The March of Dimes disparity ratio measures and tracks progress towards the elimination of racial/ethnic disparities in preterm birth. It’s 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 to a baseline disparity ratio. A lower disparity ratio is better, with a disparity ratio of 1 indicating no disparity.

### ALASKA

**INFANT HEALTH**

**PRETERM BIRTH GRADE**

C-

**PRETERM BIRTH RATE**

10.1%

**INFANT MORTALITY**

5.4

Infant mortality rates are an indication of overall health. Leading causes of infant death include birth defects, preterm birth, low birth weight, maternal complications and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

**INFANT MORTALITY RATE**

5.0

### PRETERM BIRTH RATE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

The March of Dimes disparity ratio measures and tracks progress towards the elimination of racial/ethnic disparities in preterm birth. It’s 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 to a baseline disparity ratio. A lower disparity ratio is better, with a disparity ratio of 1 indicating no disparity.

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

- **White**: 7.9
- **Hispanic**: 9.4
- **Black**: 11.0
- **Asian/Pacific Islander**: 11.4
- **American Indian/Alaska Native**: 14.3

**DISPARITY RATIO**: 1.46

**CHANGE FROM BASELINE**: No Improvement

### PRETERM BIRTH RATE BY CITY

**CITY**

- **Anchorage**: C, 10.0%, Worsened

**THE 2022 MARCH OF DIMES REPORT CARD:**

Stark and unacceptable disparities persist alongside a troubling rise in preterm birth rates.

March of Dimes recommends state policy actions that are rooted in addressing disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes, see [www.marchofdimes.org/reportcard](http://www.marchofdimes.org/reportcard)


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There is a critical connection between infant health, maternal health and the health of a family. All are dependent on their lived social context, the quality and accessibility of healthcare and the policies within a state. Each factor can provide insight into how a state serves its population, among other factors.

**MATERNAL VULNERABILITY INDEX**

Where you live matters.

March of Dimes, in partnership with Surgo Ventures, examines determinants of maternal health using the Maternal Vulnerability Index (MVI)*. The MVI is the first county-level, national-scale tool to identify where and why moms in the U.S. are vulnerable to poor pregnancy outcomes and pregnancy-related deaths. The MVI includes not only widely known clinical risk factors, but also key social, contextual, and environmental factors that are essential influencers of health outcomes.

Differences in counties are measured using numerous factors broken into six themes: reproductive healthcare, physical health, mental health and substance abuse, general healthcare, socioeconomic determinants and physical environment. The MVI assigns a score of 0-100 to each geography, where a higher score indicates greater vulnerability to adverse maternal outcomes.


**CLINICAL MEASURES**

Your healthcare matters.

Access to and quality of healthcare before, during and after pregnancy can affect health outcomes in the future. An unnecessary Cesarean birth can lead to medical complications and inadequate prenatal care can miss important milestones in pregnancy.

![CLINICAL MEASURES](https://mvi.surgoventures.org/)

**POLICY MEASURES**

State policies matter. Adoption of the following policies and organizations can help improve maternal and infant healthcare.

![POLICY MEASURES](https://mvi.surgoventures.org/)

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