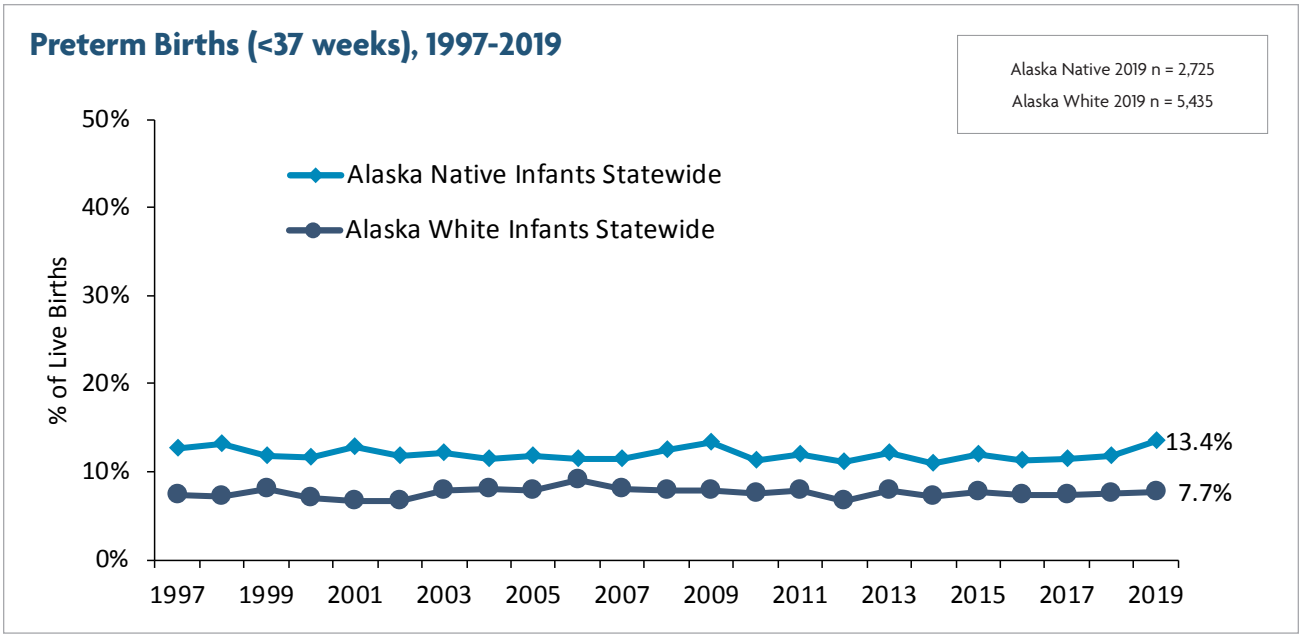
Preterm Birth



Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Alaska Health Analytics and Vital Records Sections
Table C-60

Definition

The average length of human gestation is 40 weeks, starting from the first day of the woman's last menstrual period. Preterm birth is defined as childbirth occurring at less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. Preterm infants are at greater risk for mortality and a variety of health and developmental problems. Infants born at the earliest gestational ages have the greatest risk of mortality and morbidity.[11]

Related Objectives

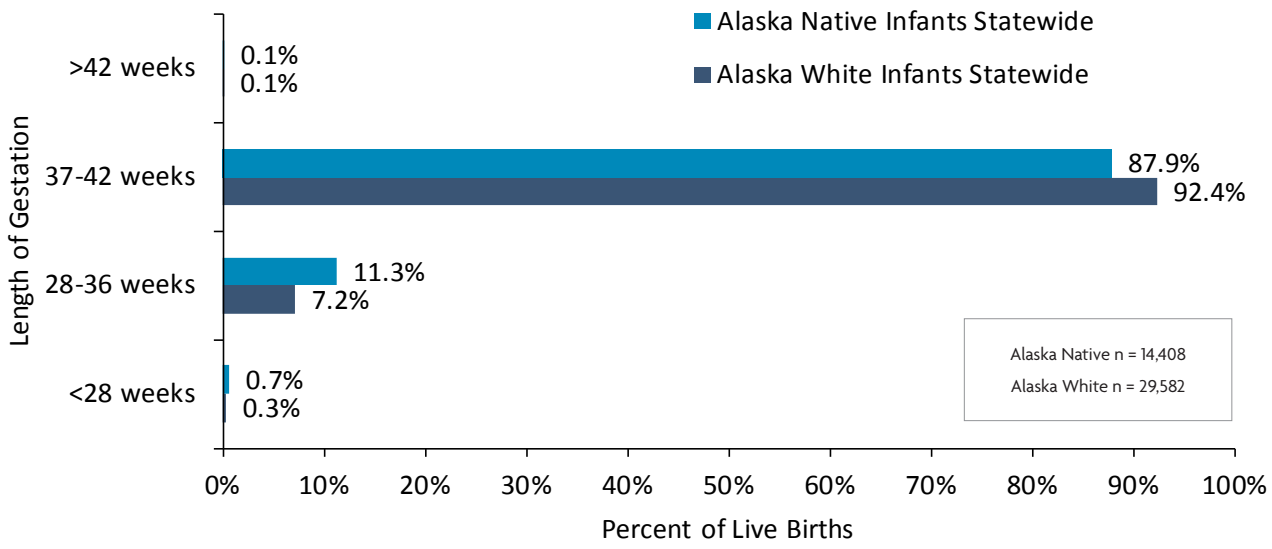
Reduce preterm births to 9.4%. - *HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030, OBJECTIVE MICH-07*

Summary

» In 2019, 13.4% of Alaska Native infant births were preterm, compared with 7.7% of Alaska White infants.
» Between 1997 and 2019, the percent of births among Alaska Native people there were preterm appeared to remain relatively stable.
» During 2015–2019, the percent of births that were preterm among Alaska Native infants varied by Tribal health region, ranging from 9.2% to 14.1%.

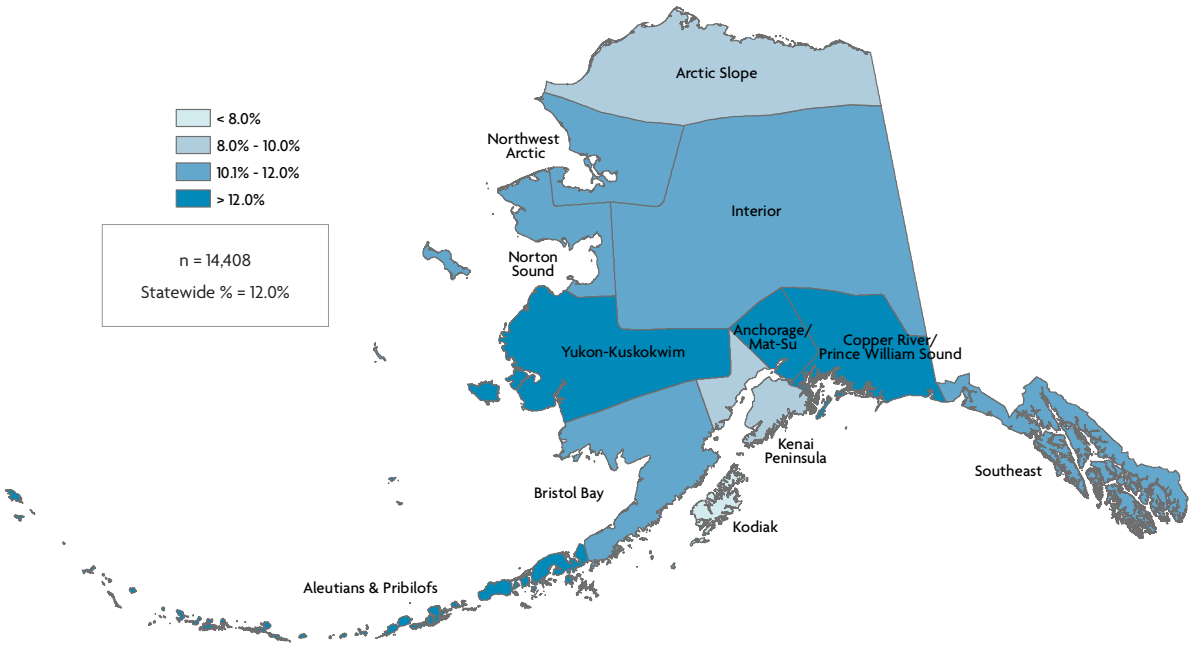
Preterm Birth

Length of Gestation, 5-Year Aggregate, 2015-2019



Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Alaska Health Analytics and Vital Records Section
Table C-61

Percent of Alaska Native Births That Were Preterm (<37 Weeks) by Tribal Health Region, 5-Year Aggregate, 2015-2019



Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Alaska Health Analytics and Vital Records Section
Table C-62

Preterm Birth

Table C-60: Preterm Births (<37 weeks), 1997-2019

Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Alaska Health Analytics and Vital Records Sections

	Alaska Native Infants Statewide		Alaska White Infants Statewide	
	Number	%	Number	%
1997	330	12.7%	572	7.3%
1998	350	13.1%	554	7.1%
1999	311	11.7%	627	8.0%
2000	320	11.6%	547	7.0%
2001	359	12.8%	515	6.6%
2002	321	11.8%	516	6.6%
2003	336	12.1%	622	7.9%
2004	334	11.5%	628	8.0%
2005	358	11.8%	612	7.8%
2006	351	11.5%	715	9.1%
2007	358	11.5%	628	8.0%
2008	399	12.5%	619	7.9%
2009	441	13.3%	612	7.8%
2010	364	11.2%	594	7.6%
2011	381	12.0%	618	7.9%
2012	344	11.1%	519	6.6%
2013	342	12.1%	622	7.9%
2014	325	10.9%	467	7.2%
2015	355	11.9%	491	7.6%
2016	350	11.3%	467	7.4%
2017	322	11.4%	424	7.3%
2018	329	11.8%	417	7.5%
2019	366	13.4%	417	7.7%

Table C-61: Length of Gestation, 2015-2019

Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Alaska Health Analytics and Vital Records Section

	Alaska Native Infants Statewide		Alaska White Infants Statewide	
	Number	%	Number	%
<28 weeks	94	0.7%	99	0.3%
28-36 weeks	1,628	11.3%	2,117	7.2%
37-42 weeks	12,665	87.9%	27,331	92.4%
>42 weeks	21	0.1%	35	0.1%
Total	**14,408**	**100.0%**	**29,582**	**100.0%**

Preterm Birth

Table C-62: Percent of Alaska Native Births That Were Preterm (<37 Weeks) by Tribal Health Region, 5-Year Aggregate, 2015-2019

	Alaska Native Infants	
	Number	**%**
Aleutians & Pribilofs	23	15.0%
Yukon-Kuskokwim	421	13.0%
Anchorage/Mat-Su	569	12.5%
Copper River/Prince William Sound	18*	12.2%
Northwest Arctic	109	12.0%
Interior	175	11.6%
Bristol Bay	72	11.6%
Norton Sound	93	11.4%
Southeast	125	10.6%
Arctic Slope	52	9.5%
Kenai Peninsula	49	9.2%
Kodiak Area	13*	7.2%
Statewide	**1,722**	**12.0%**

Note: There were 3 preterm births with unknown region during 2015-2019. Rates based on fewer than 20 cases are not statistically reliable and should be used with caution.

Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Alaska Health Analytics and Vital Records Section

11 Behrman, R.E., & Butler, A.S., Eds. (2007). Preterm Birth: Causes, Consequences, and Prevention. Washington, DC: National Academies Press