

Premature Birth

Issue

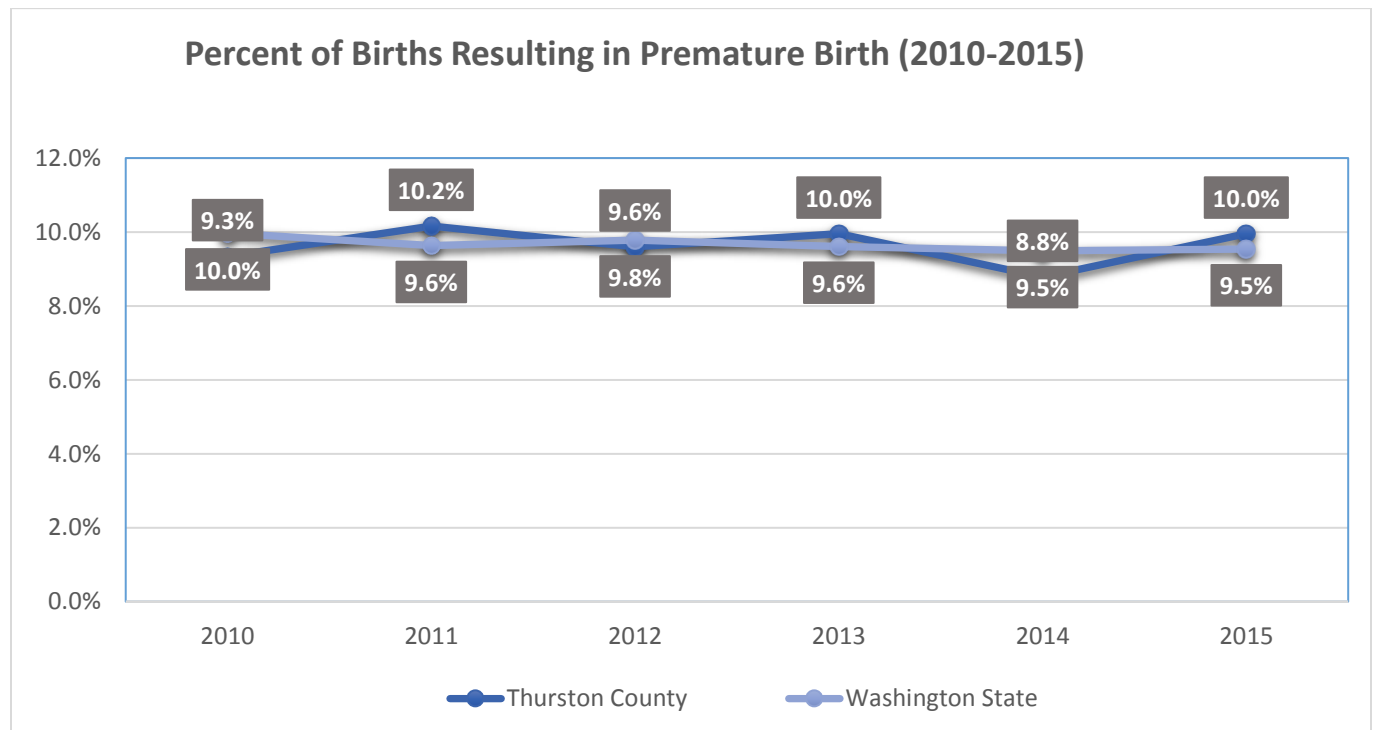
Premature birth shortens the time for growth and development in utero. The earlier in the pregnancy that birth occurs, the higher the risk for disability or infant death. Babies that are born early are not given the time to fully develop vital organs like the brain, liver, and lungs. This can lead to severe health issues, disability, and sometimes death.

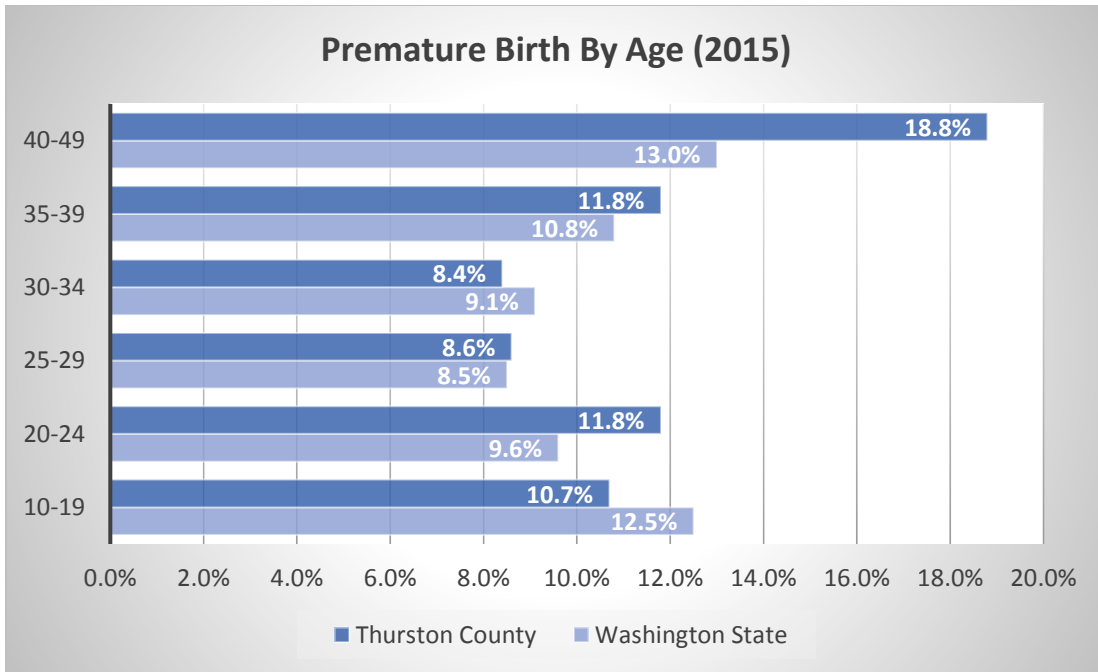
Births By Year, Thurston County	
Year	Premature Birth
2010	275
2011	317
2012	297
2013	301
2014	278
2015	304
Average	295

Findings

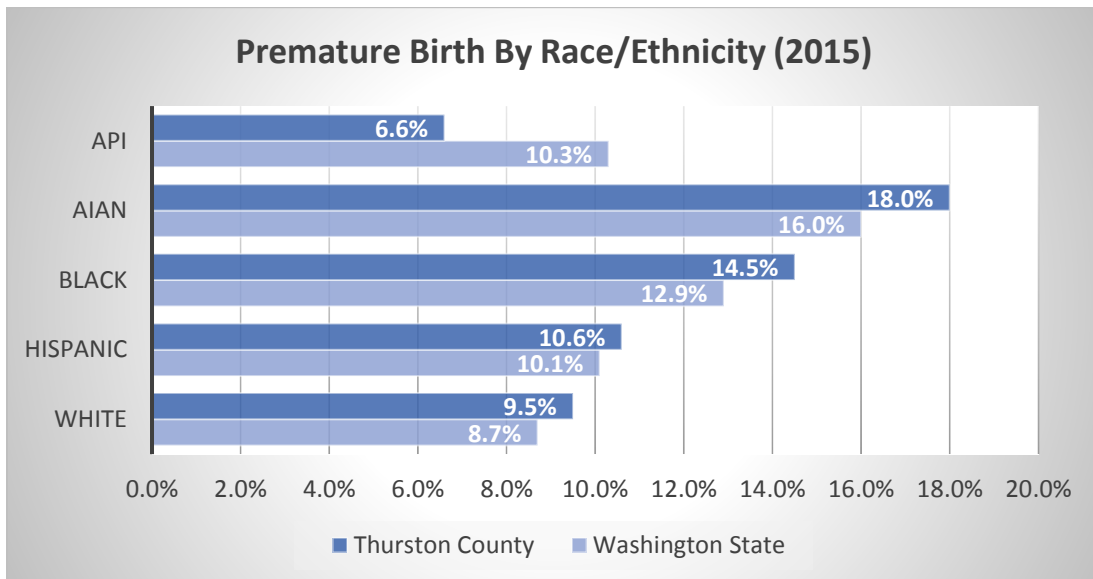
Premature birth rates have not changed significantly over the past decade in Thurston County.

- In 2015, about 10% of babies were born prematurely in Thurston County and at the state level.





- In Thurston County, women ages 40-49 years old are experiencing the highest rate of premature birth for all age groups. Nearly 1 in 5 babies are born too early (18.8%).
- Over the past decade, there has been no significant improvement for any age group.



- American Indian/Alaska Native and Black women are experiencing the highest rates of premature birth in Thurston County.

Data Notes:

- Premature Birth: Born before 37 weeks gestation
- 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 Source: Birth certificates prepared by Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department

For more information:

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