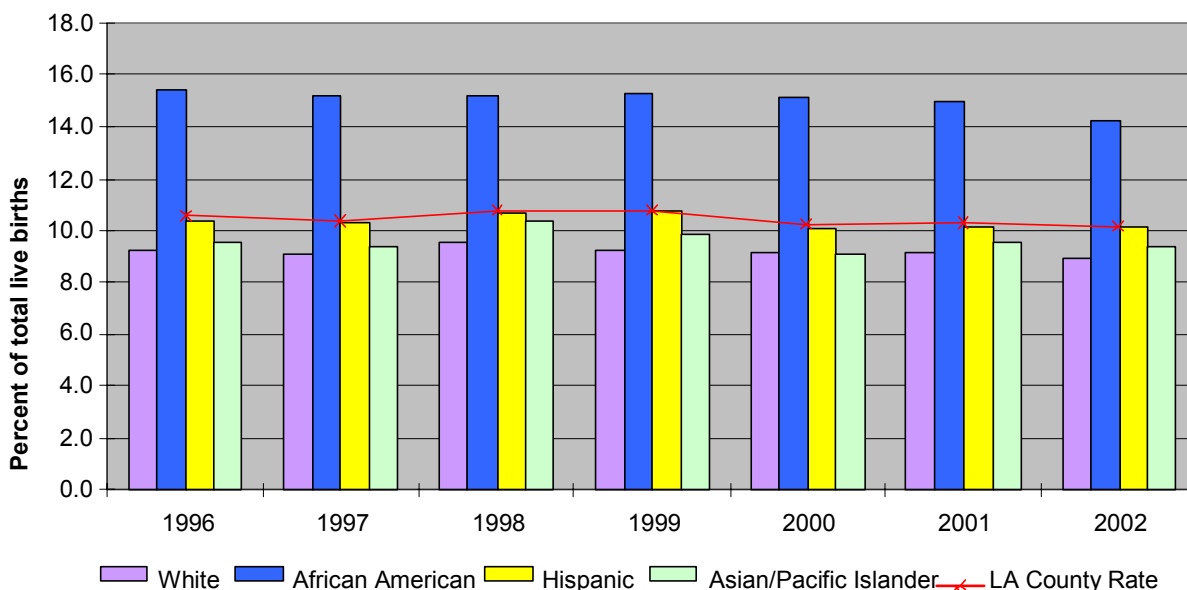


LABBC-Center for Healthy Births

Preterm Births Under 37 Weeks by Race-Ethnicity, Los Angeles County 1996-2002



Source: LA County Dept of Health Services-Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Programs,



Preterm Births* by Race-Ethnicity, Los Angeles County, 1996-2002

	White		African American		Hispanic		Asian/Pacific Islander		LA County Rate	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
1996	2,972	9.2	2,343	15.4	10,920	10.4	1,520	9.6	17,828	10.6
1997	2,817	9.1	2,208	15.2	10,305	10.3	1,451	9.3	16,856	10.4
1998	2,929	9.6	2,165	15.2	10,466	10.7	1,488	10.4	17,140	10.8
1999	2,726	9.2	2,095	15.3	10,428	10.7	1,479	9.8	16,812	10.8
2000	2,662	9.2	2,034	15.1	9,869	10.1	1,489	9.1	16,123	10.2
2001	2,592	9.2	1,901	15.0	9,821	10.2	1,492	9.6	15,813	10.3
2002	2,477	9.0	1,706	14.3	9,617	10.2	1,493	9.4	15,385	10.2

*preterm birth is defined as less than 37 weeks gestation

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Health Services-Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Programs, 2002

- Since 2000 the preterm birth rate in Los Angeles County has been steady at about 10.2%. This represents a 4% decrease from the prior years.
- Preterm birth has decreased in each ethnic group between 1996 and 2002. Preterm birth decreased by 7.1% among African Americans, and approximately 2% among each of the other groups.
- African Americans continue to have a disproportionately high rate of preterm birth compared with other groups. Compared with Caucasians, the risk of preterm birth is nearly 60% higher among African Americans, 37% higher among American Indians, 13% higher among Hispanics, and 4% higher among Asian/Pacific Islanders.
- Preterm birth is a problem that significantly impacts all ethnic groups in LA County. While the rates of preterm birth are disproportionately high among African American and American Indian groups, 62.5% of preterm births in LA County are born to Hispanic families, 16% to Caucasian families, 11% African American, 9.7% among Asian/Pacific Islander families and under 1% to American Indian families.