



MCAH 2022 Preterm Births

A full-term pregnancy usually lasts about 40 weeks. Births occurring at less than 37 weeks gestation, more than 3 weeks before the due date, are considered preterm. Preterm births often result in babies being born too small with complications that can last a lifetime. Also, babies born too early often have the increased risk of dying within the first year of life.

The preterm birth rate is calculated by taking the number of preterm births divided by the total number of live births within the same period, multiplied by 100.

While prematurity used to be a major cause of infant deaths, improved technology and medical care have increased the survivability of preterm babies.

The overall preterm birth rate in Fresno County in 2022 was 9.6. Although Fresno County, as a whole, has met or surpassed the Healthy People 2020's objective to bring the preterm birth rate to below 11.4, the County rate remains above 2030's objective of 9.4 (Figure 1). Disparities exist among locations in the County (Figure 2).

Within the most recent years, among major ethnic groups, Blacks had the highest rates. In 2022, the rate for Black was 12.6; Asian, 9.6; Hispanic, 9.7; and White — the lowest — was 8.7. The rates among AIAN and HwPI group appeared high, but those rates may not be comparatively reliable due to the small number of births within the groups.

Source: State of California, California Department of Public Health, CalIVRS; California Comprehensive Birth File, Accessed 10 July 2023.

¹AIAN: American Indian/Alaska Native ²HwPI: Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Table 1. Preterm Birth Rate, County of Fresno, 2017-2021

| | White | Black | AIAN ¹ | Asian | HwPI ² | Other | Hispanic | Total |
|------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| 2017 | 8.0 | 13.1 | 12.7 | 9.6 | 6.3 | 9.5 | 9.0 | 9.1 |
| 2018 | 8.4 | 13.3 | 10.8 | 9.3 | 15.0 | 7.4 | 9.4 | 9.3 |
| 2019 | 9.4 | 15.3 | 12.0 | 8.0 | 4.3 | 8.7 | 10.0 | 9.9 |
| 2020 | 9.0 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 10.2 | 10.0 | 9.1 | 9.9 | 10.0 |
| 2021 | 9.5 | 14.7 | 20.5 | 11.0 | 4.0 | 9.4 | 10.4 | 10.5 |

Table 2. Preterm Births and Rates, County of Fresno, 2022

| | White | Black | AIAN ¹ | Asian | HwPI ² | Other | Hispanic | Total |
|---------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|----------|--------|
| Births | 2,457 | 636 | 77 | 1,701 | 34 | 542 | 8,499 | 13,946 |
| Preterm | 213 | 80 | 7 | 163 | 9 | 48 | 822 | 1,342 |
| Rate | 8.7 | 12.6 | 9.1 | 9.6 | 26.5 | 8.9 | 9.7 | 9.6 |

Figure 1. Preterm Birth Rate by Race/Ethnicity, County of Fresno

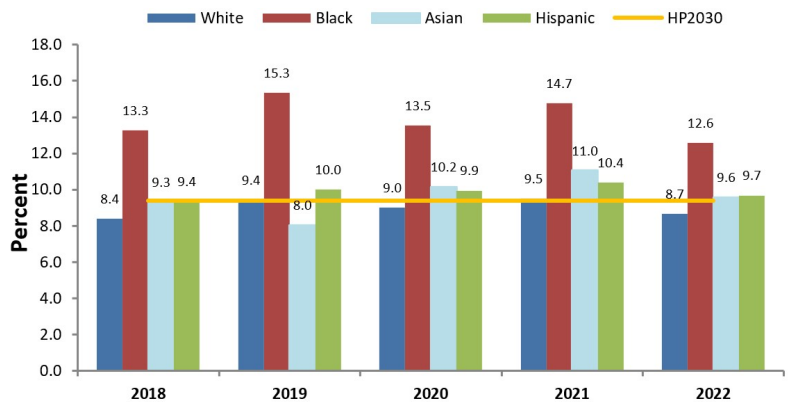


Figure 2. Preterm Birth Rate, County of Fresno, 2018-2022

