

INFANT HEALTH DATA SNAPSHOT

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT, PRE-TERM BIRTH, AND INFANT MORTALITY, DANE COUNTY, 2012-2024

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2025



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A note on statistical significance

Throughout this snapshot, we use the terms “significant” and “statistically significant” interchangeably to emphasize important trends. Statistical significance testing is one way we can look at data. Testing for statistical significance is standard epidemiological practice in assessing whether the data show a pattern that we wouldn’t expect by chance alone. Statistical significance is influenced by both sample size (the amount of data we have) and effect size (the size of the difference we’re interested in). Sometimes we see patterns in data that may be important even if they don’t reach the level of statistical significance.

For example, mortality among Hispanic/Latino babies was 5.0 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015-2017 and 8.1 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022-2024. Though mortality for Hispanic/Latino babies steadily increased over this time frame, the increase is not statistically significant. However, mortality for this group is persistently higher than Dane County babies overall as well as our national [Healthy People 2030 goal of 5.0 infant deaths or less per 1,000 live births](#). Similarly, mortality among AI/AN and Black babies has remained elevated (more than double our national goal) and unchanged from 2015-2024. Statistical significance alone (or lack thereof) cannot tell us what is meaningful or important for a community.

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

Low birth weight (LBW) is when a baby is born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces). There were more than 1,200 LBW babies among more than 16,000 births in Dane County from 2022-2024. Table 1 shows the 3-year rates for each race/ethnicity subgroup and Dane County overall. The figures on pages 4-9 show 3-year trends in LBW by race and ethnicity in Dane County. From 2015 to 2024, the percentage of LBW babies decreased significantly for non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander babies.

Table 1 - Percent of births with low birthweight (%) by race and ethnicity, Dane County, 2012-2024.*

Years	Dane County	AI/AN	NH Asian/PI	NH Black	Hispanic/Latino/a			NH White
	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	All	US-born	Foreign-born	Percent (%)
2012-14	6.7	9.7	6.7	11.1	6.8	6.2	7.0	6.1
2013-15	6.9	9.9	7.8	12.4	7.4	8.8	6.7	6.0
2014-16	7.0	5.5	8.0	12.5	6.4	8.0	5.6	6.3
2015-17	7.1	3.7	8.5	12.9	6.8	9.0	5.5	6.2
2016-18	6.9	5.8	8.3	12.0	7.2	9.5	5.9	6.1
2017-19	7.0	5.4	8.0	13.1	7.7	9.7	6.5	6.1
2018-20	7.2	5.7	8.0	13.9	7.2	7.8	6.7	6.2
2019-21	7.1	4.5	7.3	14.3	6.8	6.2	7.1	6.2
2020-22	7.1	5.3	6.5	14.5	6.9	5.9	7.6	6.2
2021-23	7.2	7.3	6.1	14.6	7.6	8.2	7.2	6.4
2022-24	7.4	6.7	6.7	14.5	7.5	8.0	7.2	6.5

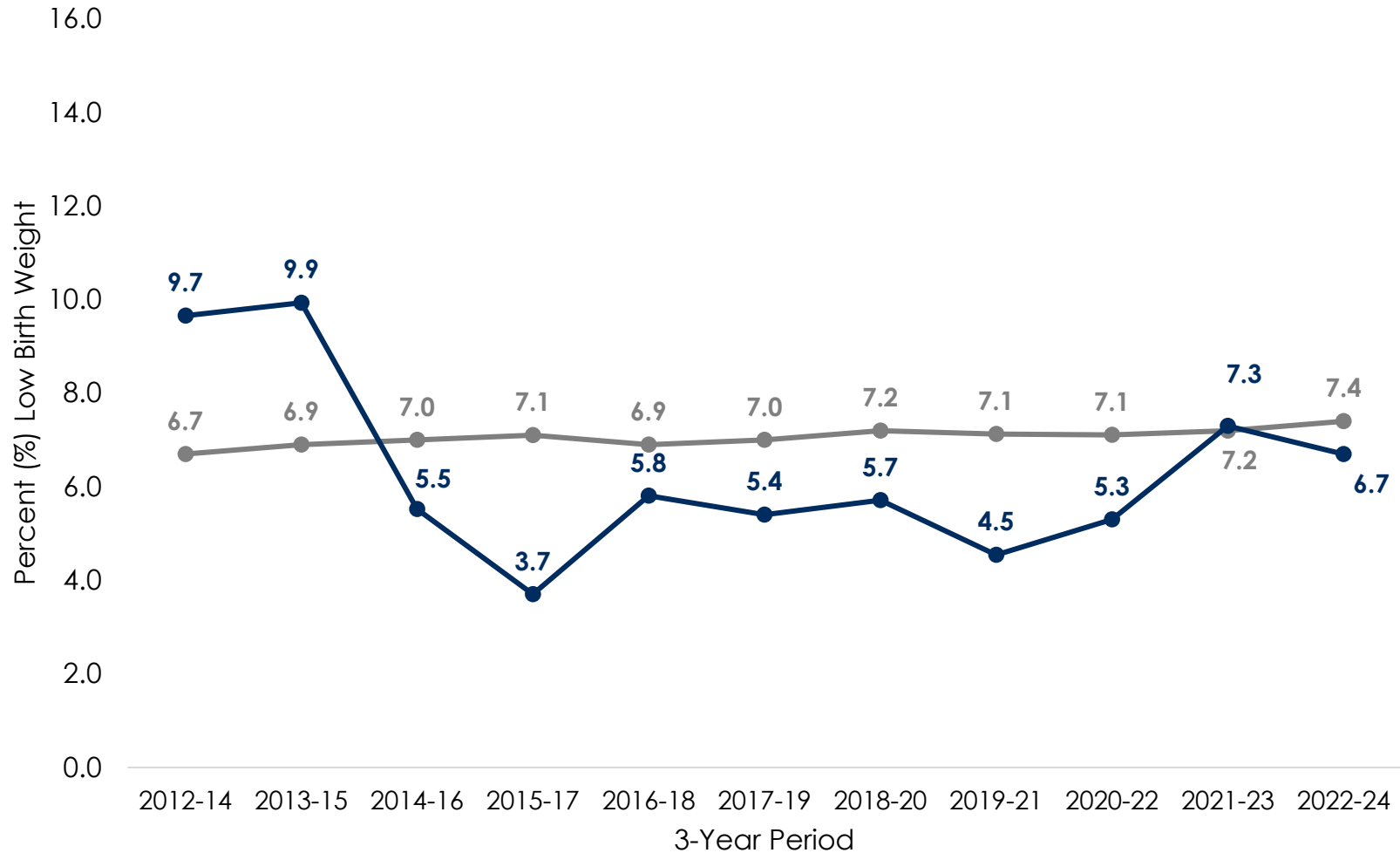
*2024 data are provisional. Estimates for 2022-24 may change when 2024 data are finalized. AI/AN=American Indian/Alaska Native, PI=Pacific Islander, NH=Non-Hispanic. Latino/a US-born and Latino/a foreign-born refer to the mother or birthing person's place of birth.

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO JUMP TO:

- [American Indian and Alaskan Native low birthweight](#)
- [Asian and Pacific Islander low birthweight](#)
- [Black low birthweight](#)
- [Hispanic/Latino low birthweight](#)
- [White low birthweight](#)

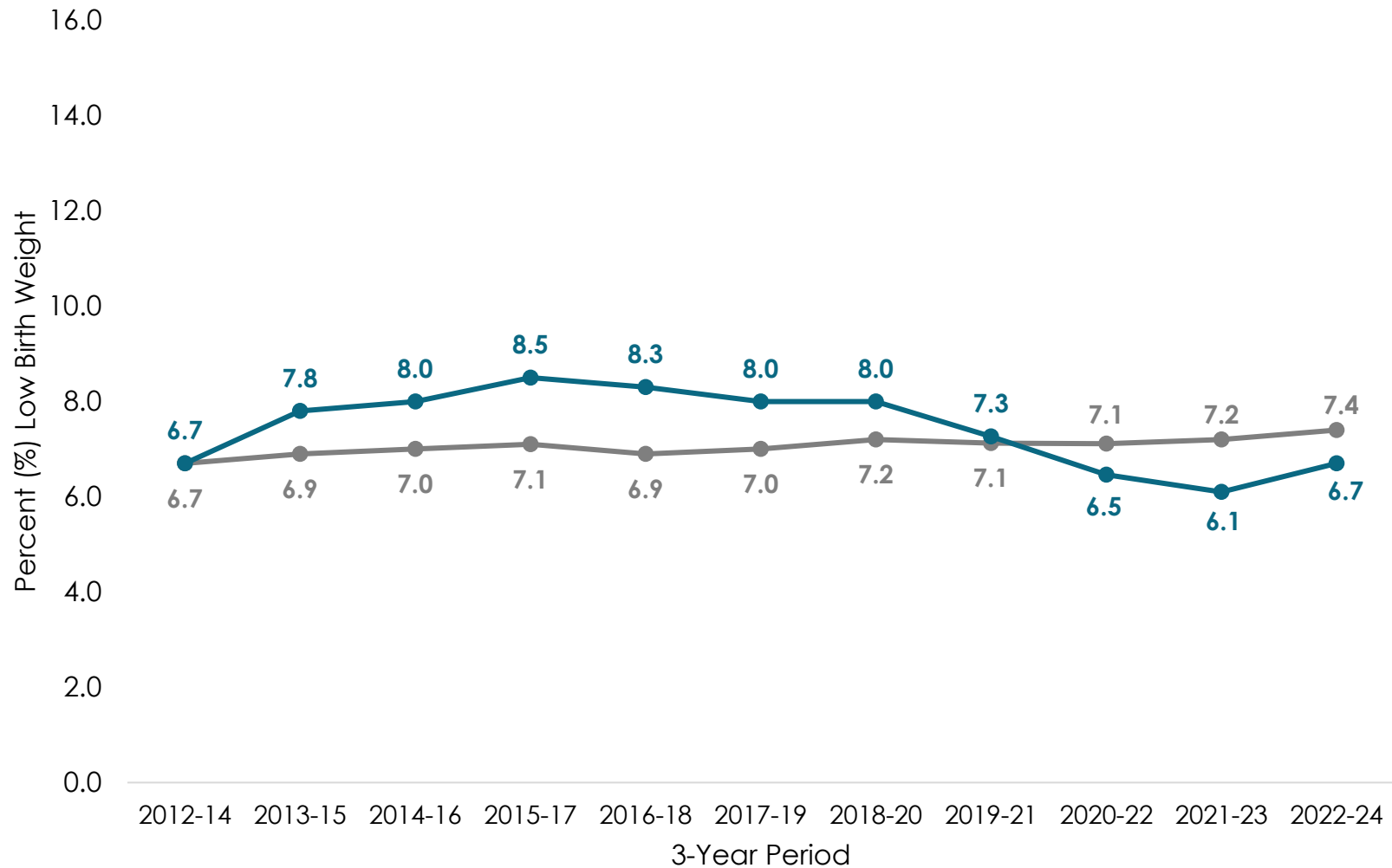
American Indian and Alaska Native babies experience similar rates of low birth weight compared to **Dane County babies overall**.

Three-year trends in low birthweight (%) for American Indian and Alaska Native babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



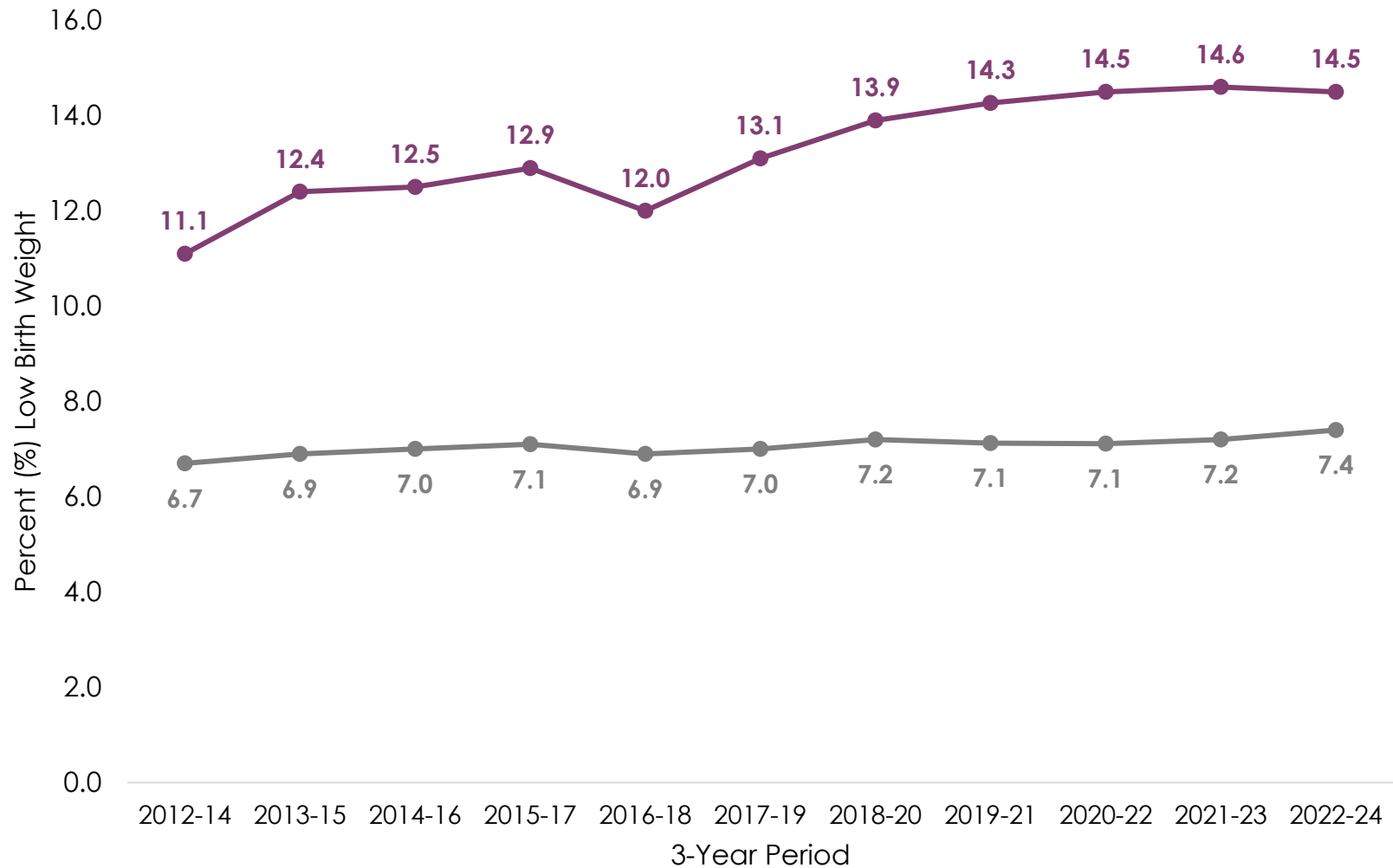
Asian and Pacific Islander babies experience similar rates of low birth weight compared to **Dane County babies overall**.

Three-year trends in low birthweight (%) for Asian and Pacific Islander babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



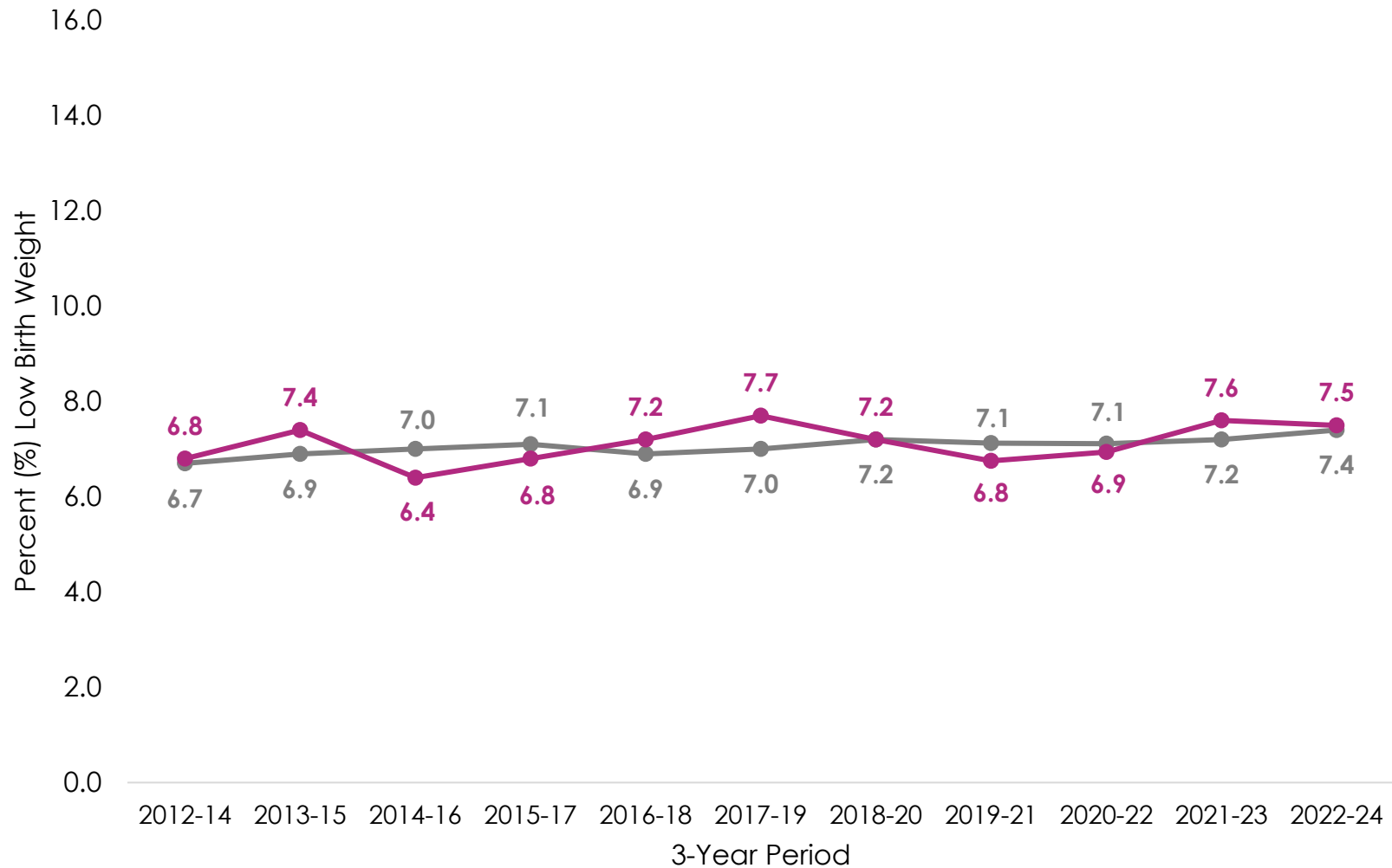
Black and African-American babies experience higher rates of low birth weight compared to **Dane County babies overall**.

Three-year trends in low birthweight (%) for Black and African-American babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



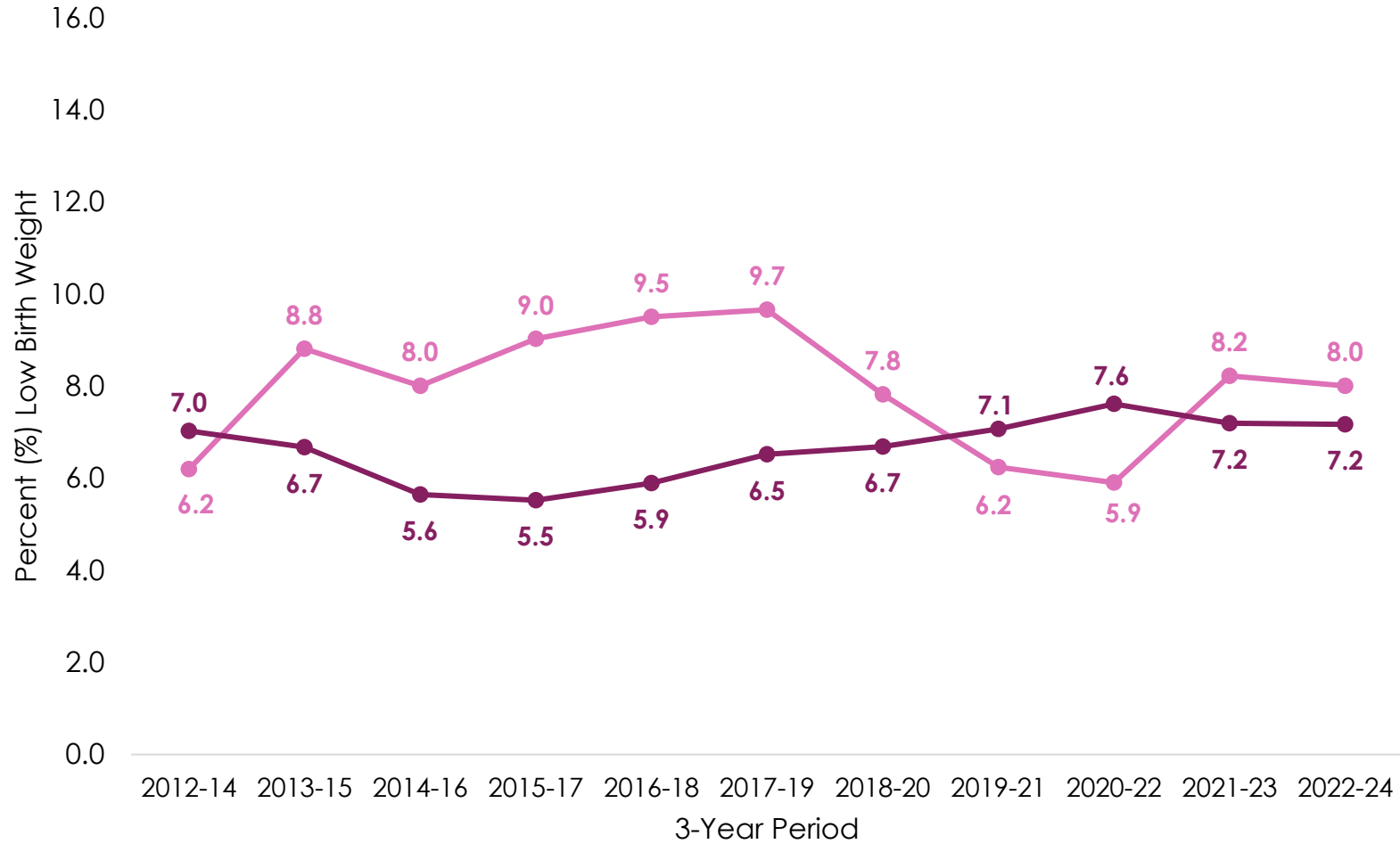
Hispanic and Latino babies overall experience similar rates of low birth weight compared to **Dane County babies overall**.

Three-year trends in low birthweight (%) for Hispanic and Latino babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



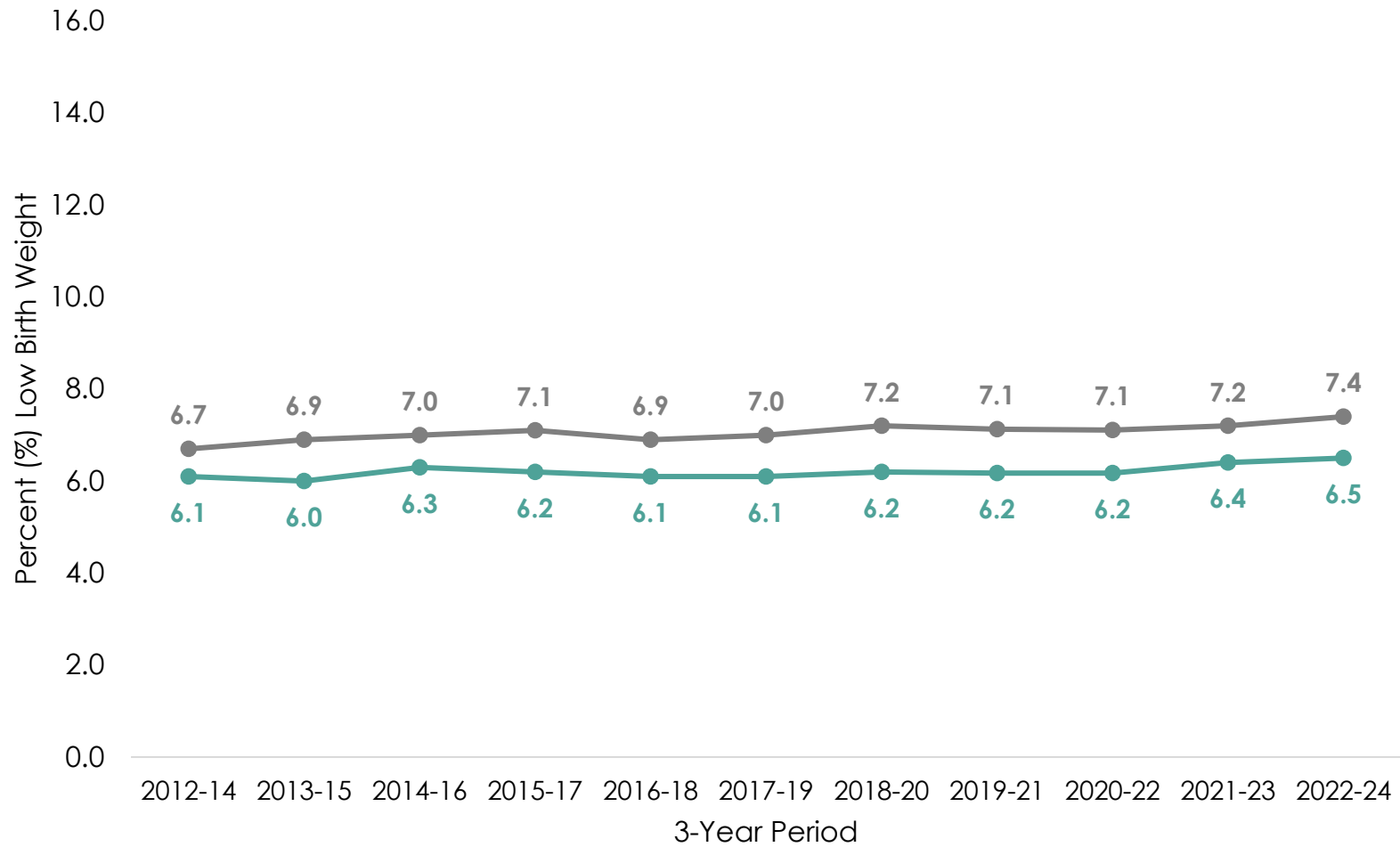
Hispanic and Latino babies born to US-born mothers/birthing people experience similar rates of low birth weight compared to Hispanic and Latino babies born to foreign-born mothers/birthing people.

Three-year trends in low birthweight (%) for Hispanic and Latino babies by mother/birthing person's nativity, Dane County, 2012-2024.



White babies experience similar rates of low birth weight compared to Dane County babies overall.

Three-year trends in low birthweight (%) for white babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



PRETERM BIRTH

Preterm birth (PTB) is when a baby is born before the 37th week of pregnancy. There were nearly 1,500 preterm babies among more than 16,000 births in Dane County from 2022-2024. Table 2 shows the 3-year rates for each subgroup and Dane County overall. The figures on pages 11-16 show trends in preterm birth rates by race and ethnicity.

Table 2 - Percent of births that are preterm (%) by race and ethnicity, Dane County, 2012-2024.*

Years	Dane County	AI/AN	NH Asian/PI	NH Black	Latino/a & Hispanic			NH White
	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	All	US-born	Foreign-born	Percent (%)
2012-14	8.3	7.6	6.3	10.2	8.4	6.6	9.2	8.4
2013-15	8.6	9.9	7.7	11.3	9.0	8.2	9.4	8.4
2014-16	8.9	8.6	7.8	11.7	8.7	9.3	8.5	8.7
2015-17	9.0	9.9	9.0	12.1	9.2	10.4	8.4	8.6
2016-18	8.9	11.0	8.3	12.2	9.3	11.7	8.0	8.5
2017-19	9.0	11.5	8.4	13.1	10.0	11.5	9.0	8.4
2018-20	9.0	10.7	7.8	14.2	10.0	10.1	9.9	8.3
2019-21	8.7	10.6	7.2	13.2	9.1	8.2	9.9	8.3
2020-22	8.8	9.7	6.3	13.4	9.5	7.9	10.4	8.4
2021-23	8.9	11.3	5.8	12.9	9.4	9.9	9.0	8.6
2022-24	9.0	10.0	6.7	13.2	9.1	10.0	8.5	8.7

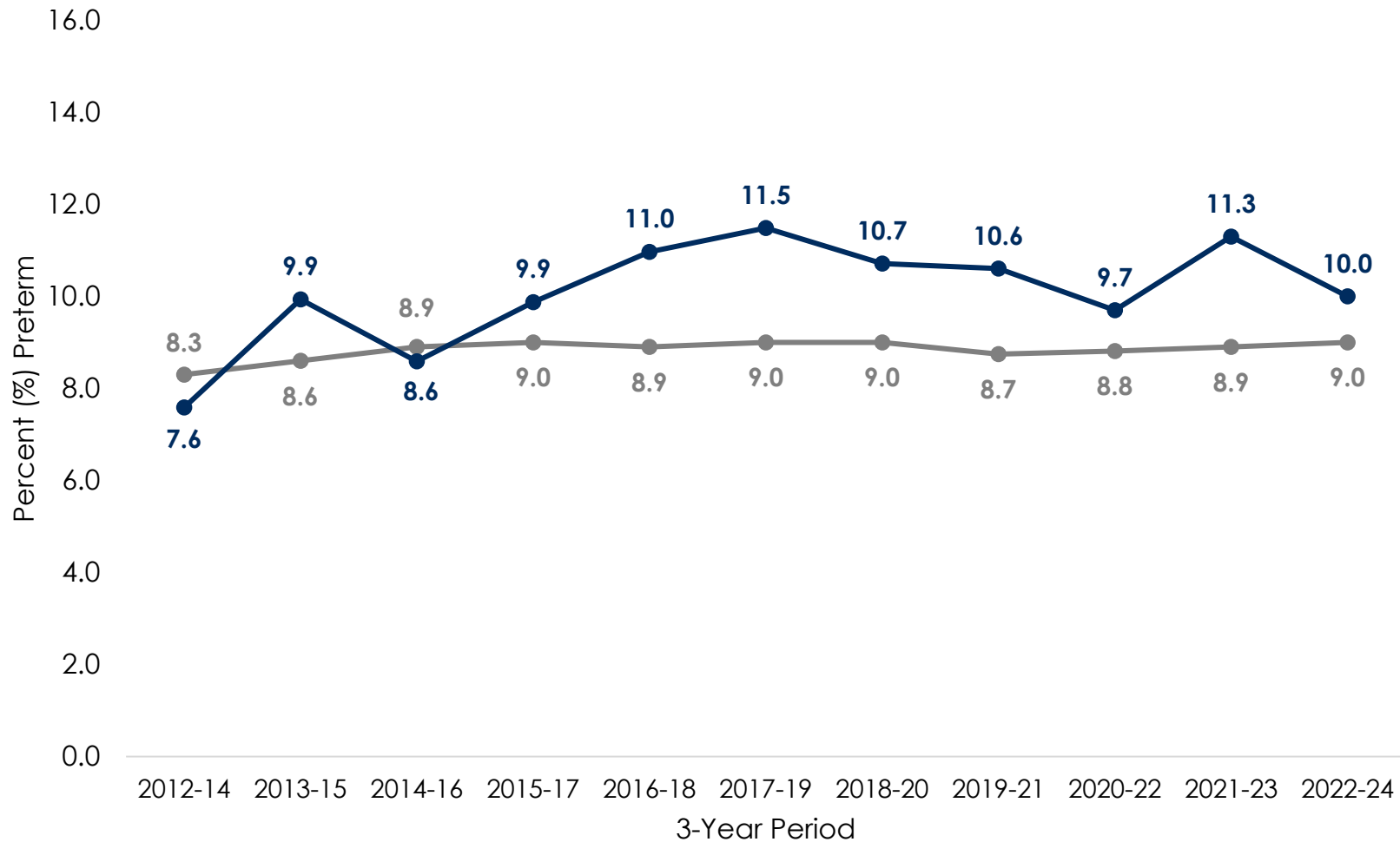
**2024 data are provisional. Estimates for 2022-24 may change when 2024 data are finalized. AI/AN=American Indian/Alaska Native, PI=Pacific Islander, NH=Non-Hispanic. Latino/a US-born and Latino/a foreign-born refer to the mother or birthing person's place of birth.*

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO JUMP TO:

- [American Indian and Alaskan Native preterm birth](#)
- [Asian and Pacific Islander preterm birth](#)
- [Black preterm birth](#)
- [Hispanic preterm birth](#)
- [White preterm birth](#)

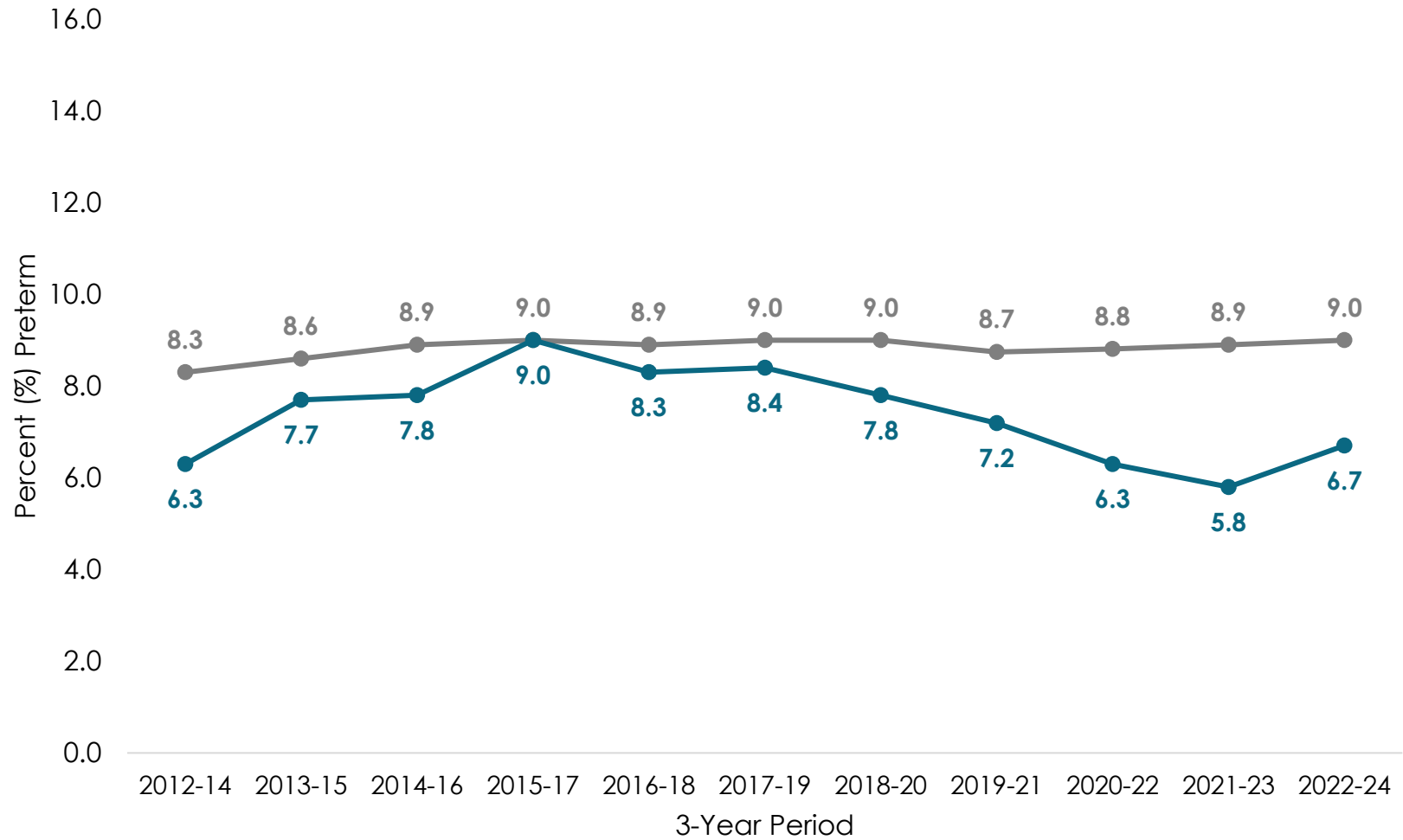
American Indian and Alaska Native babies experience similar rates of preterm birth compared to **Dane County babies overall**.

Three-year trends in preterm birth (%) for American Indian and Alaska Native babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



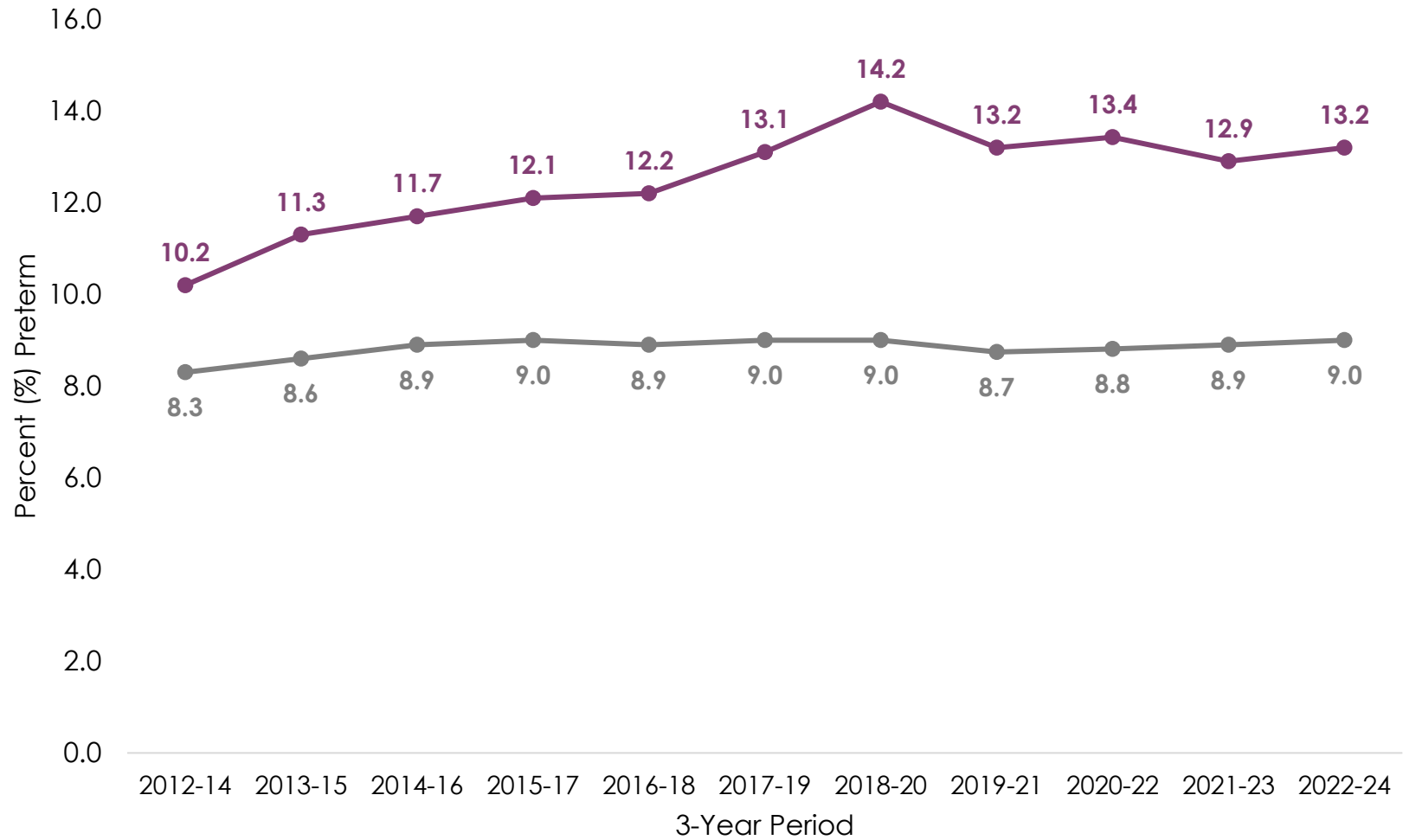
Asian and Pacific Islander babies experience lower rates of preterm birth compared to **Dane County babies** overall.

Three-year trends in preterm birth (%) for Asian and Pacific Islander babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



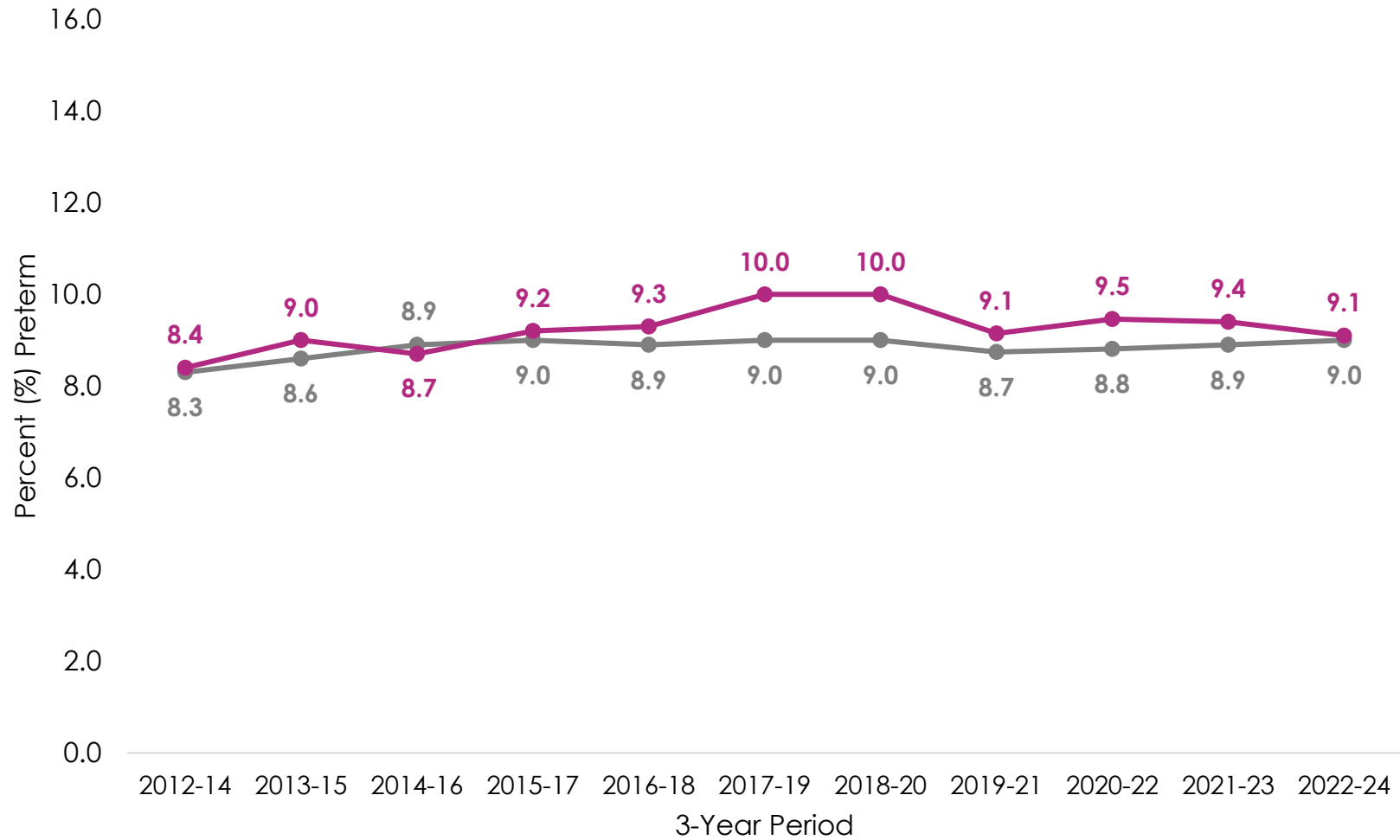
Black and African-American babies experience higher rates of preterm birth compared to **Dane County babies** overall.

Three-year trends in preterm birth (%) for Black and African-American babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



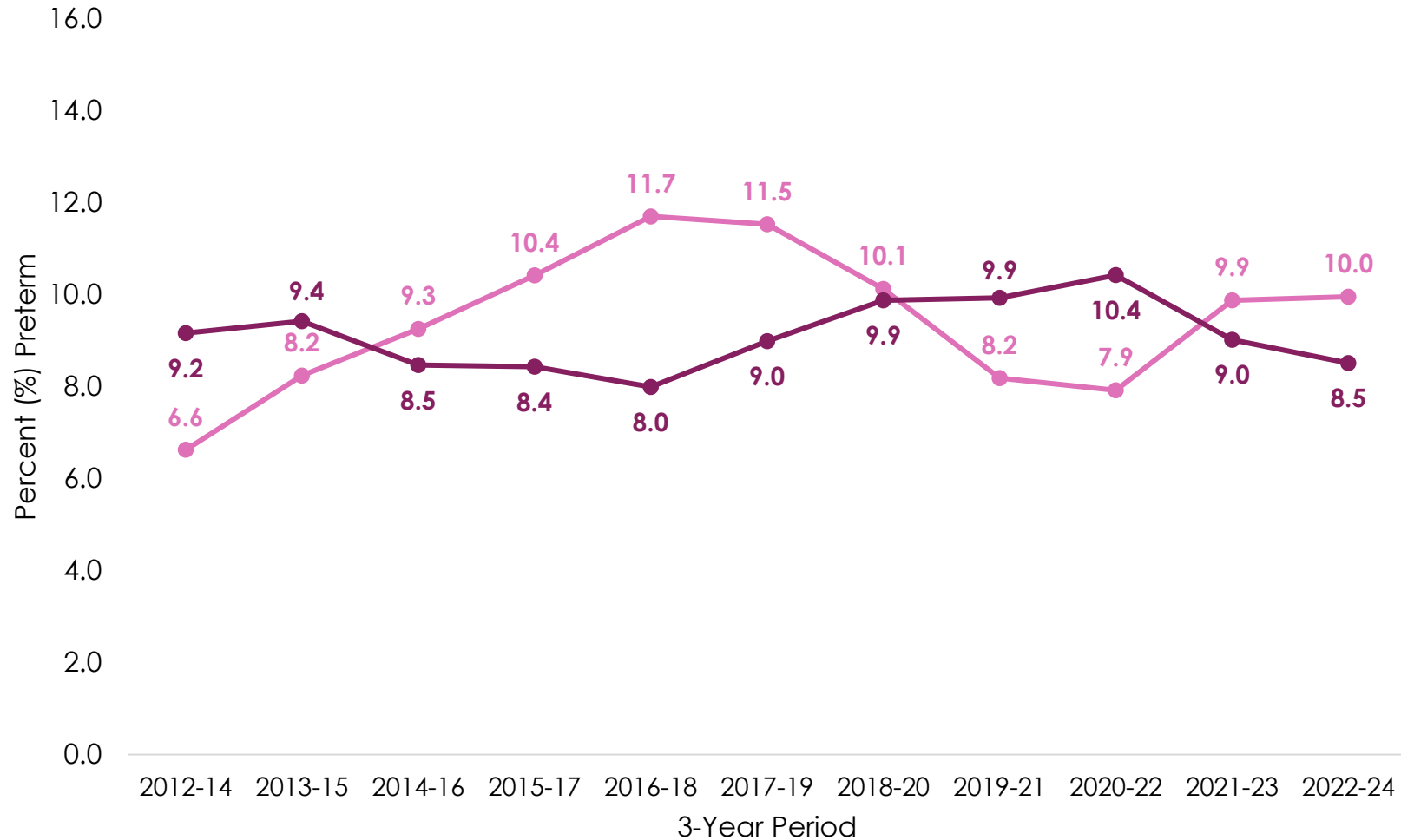
Hispanic and Latino babies overall experience similar rates of preterm birth compared to **Dane County babies overall**.

Three-year trends in preterm birth (%) for Hispanic and Latino babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



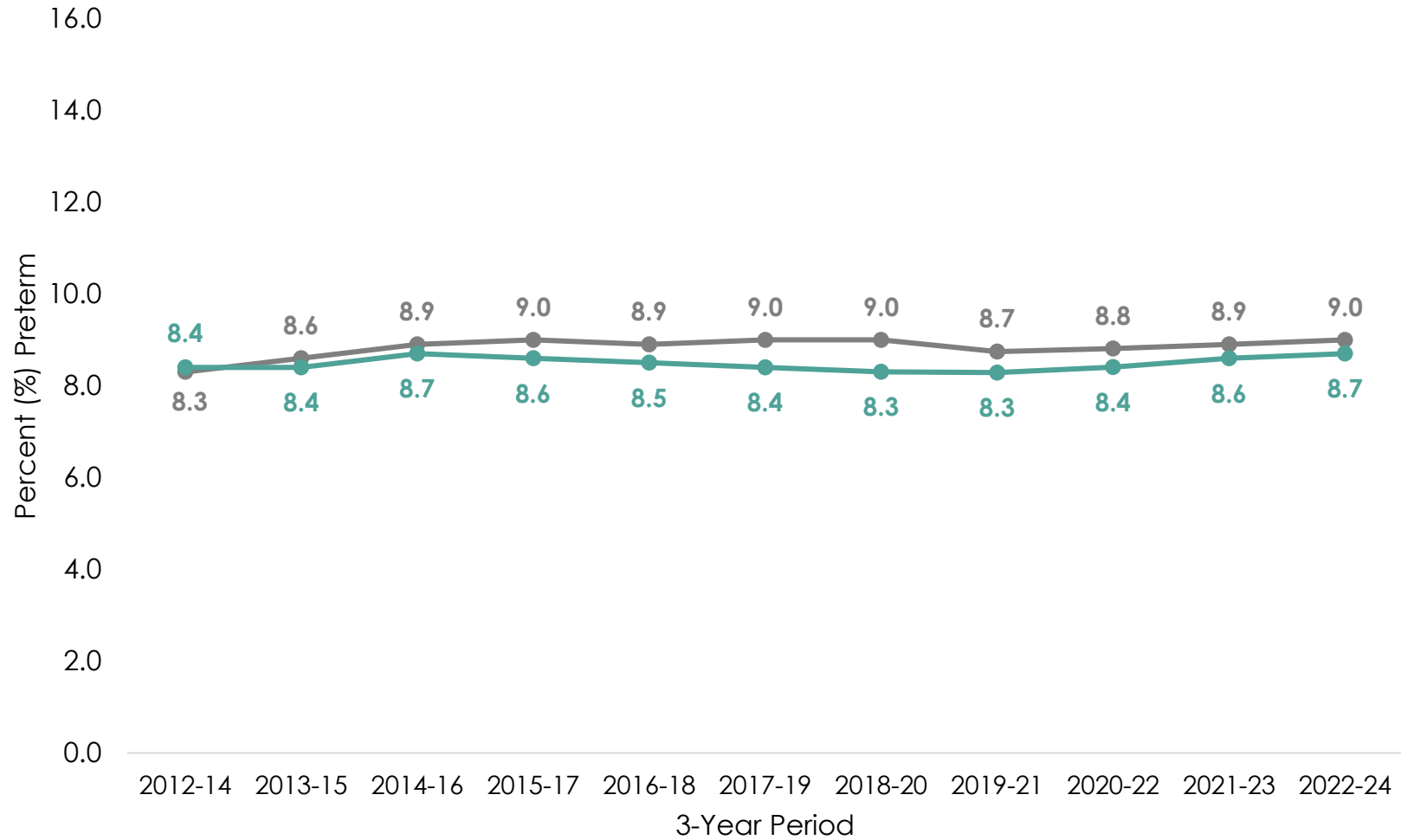
Hispanic and Latino babies born to US-born mothers/birthing people have similar rates of preterm birth compared to Hispanic and Latino babies born to foreign-born mothers/birthing people.

Three-year trends in preterm birth (%) for Hispanic and Latino babies by mother/birthing person's place of birth, Dane County, 2012-2024.



White babies experience similar rates of preterm birth compared to Dane County babies overall.

Three-year trends in preterm birth (%) for white babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



INFANT MORTALITY

Infant mortality is when a baby dies before their first birthday. From 2022-2024, more than 70 babies died before their first birthday. Table 3 shows the 3-year rates for each subgroup and Dane County overall. The figures on pages 18-23 show trends in infant mortality by race and ethnicity.

Table 3 – Infant mortality by race and ethnicity, Dane County, 2012-2024.*

Years	Dane County Deaths per 1,000 live births	AI/AN Deaths per 1,000 live births	NH Asian/PI Deaths per 1,000 live births	NH Black Deaths per 1,000 live births	Latino/a & Hispanic			NH White Deaths per 1,000 live births
					All Deaths per 1,000 live births	US-born Deaths per 1,000 live births	Foreign-born Deaths per 1,000 live births	
2012-14	4.4	6.9	3.4	8.8	4.4	4.3	4.4	3.7
2013-15	5.2	13.2	3.3	13.8	6.2	9.6	4.6	3.8
2014-16	5.4	12.3	3.2	13.0	6.6	10.7	4.6	4.3
2015-17	5.6	12.3	5.2	12.3	5.0	8.7	2.9	4.3
2016-18	5.6	12.9	4.6	10.6	7.7	14.6	2.0	4.6
2017-19	4.7	13.5	3.4	10.0	8.5	16.9	1.1	3.3
2018-20	5.1	14.3	1.4	10.6	11.2	18.4	4.2	3.9
2019-21	4.3	7.6	3.7	9.3	7.8	12.5	4.2	3.0
2020-22	4.7	8.8	5.7	8.6	9.2	12.1	7.0	3.6
2021-23	4.9	16.1	5.0	12.9	8.5	13.9	4.6	3.3
2022-24	4.8	16.7	2.6	12.4	8.1	9.7	7.1	3.3

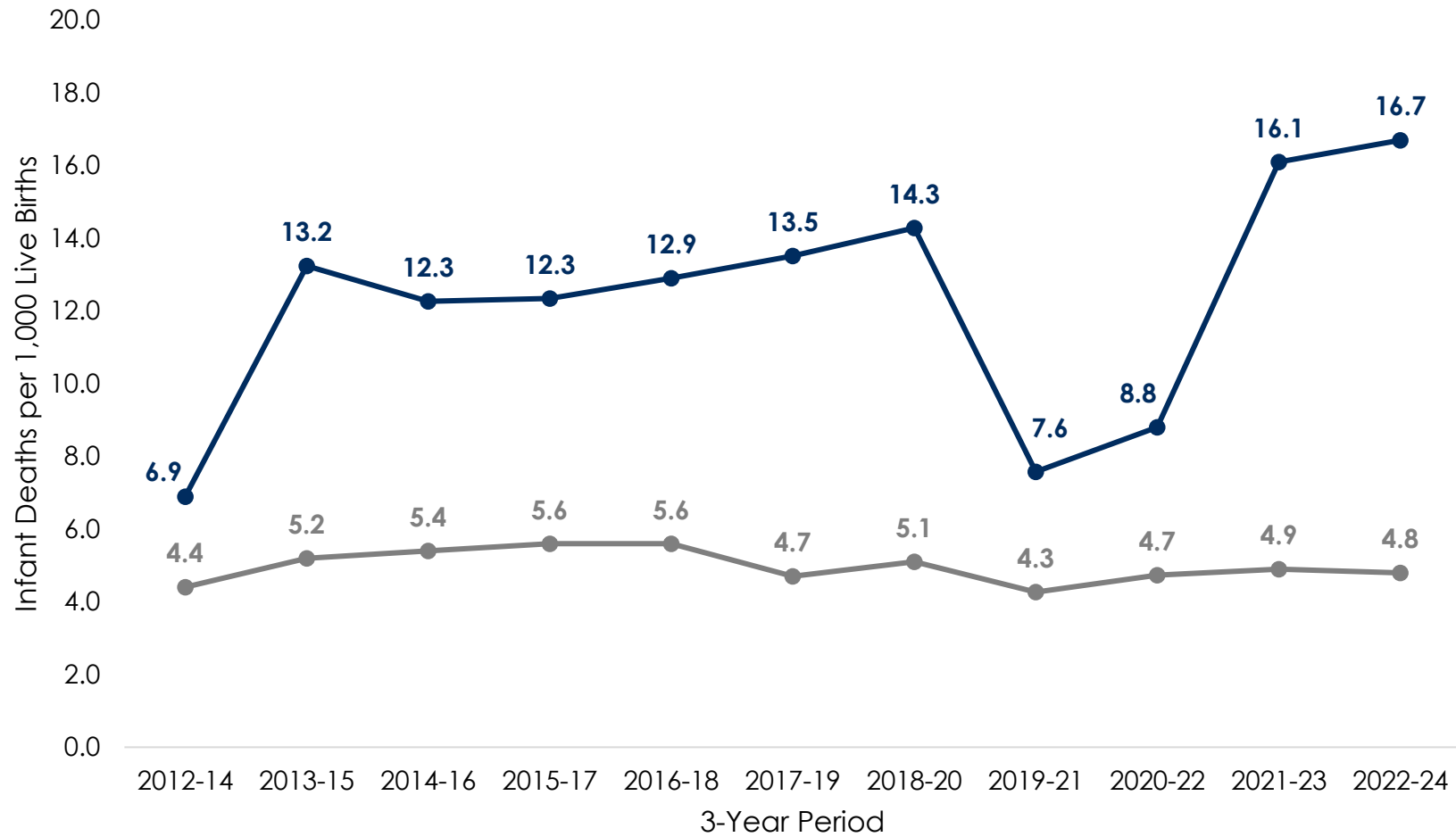
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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO JUMP TO:

- [American Indian and Alaskan Native infant mortality](#)
- [Asian and Pacific Islander infant mortality](#)
- [Black infant mortality](#)
- [Hispanic infant mortality](#)
- [White infant mortality](#)

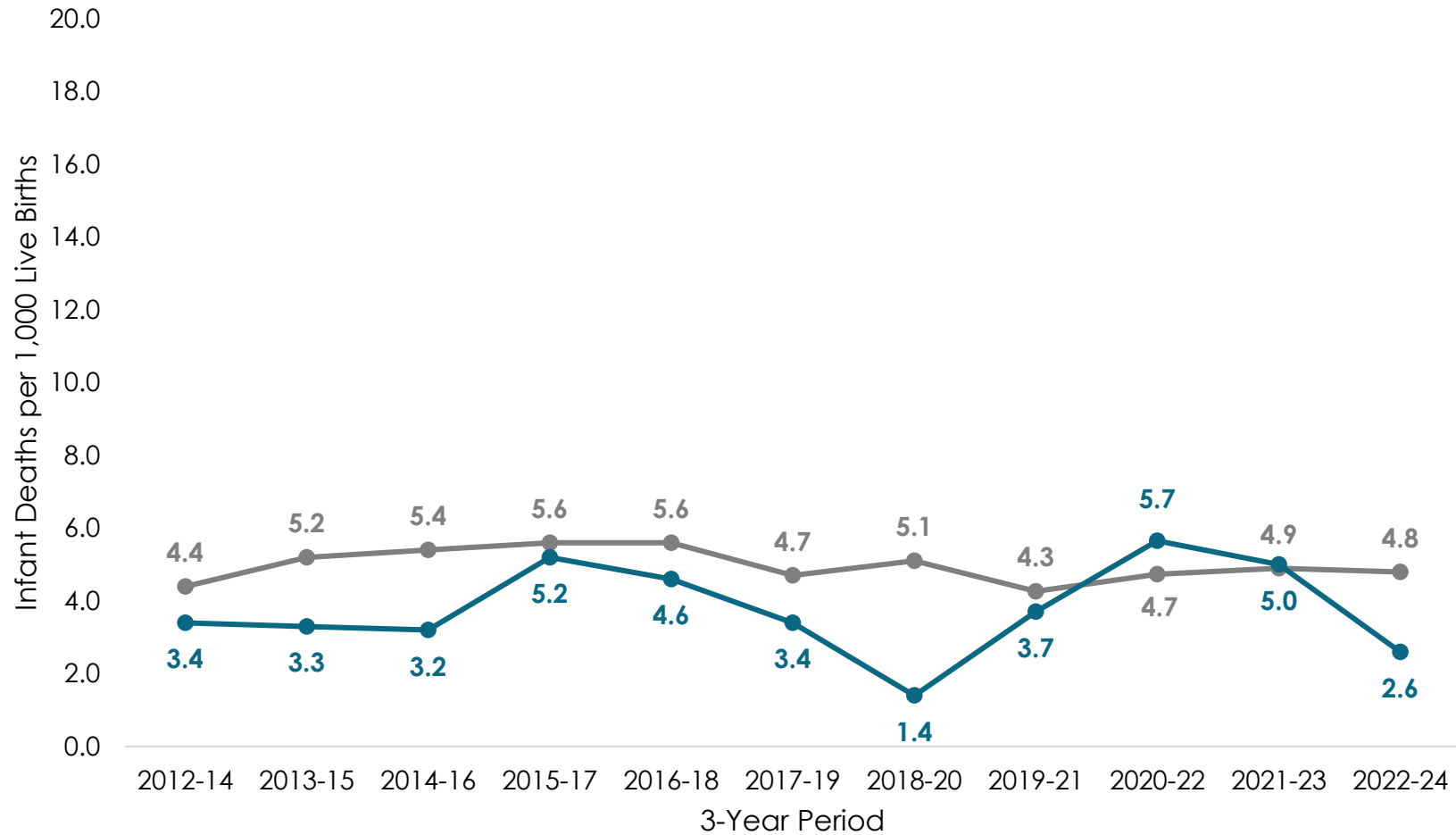
American Indian and Alaska Native babies experience higher mortality compared to **Dane County babies** overall.

Three-year trends in infant mortality for American Indian and Alaska Native babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012 – 2024.



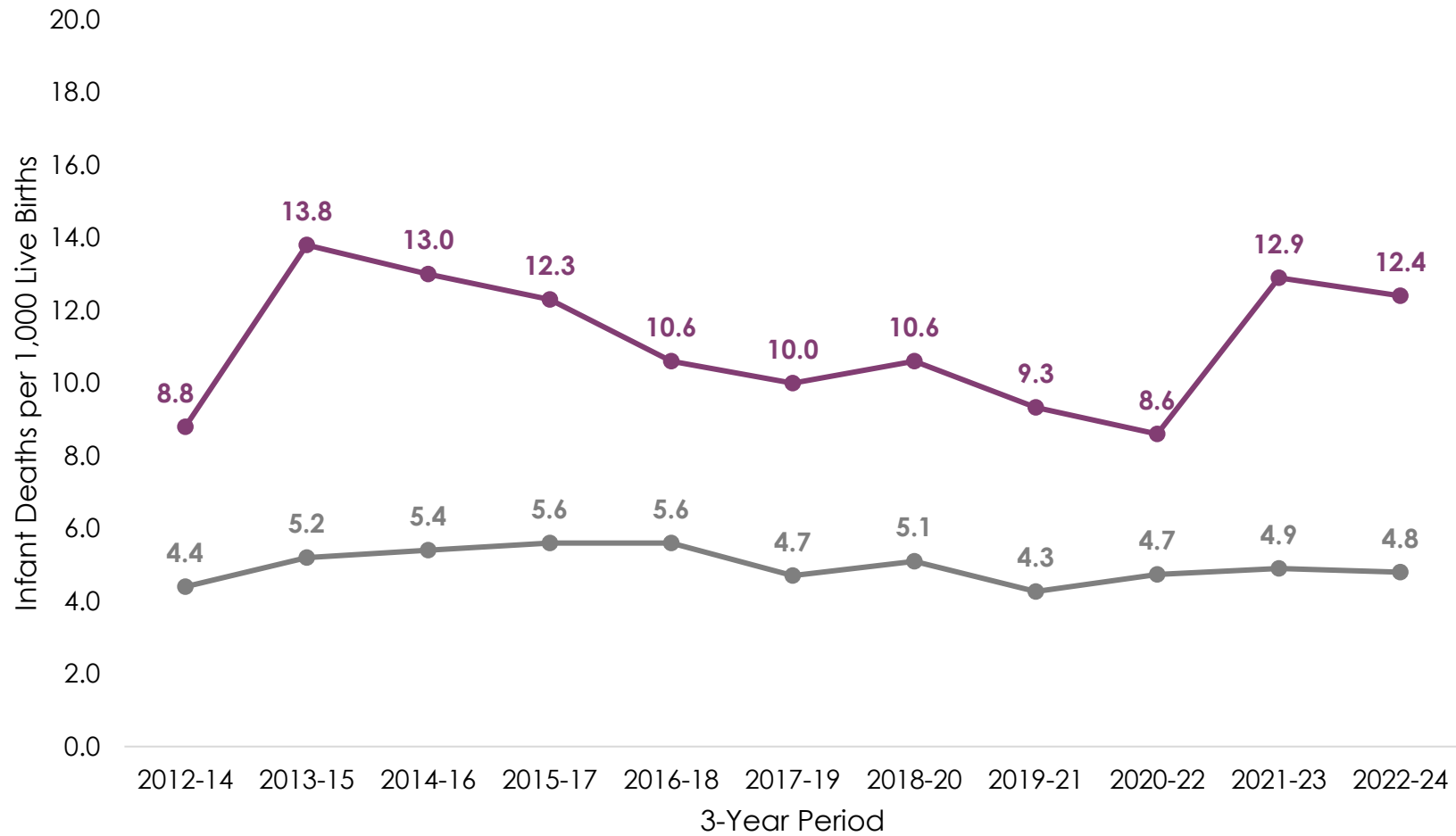
Asian and Pacific Islander babies experience a similar mortality compared to **Dane County babies overall**.

Three-year trends in infant mortality for Asian and Pacific Islander babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



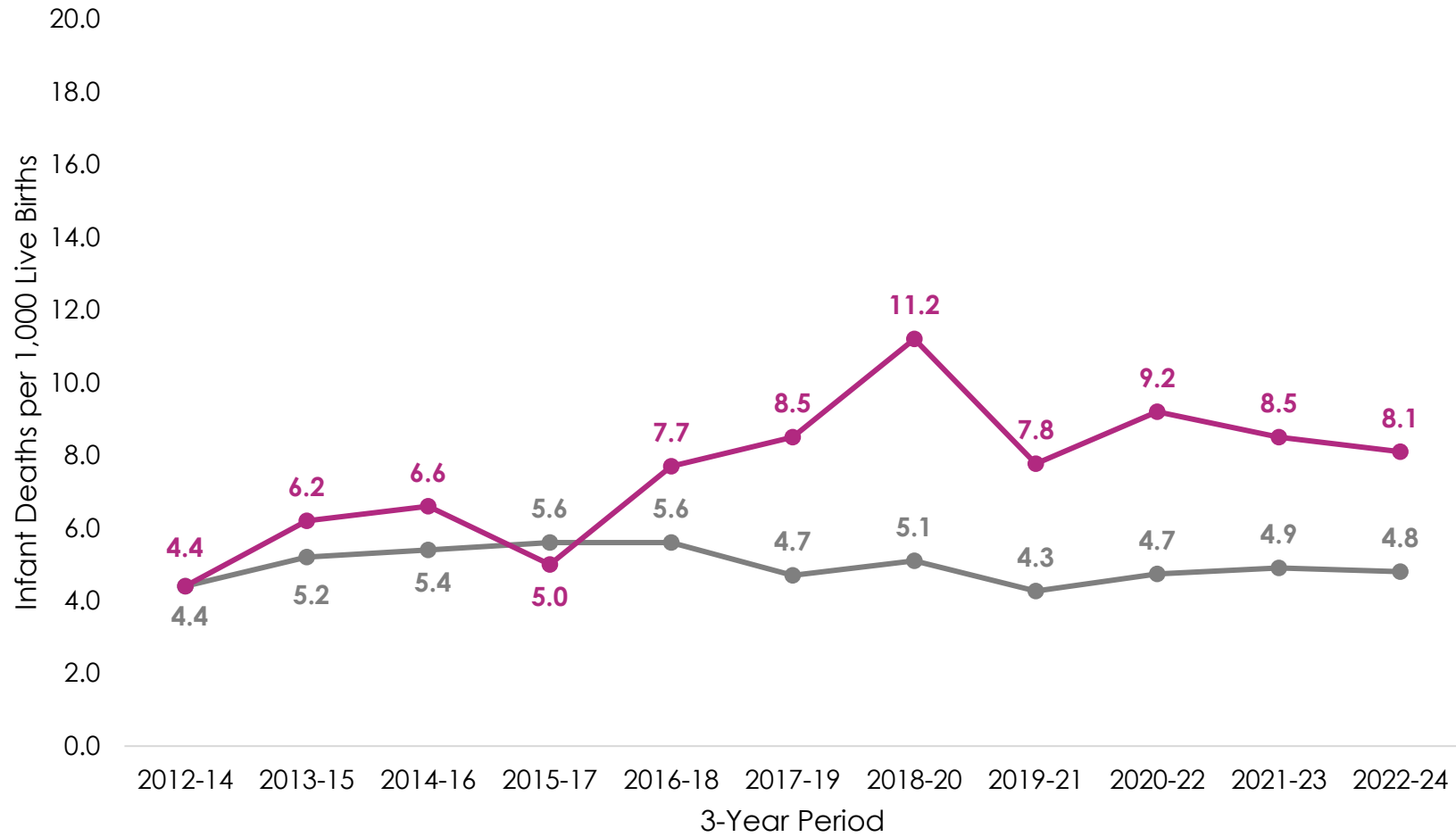
Black and African-American babies experience higher mortality compared to **Dane County babies overall**.

Three-year trends in infant mortality for Black and African-American babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



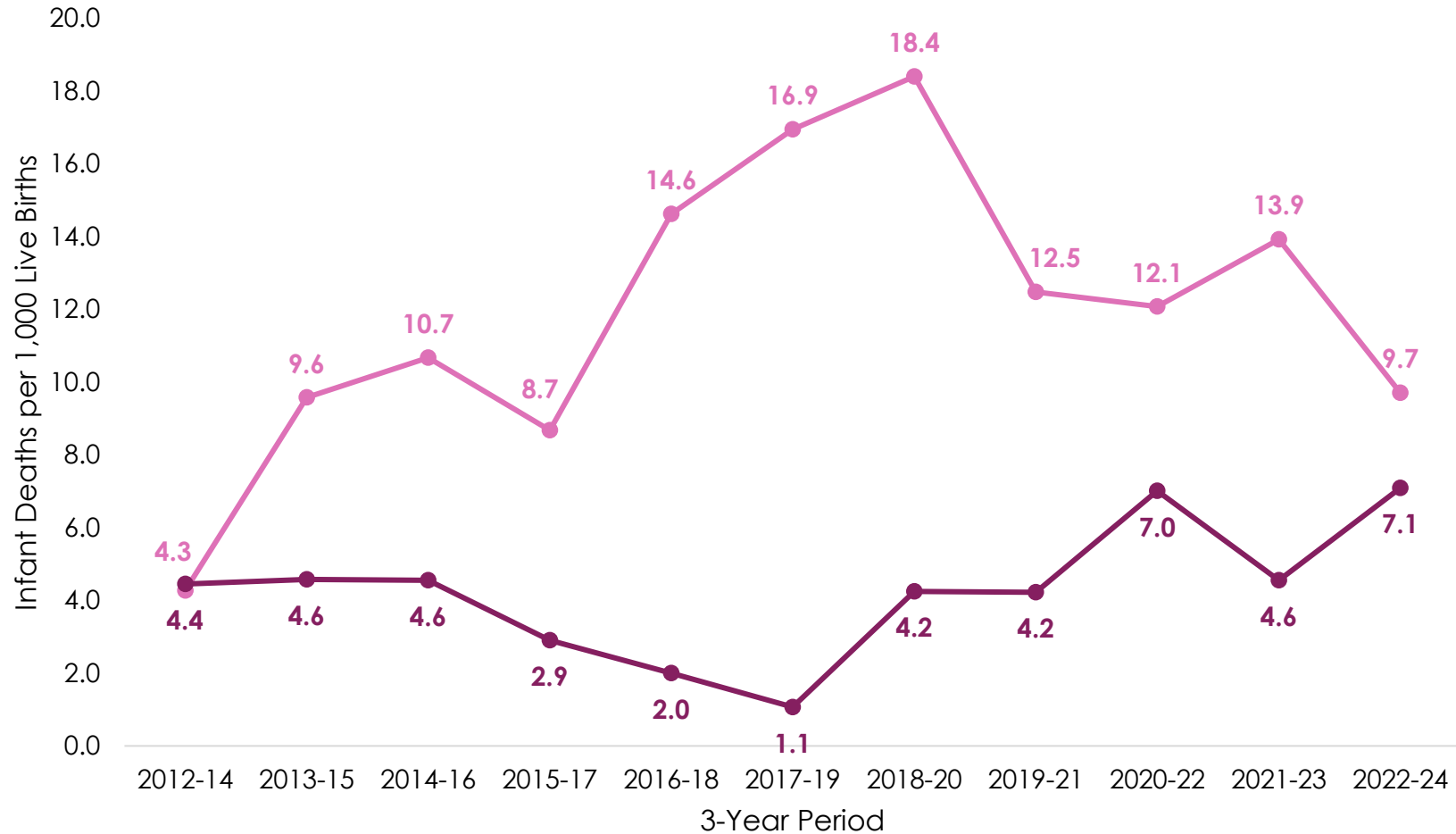
Hispanic and Latino babies experience higher mortality compared to **Dane County babies overall**.

Three-year trends in infant mortality for Hispanic and Latino babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



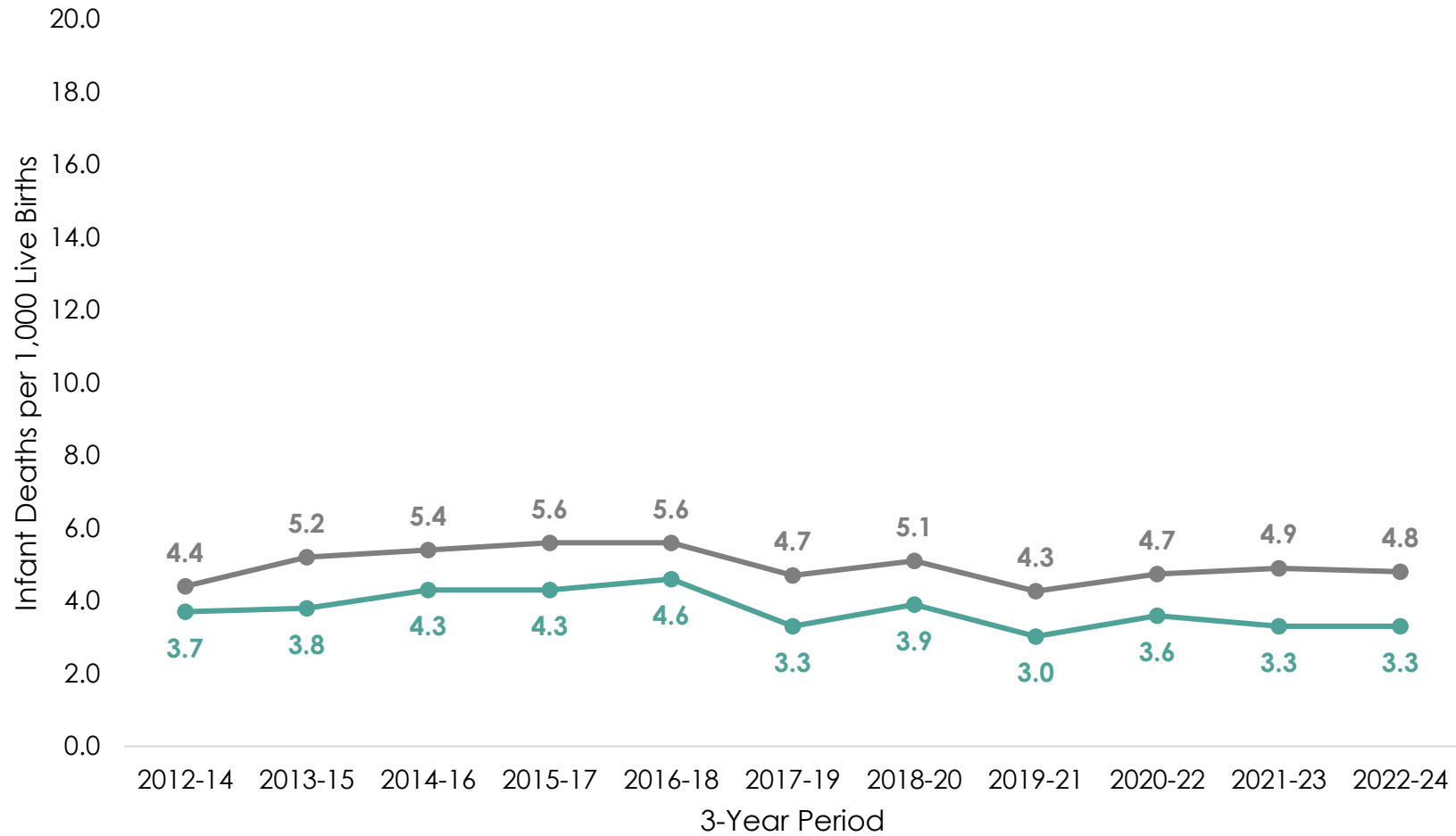
Hispanic/Latino babies born to US-born mothers/birthing people experience higher mortality than Hispanic/Latino babies born to foreign-born mothers/birthing people.

Three-year trends in infant mortality for Hispanic/Latino babies by mother's/birthing person's place of birth, Dane County, 2012-2024.



White babies experience similar mortality to Dane County babies overall.

Three-year trends in infant mortality for white babies compared to all babies in Dane County, 2012-2024.



Data notes

- The noted race/ethnicity categories refer to the mother/birthing person’s race/ethnicity, as noted in vital records (birth certificates).
- American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) is not a mutually exclusive category. It includes people who identify only as AI/AN, as well as people who identify as AI/AN in combination with other races. This aligns with the Urban Indian Health Institute’s [Best Practices for American Indian and Alaska Native Data Collection](#). In the data presented in this report, about half of mothers/birthing people who identify as AI/AN also identify as Hispanic/Latino. AI/AN 3-year rates meet Public Health Madison & Dane County’s guidelines for releasing aggregate population data but are more unstable due to smaller underlying population sizes.
- We used the Cochrane-Armitage Trend test to assess trends in birth outcomes over the most recent 10-year period (2015-2024). All statistical testing used an alpha level of 0.05 and two-sided p-values.
- In this report, we present Hispanic/Latino birth outcomes overall and stratified by the mother/birthing person’s place of birth (“maternal nativity”). This is because the mother/birthing person’s place of birth is an important “effect modifier” for birth outcomes in the Dane County Hispanic/Latino community. “Effect modification” happens when the relationship between a factor (like race/ethnicity) and an outcome (like infant mortality) is different depending on a third factor. We don’t always have data on the third factor, but in this case, we do because the mother/birthing person’s place of birth is included on a baby’s birth certificate. The reasons for different birth outcomes by maternal nativity are likely complex, multilayered, and like other birth inequities presented in this report, related to lifelong experiences of systemic racism and/or discrimination based on immigrant status (or perceived immigrant status). Thus, it’s important to present data for these two subgroups separately because the implications for public health action and intervention may be different. For more context, including opportunities for prevention, visit our [Perinatal Periods of Risk report](#).