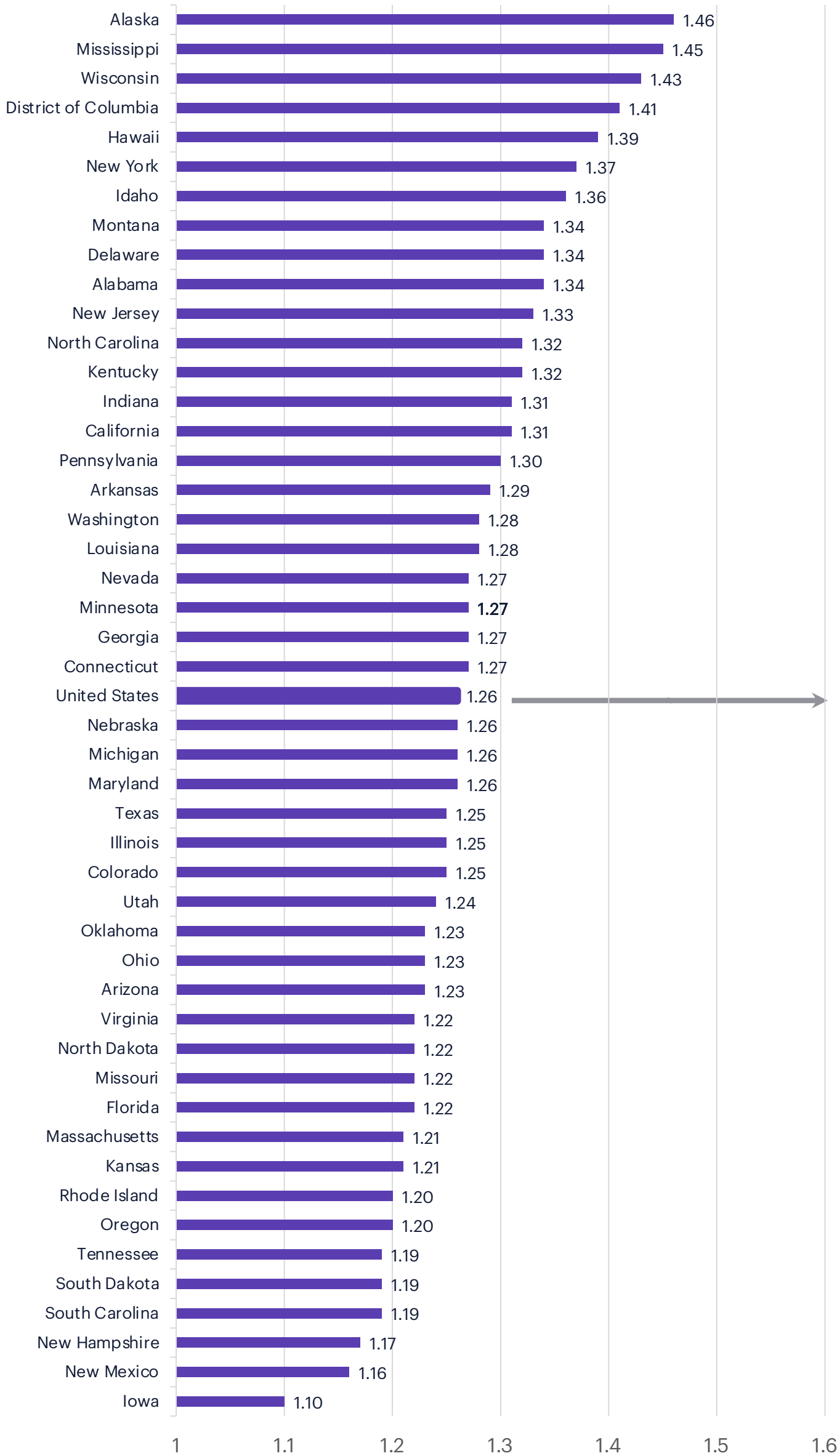


# RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN PRETERM BIRTH DISPARITY RATIO BY STATE

The March of Dimes disparity ratio measures and tracks progress toward the elimination of racial/ethnic disparities in preterm birth. It is based on Healthy People 2020 methodology and compares the group with the lowest preterm birth rate to the average for all other groups. Progress is evaluated by comparing the current disparity ratio (2019-2021) to a baseline disparity ratio (2012-2014). A lower disparity ratio is better, with a disparity ratio of 1 indicating no disparity.



**U.S. DISPARITY RATIO**

**1.26**

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**  
In the U.S., the average preterm birth rate among all racial/ethnic groups (excluding the best) is **1.26 times higher** (or 26 percent) than the best group (Asian/Pacific Islander).

**HOW HAS IT CHANGED OVER TIME?**  
The U.S. disparity ratio has **worsened from baseline** (2012-2014).

**Notes:**

- The disparity ratio compares the average preterm birth rate for all available racial/ethnic groups (excluding the best group) in a U.S. geographic area to the racial/ethnic group with the lowest preterm birth rate.
- The disparity ratio is not available for Maine, Puerto Rico, Vermont, West Virginia, or Wyoming.
- See the U.S. 2022 Premature Birth Report Card at [MARCHOFDIMES.ORG/REPORTCARD](https://www.marchofdimes.org/reportcard) for more information on data sources and calculations.

**Source:** National Center for Health Statistics, 2019-2021 final natality data.

**Prepared by:** March of Dimes Perinatal Data Center, 2022.