 1,000) in 2020. Hispanics also saw a decline in teen pregnancy rates, from 2019 to 2020, along with blacks. The percent of births to unmarried Hispanic mothers (64.4) was twice as high as the percent of births to unmarried white mothers (32.3) in 2020.

**Asians and Pacific Islanders:** The percentage of low birth weight babies born to Asian and Pacific Islander mothers in 2020 was significantly higher than the percentage for white mothers (9.2 vs. 6.8).

## 2020 Maternal and Infant Health Significant Differences Compared to White Pa. Residents



SOURCE: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Certificates of Birth and Certificates of Death  
NOTE: Unknowns excluded in all calculations.

For additional maternal and infant health statistics, please visit the [EDDIE](#) system or [Healthy People 2030](#).