

Low Birth Weight

Issue

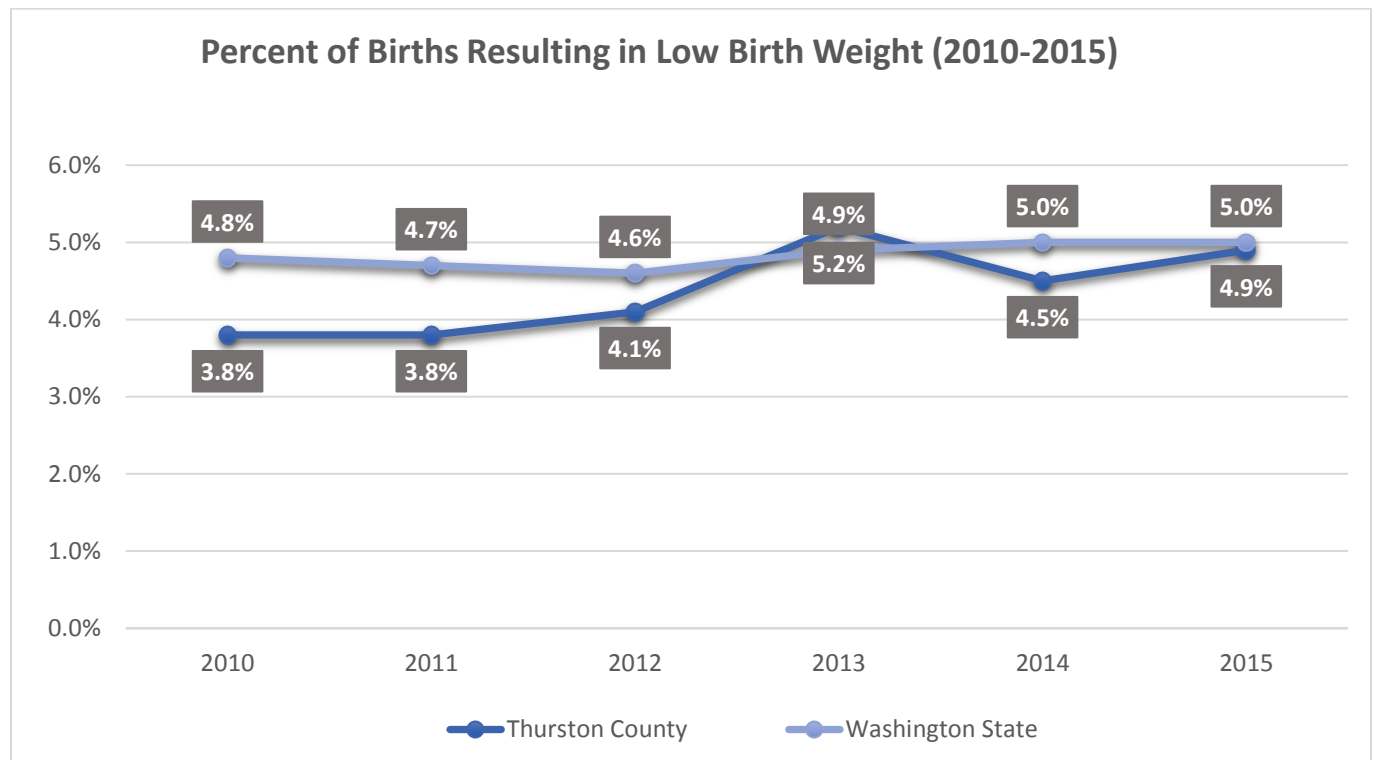
Low birth weight is a public health concern because it has a tremendous impact on infant and childhood health issues. Babies who are born at a low birth weight are more likely to die in their first year of life. The most common cause of low birth weight is premature birth and the United States has one of the highest preterm birth rates amongst developed nations. Low birth weight can be prevented in many cases.

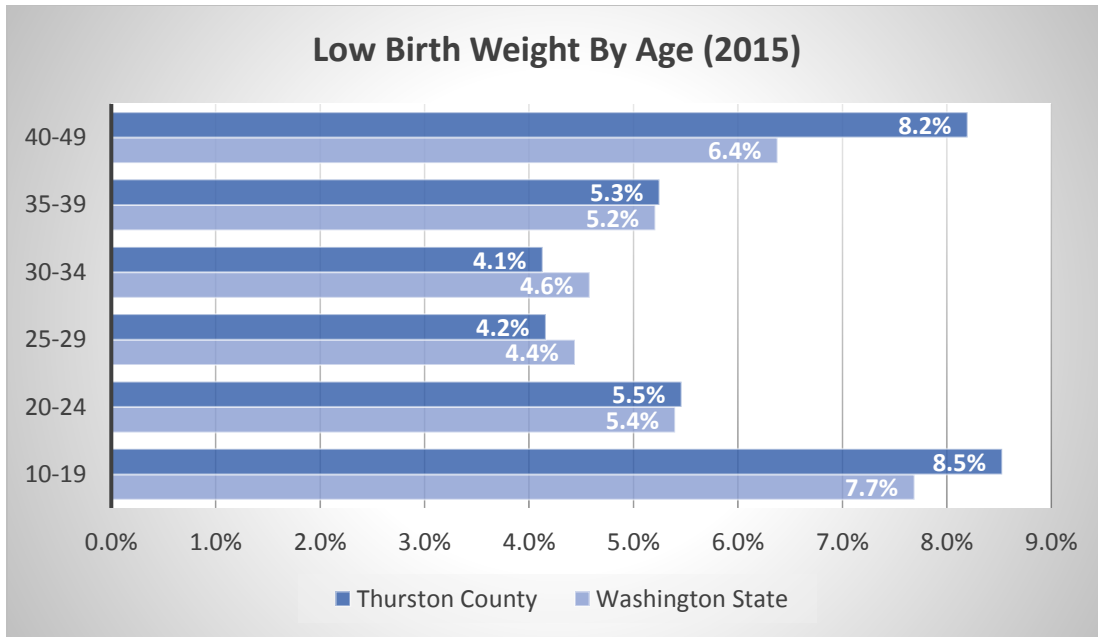
Births By Year, Thurston County	
Year	Low Birth Weight
2010	109
2011	117
2012	123
2013	153
2014	141
2015	144
Average	131

Findings

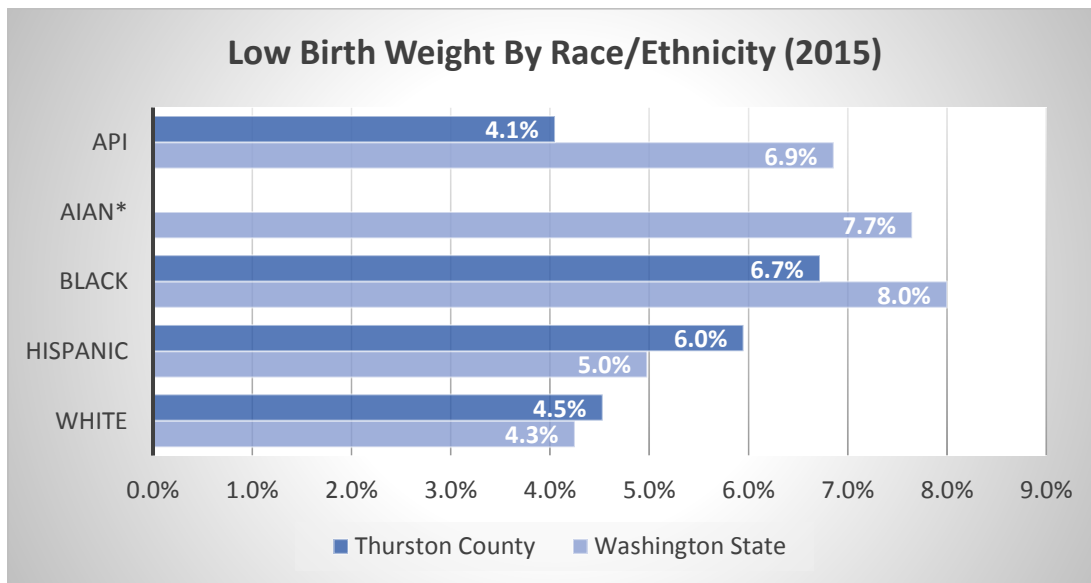
Low birth weight rates have not changed significantly over the past decade in Thurston County.

- In 2015, 5% of babies were born at a low birth weight in Thurston County and at the state level.





- In 2015, women ages 10-19 and 40-49 years old experienced the highest rate of low birth weight in Thurston County.



- In 2015, Black/African-American and Hispanic women experienced the highest rate of low birth weight in Thurston County.
- Over the past decade, there has been no significant improvement for all race/ethnic groups.

Data Notes:

- Low Birth Weight: Birth weight of less than 5.5 lbs.
- AIAN: American Indian/Alaska Native
- API: Asian and Other Pacific Islander
- Hispanic: Of Hispanic or Latino origin. Hispanic is not defined as an official race category
- Average: Average number of births that occurred from 2010-2015
- (*) Data not available for Thurston County, due to count being less than 5

Data Source: Birth certificates prepared by Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department

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