



**Indiana**  
**Department**  
**of**  
**Health**

# INDIANA LINKED BIRTH AND DEATH DATA, 2018-2022

FAMILY HEALTH DATA AND FATALITY  
PREVENTION DIVISION

May 2025

OUR MISSION:

**To promote, protect, and improve  
the health and safety of all Hoosiers.**

OUR VISION:

**Every Hoosier reaches optimal health  
regardless of where they live, learn,  
work, or play.**



# Data description

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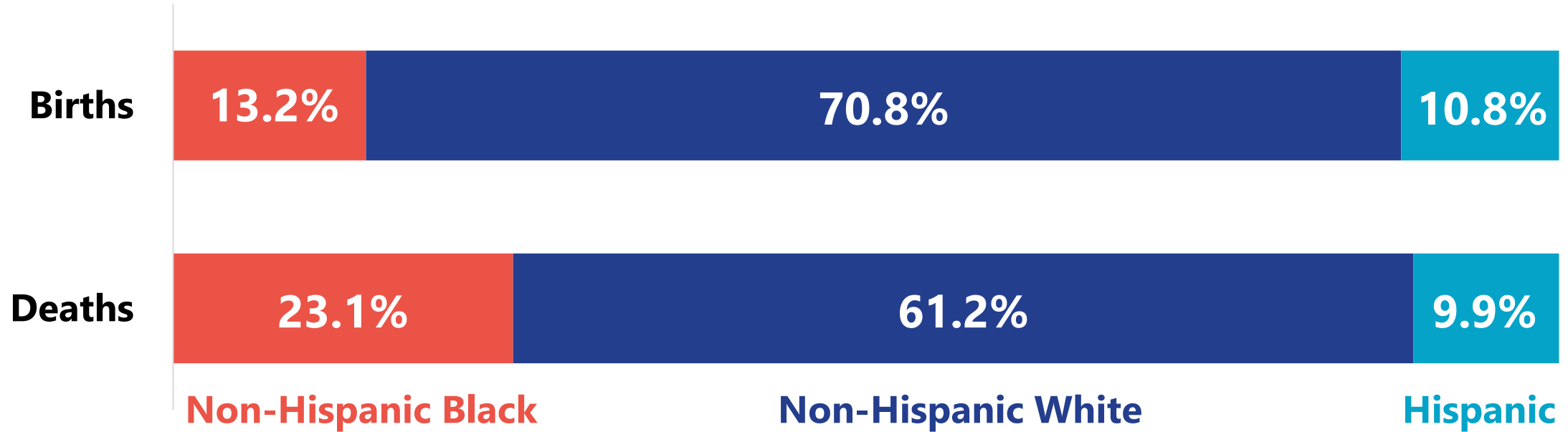
- These are based on Indiana births that were linked to Indiana infant death records
- 2018-2022 describes the infant birth year
- The infant death year spans 2018-2023
- Looking at the data this way gives us the ability to analyze the relationships between risk factors and infant mortality rather than the two pieces independently
- The data points in this presentation should not be compared to other materials and statistics based on only birth or death records

# Limitations

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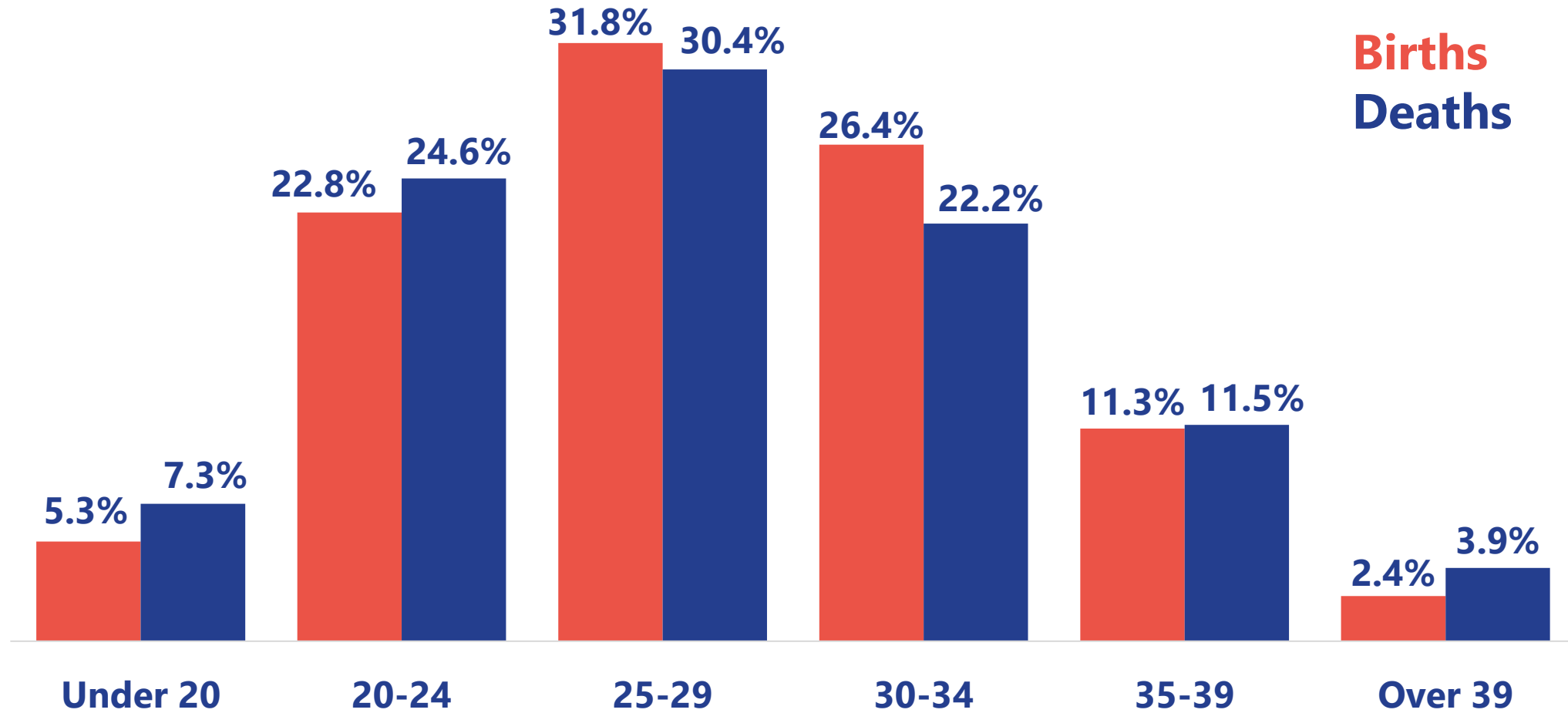
- Not all Indiana infant death records were linked with a birth record
  - This means that the infant mortality rates provided based on this analysis might be an underestimate of the true rates for Indiana
- 2,584 records were matched ~ 95%
- Matching varies by cause of death. All causes matched between 90% and 97%
- Race and ethnicity may differ on birth and death records. We use data from the birth certificate to match the CDC's method
  - This means that race/ethnicity infant mortality rates may differ when compared to annual reports

# Indiana linked births and infant deaths by race and ethnicity

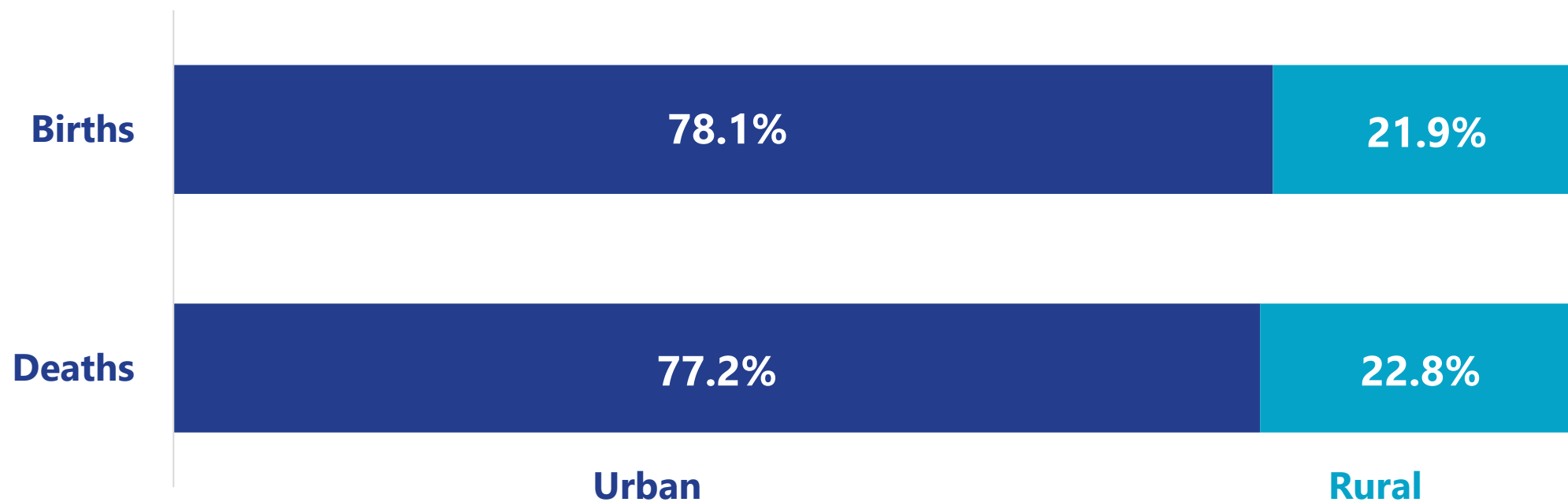


- ❑ Non-Hispanic Black infants experience death at a **2** times higher rate than the Non-Hispanic White infant population.
- ❑ Hispanic infants experience death at a **1.1** times higher rate than the Non-Hispanic White infant population.

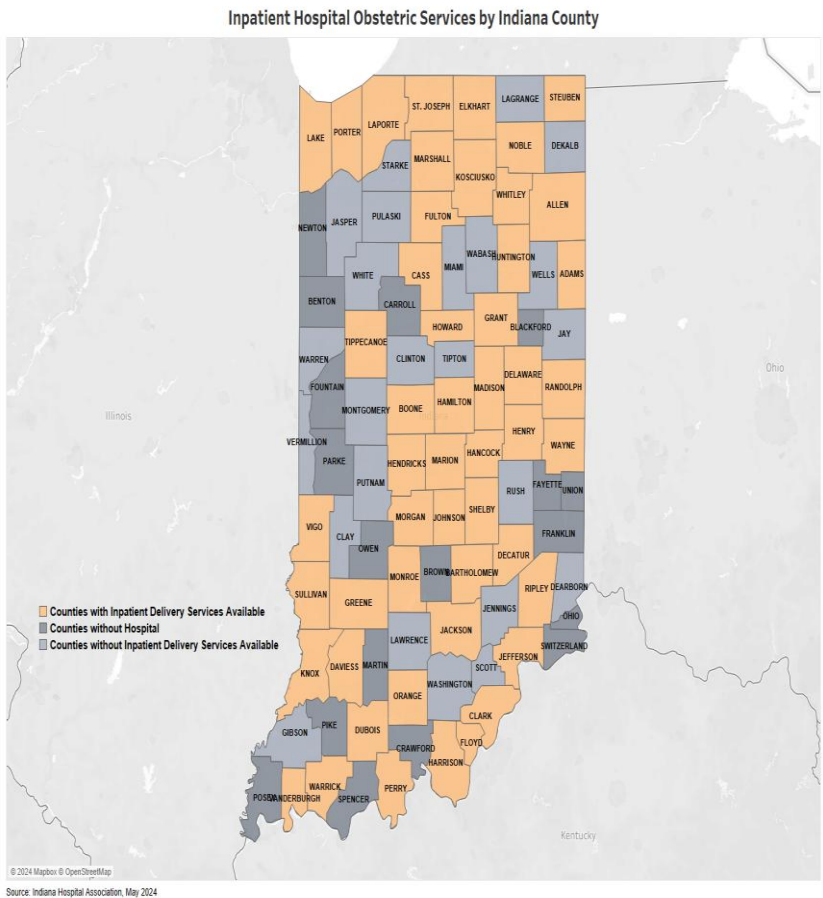
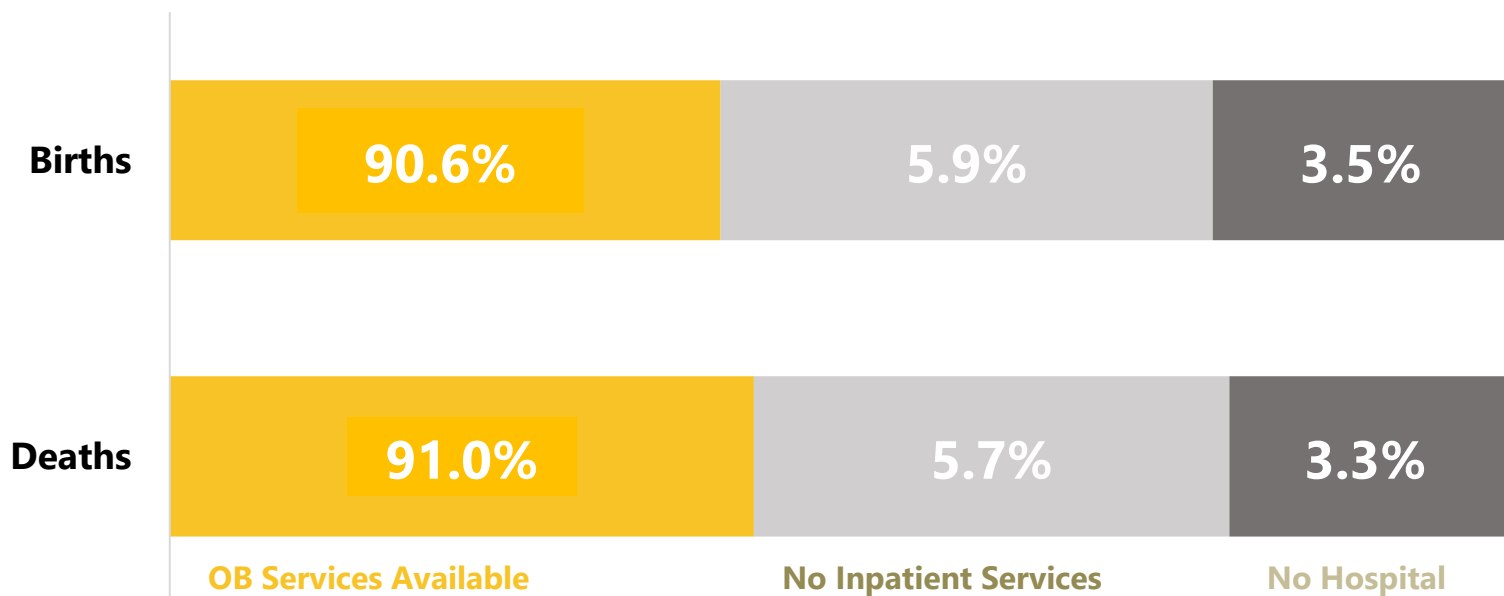
# Indiana linked births and infant deaths by age of mom



# Indiana linked data by rural/urban



# Indiana linked data by hospital access







# Birth Outcome Indicators



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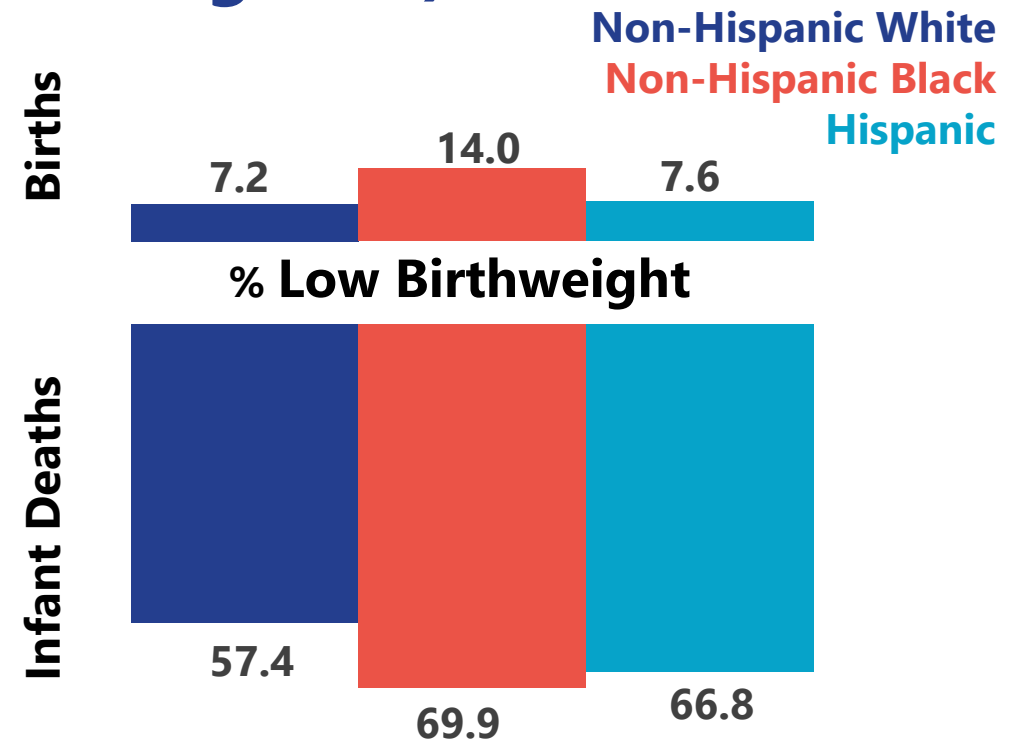
# Low Birthweight

**61.4%**

**of infants who died had a low birthweight (< 2,500 grams).**

**Over 4%**

**of low birthweight births resulted in an infant death.**



Comparisons should not be made to unlinked data sources.

Source: Indiana Department of Health, Family Health Data and Fatality Prevention Division [May 2025]

Indiana Original Source: Indiana Department of Health, Vital Records, ODA

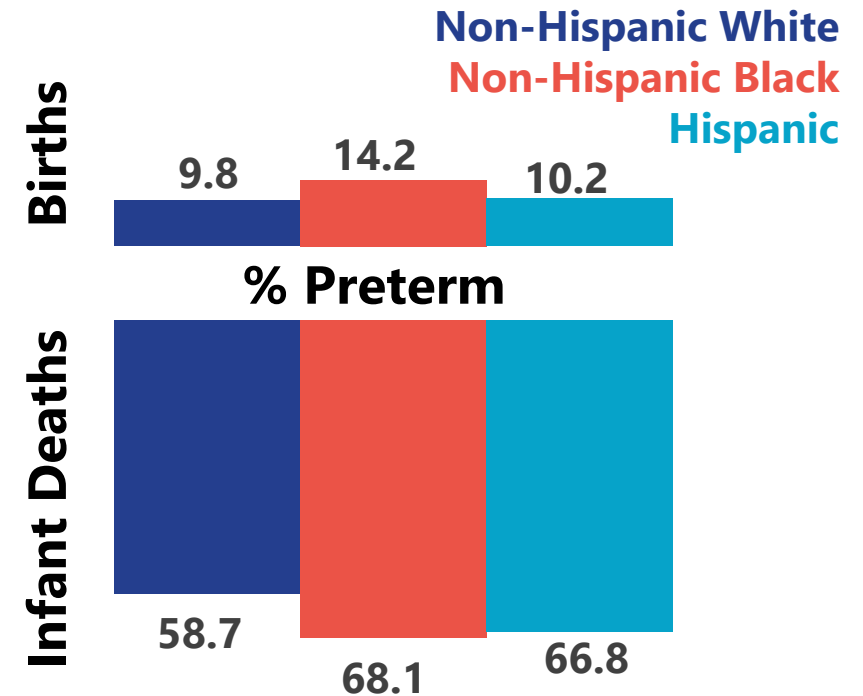
# Preterm

62%

of infants who died were born preterm (< 37 weeks gestation).

Over 3%

of preterm births resulted in an infant death.



Comparisons should not be made to unlinked data sources.

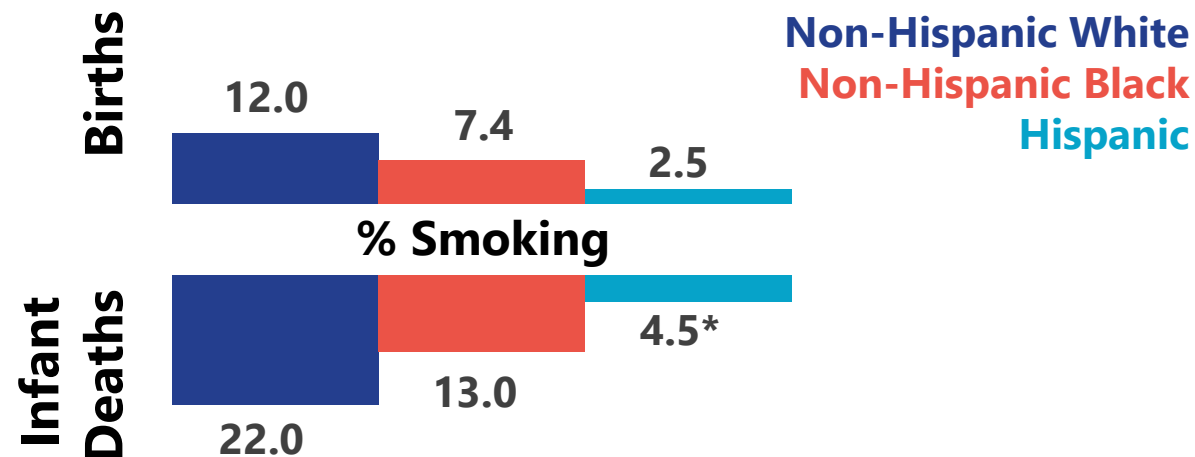
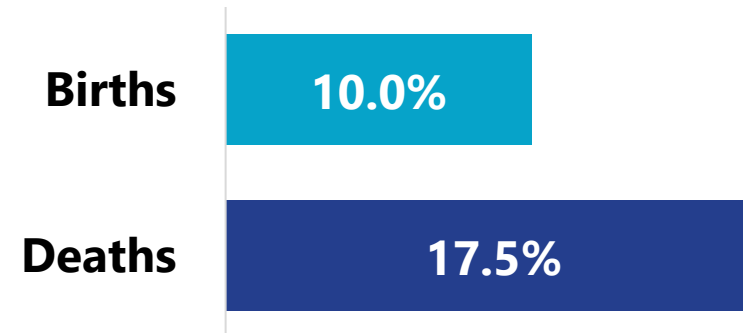
Source: Indiana Department of Health, Family Health Data and Fatality Prevention Division [May 2025]

Indiana Original Source: Indiana Department of Health, Vital Records, ODA

# Smoking During Pregnancy

**17.5%**

of the infants who died were born to a mom who reported smoking during pregnancy.



\* Percentages based on counts less than 20 are unstable and should be interpreted with caution.

Comparisons should not be made to unlinked data sources.

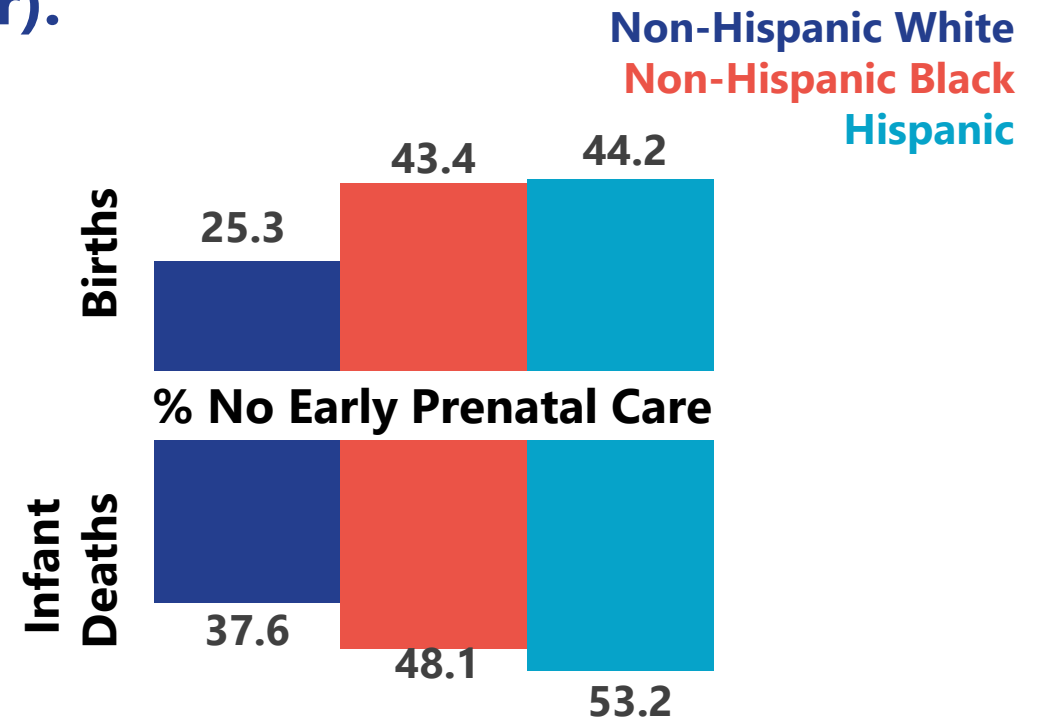
Source: Indiana Department of Health, Family Health Data and Fatality Prevention Division [May 2025]

Indiana Original Source: Indiana Department of Health, Vital Records, ODA

# Early Prenatal Care

2 out of every 5

infants who died received **no early prenatal care (1<sup>st</sup> trimester).**



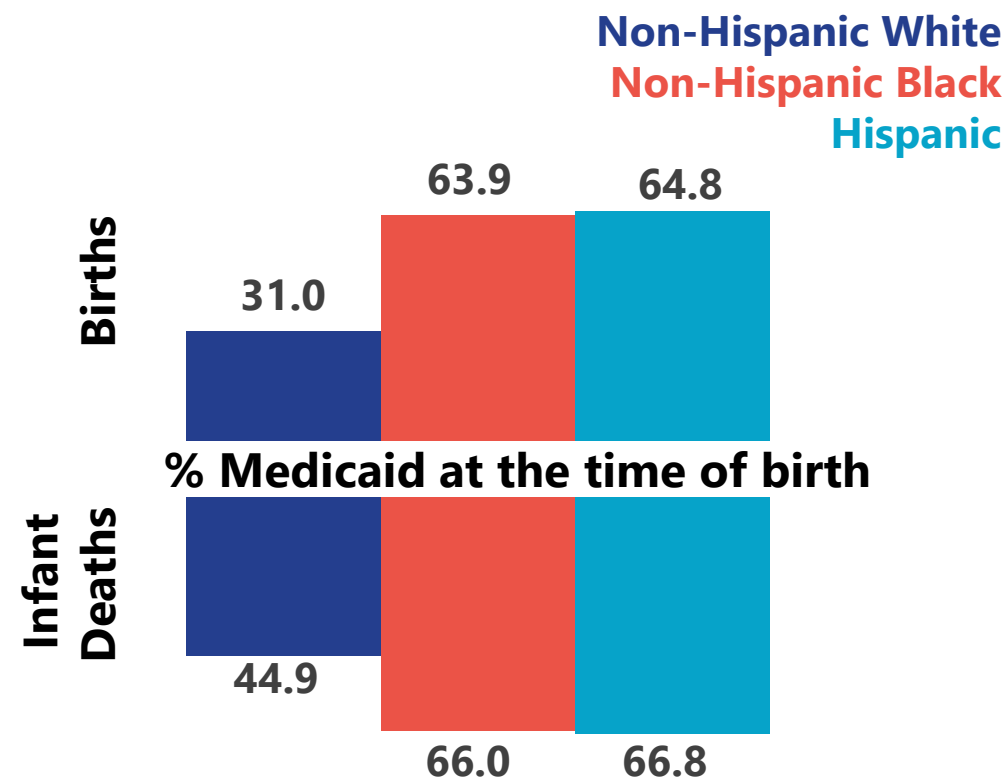
Comparisons should not be made to unlinked data sources.

Source: Indiana Department of Health, Family Health Data and Fatality Prevention Division [May 2025]

Indiana Original Source: Indiana Department of Health, Vital Records, ODA

# Medicaid at the Time of Birth

**52.2%** of infants who died were  
born to a mother on **Medicaid at the time  
of birth.**



Comparisons should not be made to unlinked data sources.

Source: Indiana Department of Health, Family Health Data and Fatality Prevention Division [May 2025]

Indiana Original Source: Indiana Department of Health, Vital Records, ODA





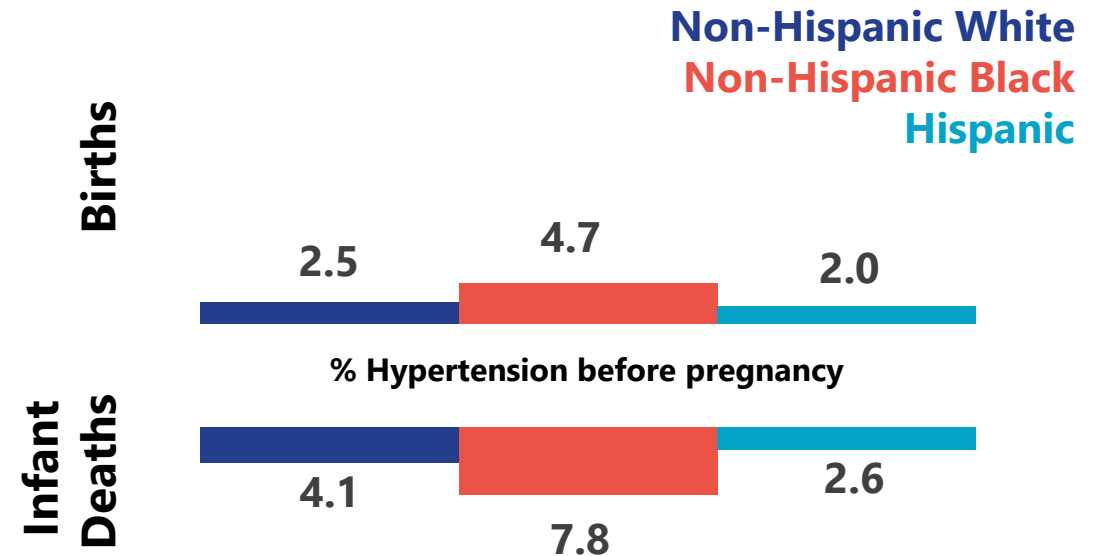
# Maternal Health



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# Hypertension Before Pregnancy

**4.8%** of infants who died were  
born to a mother who experienced  
**hypertension** before pregnancy.



Comparisons should not be made to unlinked data sources.

Source: Indiana Department of Health, Family Health Data and Fatality Prevention Division [May 2025]

Indiana Original Source: Indiana Department of Health, Vital Records, ODA



# Diabetes Before Pregnancy

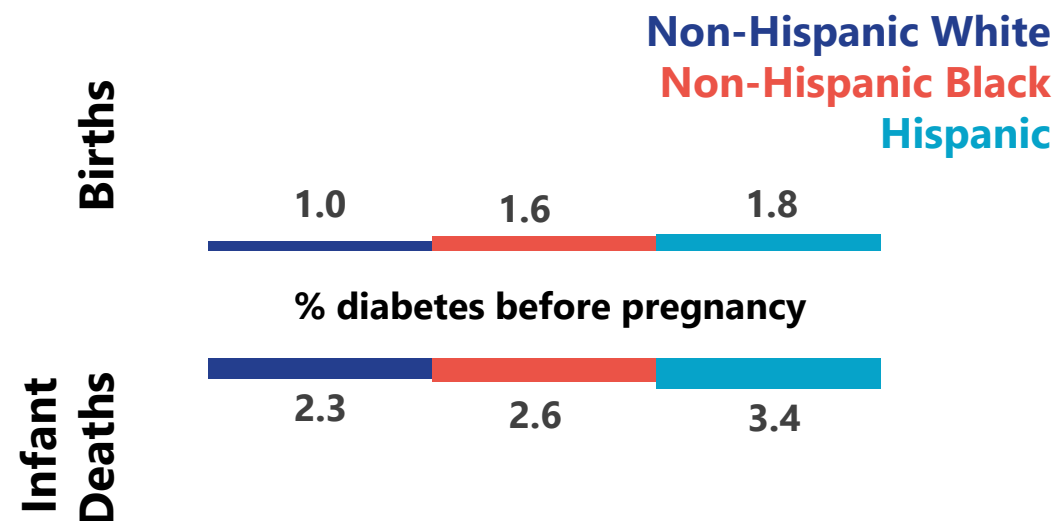
**2.6%** of infants who died were born to a mother who experienced **diabetes** before pregnancy.

Births

1.1%

Deaths

2.6%



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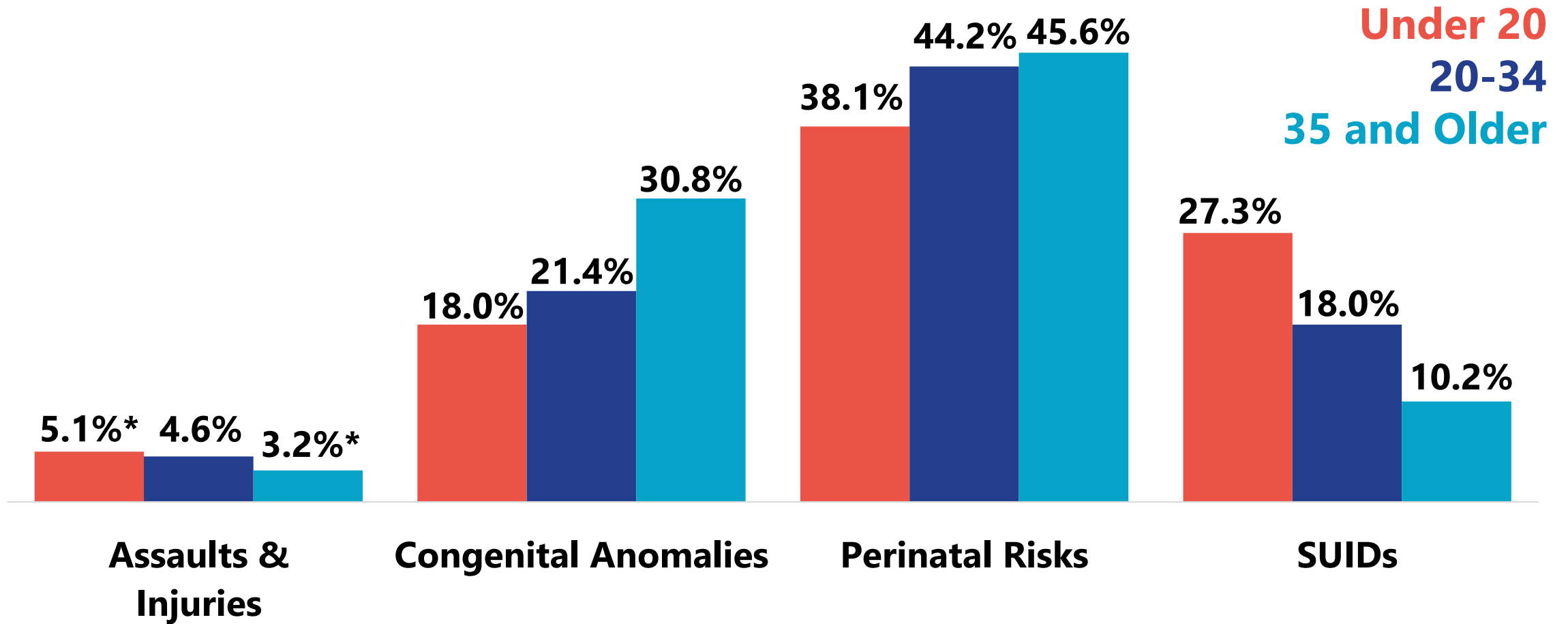


# Causes of Infant Death in Indiana, 2018-2022



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# Cause of death by age of mom

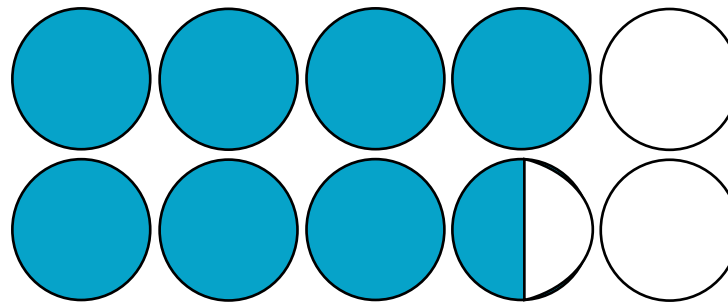


# Assaults and Injuries

**1.6x** greater risk of infant death due to **assaults or injuries** when mothers are **ages 19 or younger**.

**74.6%**

**of infant deaths from assaults or injuries were babies born to mothers on Medicaid at the time of birth.**



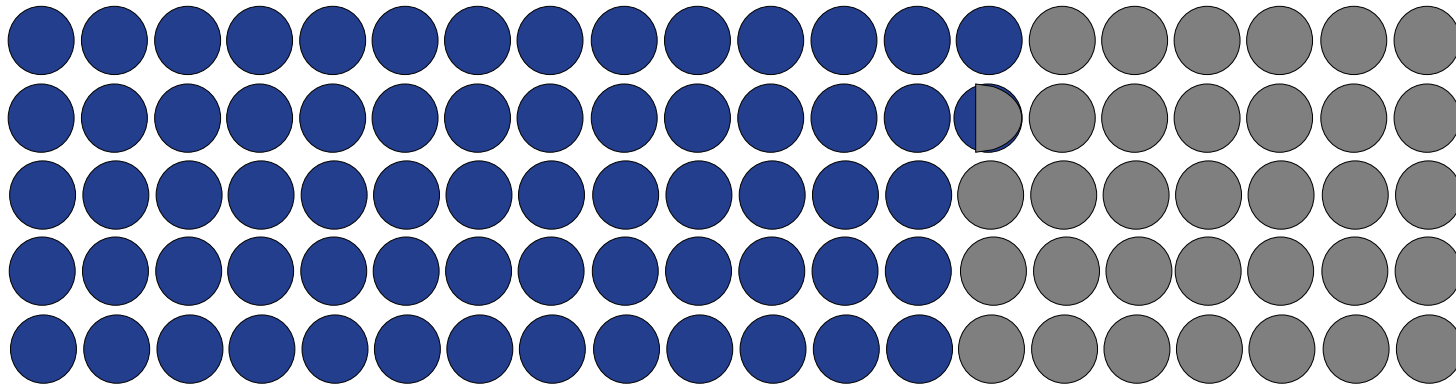
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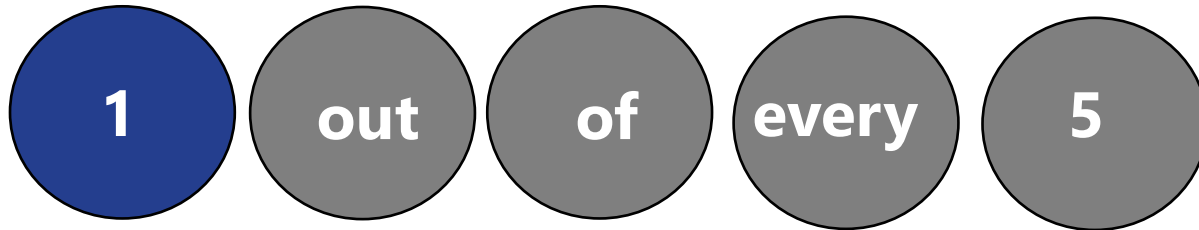
# Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUIDs)

**4.2x** greater risk of infant death  
due to **SUIDs** when mothers  
reported smoking during  
pregnancy.



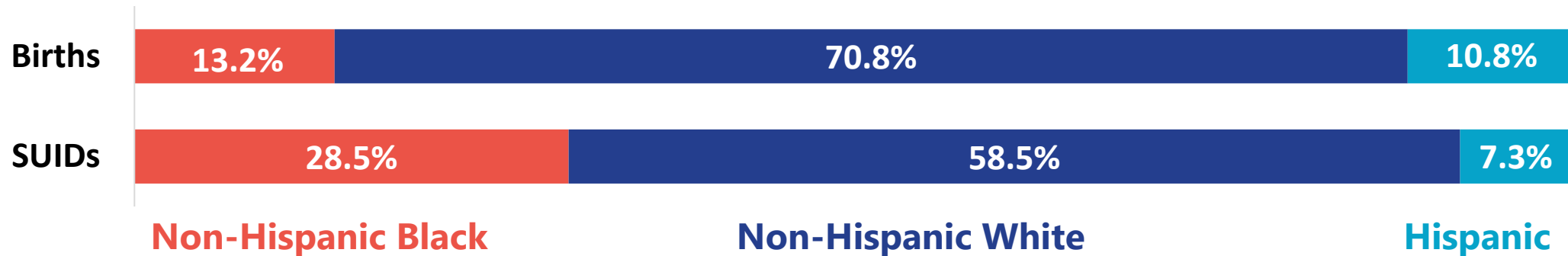
**66.1%** of all **SUIDs** were babies born to mothers  
on **Medicaid** at the time of birth.

## Preterm or Low Birthweight Births and SUIDs



**19.6%** of SUIDs were linked to a baby who was born **preterm or low birthweight**.

## Births and SUIDs by Race and Ethnicity



Comparisons should not be made to unlinked data sources.

Source: Indiana Department of Health, Family Health Data and Fatality Prevention Division [May 2025]

Indiana Original Source: Indiana Department of Health, Vital Records, ODA

# Summary

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- Linked data allows us to analyze the relationships between risk factors and infant mortality rather than the two pieces independently
- Most Indiana infant deaths were either premature or low birthweight babies
- Smoking and no early prenatal care during pregnancy are linked to higher percentages of infant death
- Trends exist between cause of infant death and the age of mom.
- Disparities exist in indicators and outcomes

# Questions?

## CONTACT:

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