

# MARITAL STATUS

## AMONG OKLAHOMA MOTHERS



### WHY MARITAL STATUS?

Marriage has been linked to positive birth outcomes, including reduced rates of preterm delivery, low birth weight, and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) admission.<sup>1</sup>

This link is due to many factors, including social support, a key factor that influences pregnancy outcomes. Mothers who were married reported higher support levels.<sup>2</sup>

### MARITAL STATUS AT A GLANCE



**1 in 2, or over 50%**  
of mothers were married.



**Older mothers**  
(30 years and older)  
had the highest marriage rates.



SoonerCare  
(Oklahoma's Medicaid program)

**65%** of enrolled mothers were not married, while **82%** of non-enrolled mothers were married.



**28%** of non-Hispanic Black mothers were married,  
**76%** of Asian mothers were married, and  
**64%** of non-Hispanic White mothers were married.

Married mothers started prenatal care much earlier than unmarried mothers, and **unmarried mothers had a higher percentage of no prenatal care.**

Unmarried mothers had a slightly higher percentage of **low birthweight births and of preterm births than married mothers.**

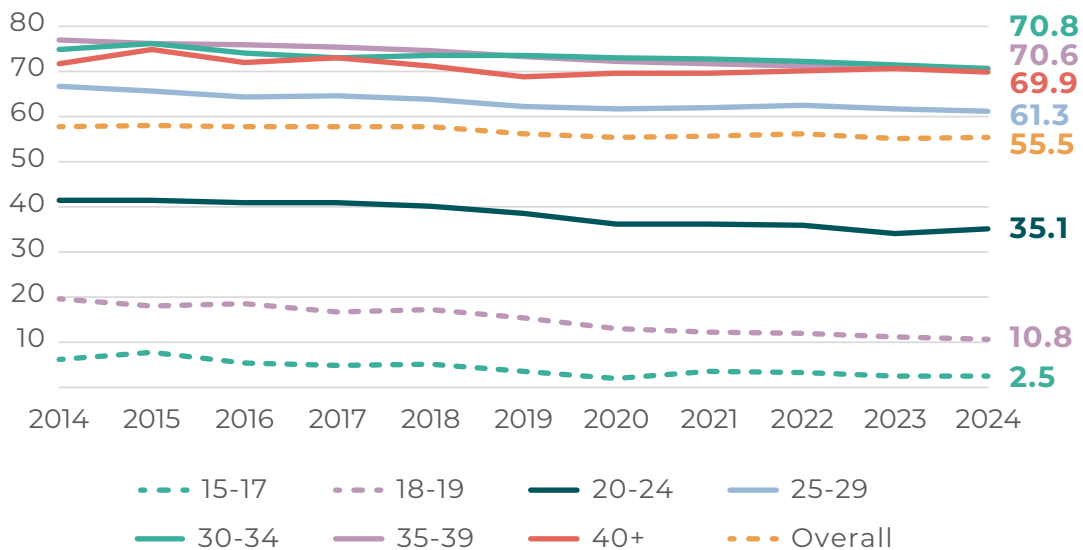
Data was collected from Oklahoma Vital Statistics, 2022-2024 and Medicaid-Birth Linked Data 2022-2023.

### TECHNICAL NOTES

- Mother was considered married if she answered yes to married at conception, birth, or between conception and birth.
- The gestational age is derived from the obstetric estimate of gestation on the birth certificate, recorded as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.

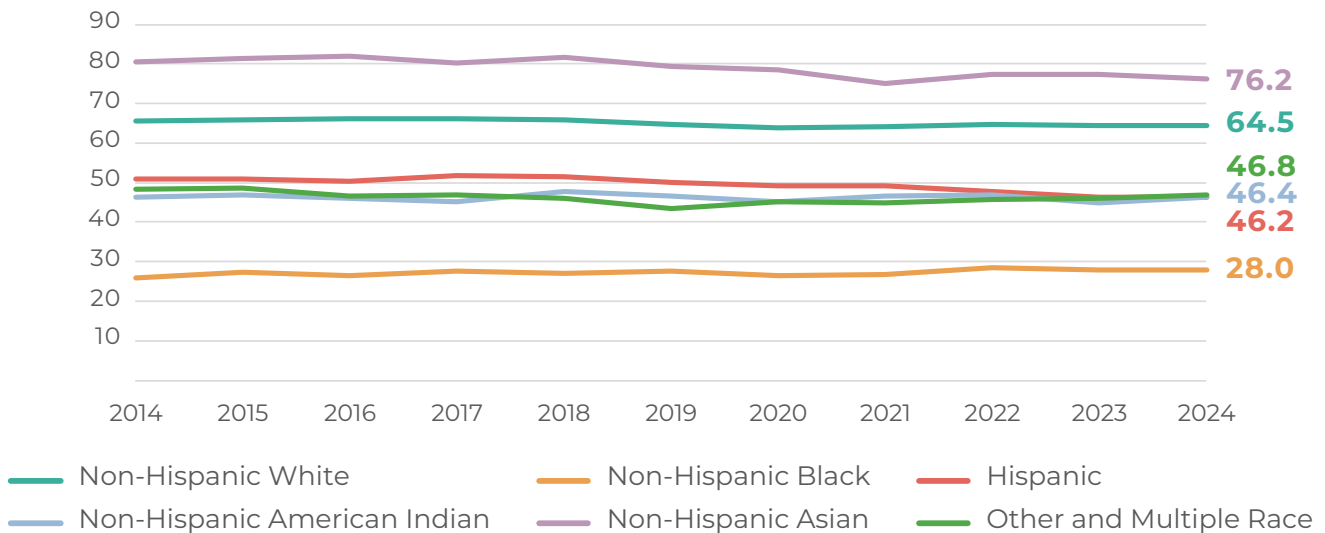
## Percent Married by Age of Mother

Over the 10 year period, the overall percent of married mothers remained relatively constant, with slight declines in younger age groups.



## Percent Married by Race and Hispanic Origin

Overall, there was not much change in percent of married mothers. Non-Hispanic black mothers had the lowest marriage rates, with Non-Hispanic Asian mothers having the highest marriage rates.



### REFERENCES

1. Barr JJ, Marugg L. Impact of Marriage on Birth Outcomes: Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2012-2014.
2. Social Support Among Oklahoma Mothers: 2016-2019. (2021). Oklahoma Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), Oklahoma State Department of Health.

### DATA SOURCES

1. Medicaid-Birth Linked data
2. Oklahoma Vital Statistics, 2014-2024

For additional resources, [click here](#).  
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