Many structural, systemic, and environmental factors influence the health of mothers and babies, especially for Black, Native American, and Hispanic people. This describes preterm birth by maternal race and ethnicity in Puerto Rico using race and ethnicity categories. By first understanding where differences exist, we can then move forward to advocate for changes towards health equity.

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).

Preterm birth rates by race and ethnicity in Puerto Rico.

The 2022 March of Dimes Report Card highlights the latest key indicators to describe and improve maternal and infant health. We continue to provide updated measures on preterm birth, infant mortality, low-risk Cesarean births and inadequate prenatal care. New this year is the inclusion of the Maternal Vulnerability Index (MVI), which provides county-level indicators of where women are most vulnerable to poor outcomes. Our Supplemental Report Card summarizes state-level progress towards selected Healthy People 2030 pregnancy and childbirth health objectives, outcomes by race/ethnicity and describes March of Dimes programmatic initiatives. We continue to monitor disparities in maternal and infant health. Comprehensive data collection and analysis of these measures inform the development of policies and programs that move us closer to health equity. The Report Card presents policies like Medicaid expansion and programs like Maternal Mortality Review Committees, that can help improve equitable maternal and infant health for families across the country.
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.

**CLINICAL MEASURE**

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.

**POLICY MEASURES**

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

**PUERTO RICO**

**PRETERM BIRTH RATE BY MUNICIPALITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MUNICIPALITY</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>PRETERM BIRTH RATE</th>
<th>CHANGE IN RATE FROM LAST YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bayamón</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caguas</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>Worsened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponce</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MATERNAL HEALTH**

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.

**CLINICAL MEASURE**

47.5

26.3

**PERCENT**

**LOW-RISK CESAREAN BIRTH**

Percent of women who had Cesarean births and were first-time moms, carrying a single baby, positioned head-first and at least 37 weeks pregnant. These births are frequently considered low-risk.

**POLICY MEASURES**

**MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE (MMRC)**

Territory has a MMRC, which is recognized as essential to understanding and addressing the causes of maternal death.

**PERINATAL QUALITY COLLABORATIVE (PQC)**

Territory has a PQC to identify and improve quality care issues in maternal and infant healthcare.

**DOULA POLICY OR LEGISLATION**

Territory has allowed for the passage of Medicaid coverage for doula care.

**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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