



THE OREGON'S BLACK WOMEN'S BIRTH SURVEY

International Center for Traditional
Childbearing (ICTC)

Fall 2011



ABOUT ICTC

- ① We work towards ending racism, sexism, classism, and oppression in the broader community
- ① We work to increase improve birth outcomes and increasing the number of minority doulas, midwives and healers in Oregon.
- ① We create programs specific to addressing health inequities in the African American, minority, and low income communities of Oregon.

WHY A BLACK BIRTH SURVEY?



BLACK BIRTH DISPARITIES ARE STARK

- ◎ Coalition of Communities of Color based in Portland, Oregon (*Communities of Color in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile*, 2010), cited:
 - ◎ African American babies have an 11.4% rate for low birth weight (less than 5.5 lbs) in Multnomah County compared to a rate of 5.9% for White babies, 5.6% for Hispanics, and 8.1% overall for all people of color
 - ◎ Infant mortality rates (deaths per 1000 live births) were 8.6% for African Americans compared to 4.9% for Whites, 4.9% for Hispanics, and 7.3% overall for all people of color

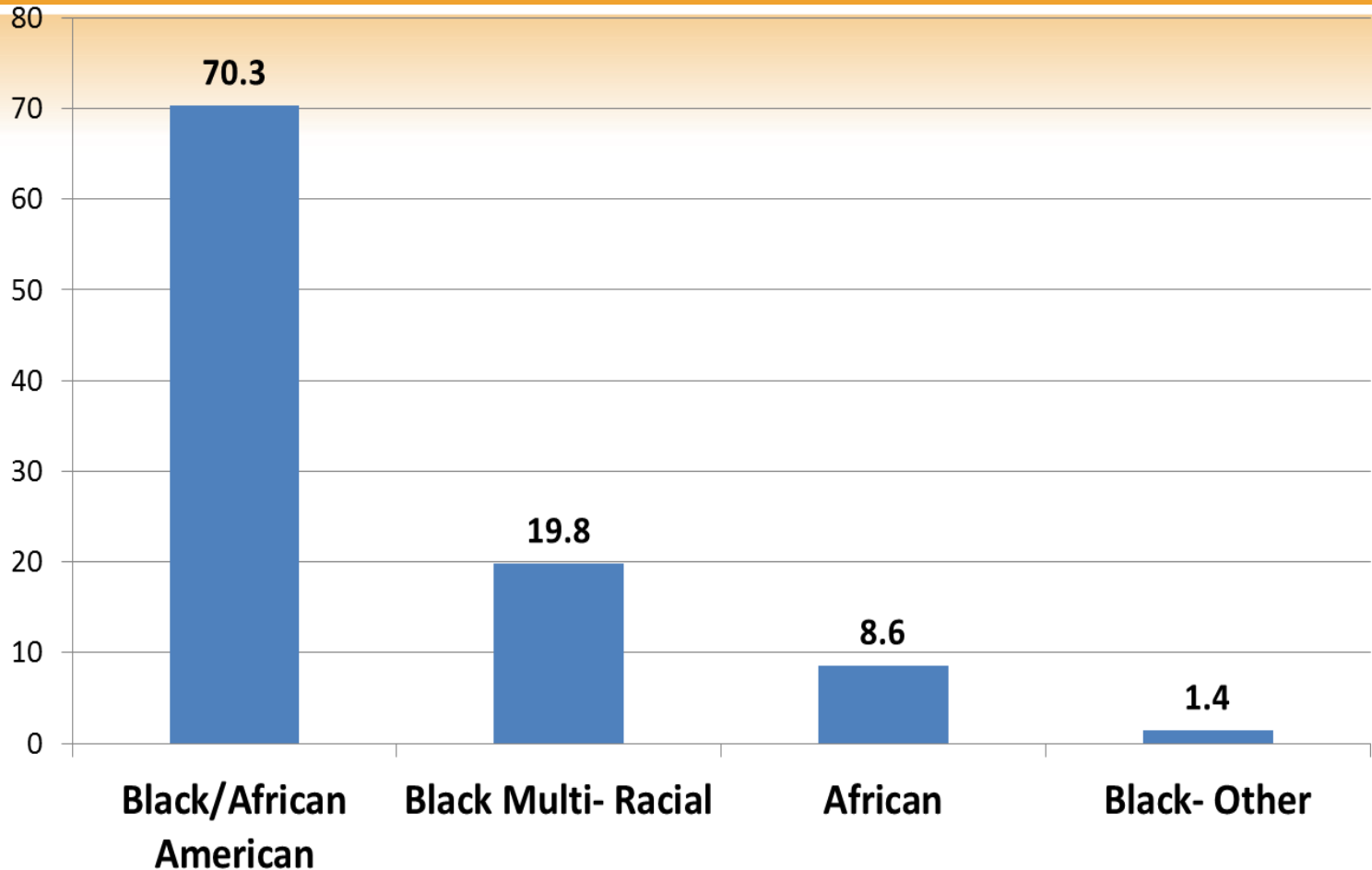
(Statistics source: Multnomah County Health Disparities Project, 2008)

VARIABLES



RACE/ETHNICITY (%)

%

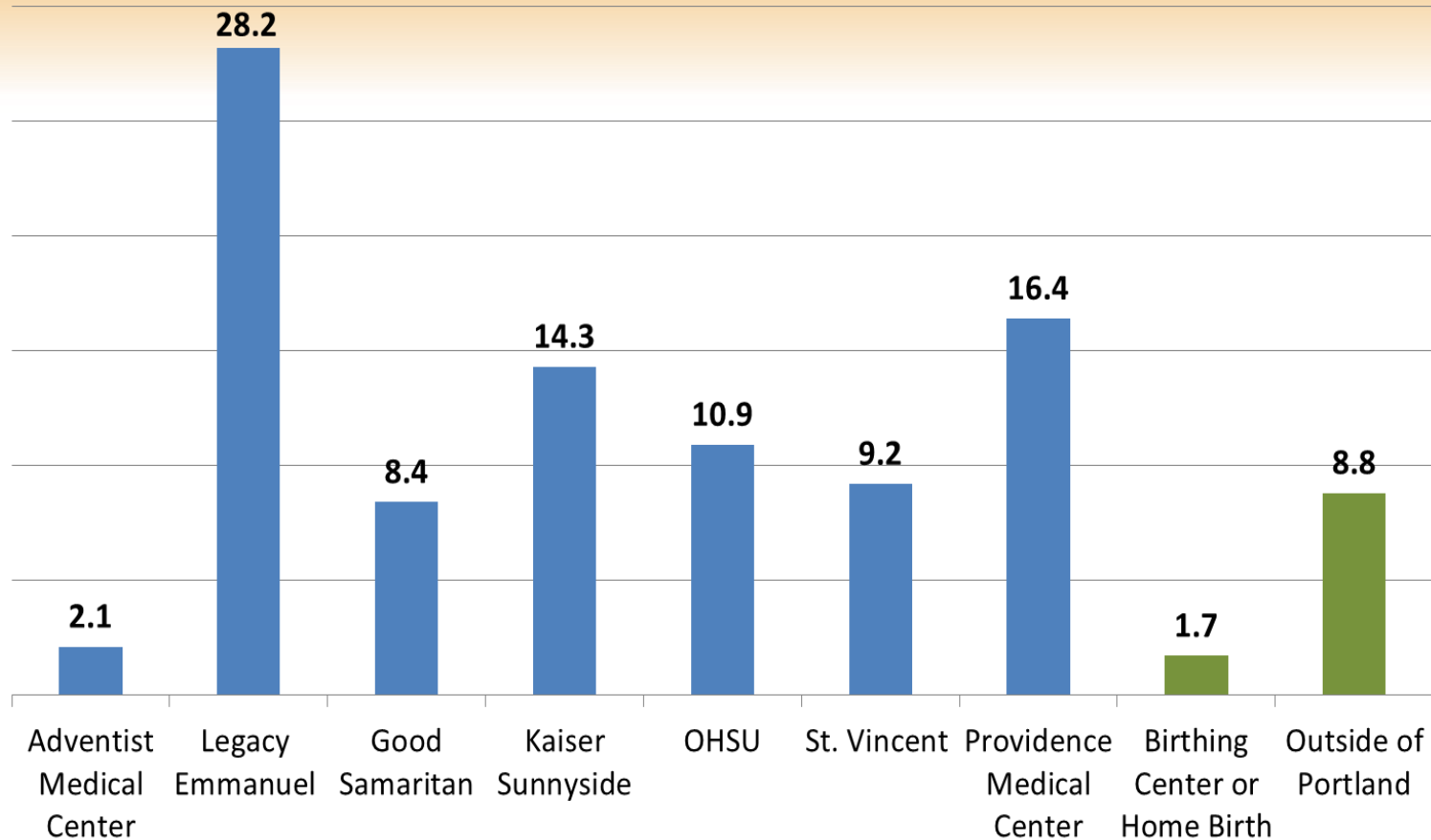


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N = 222; Missing: 22
Source: ICTC



PLACE OF DELIVERY (%)

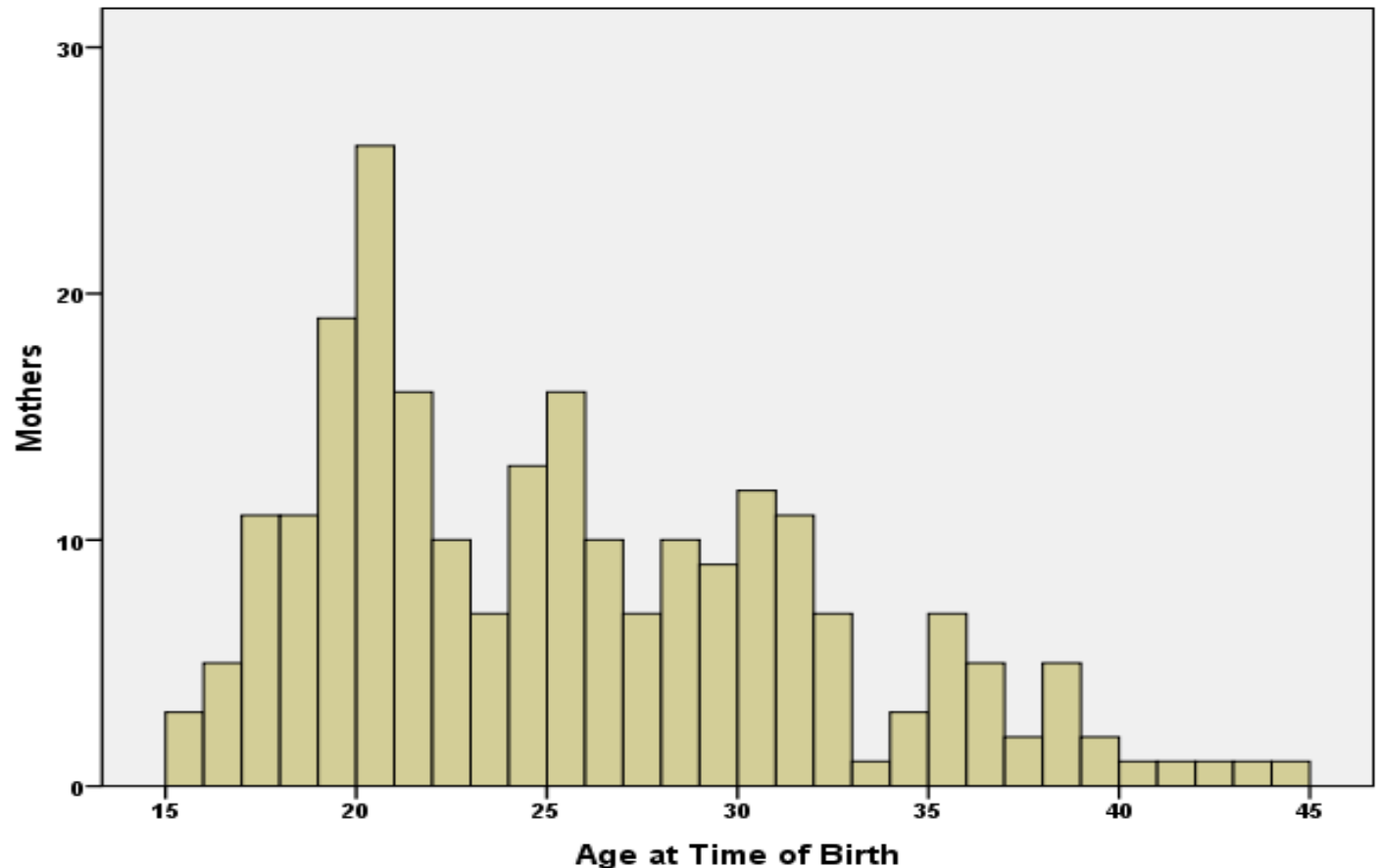


N = 238; Missing: 6
Source: ICTC

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AGE OF MOTHER AT TIME OF BIRTH



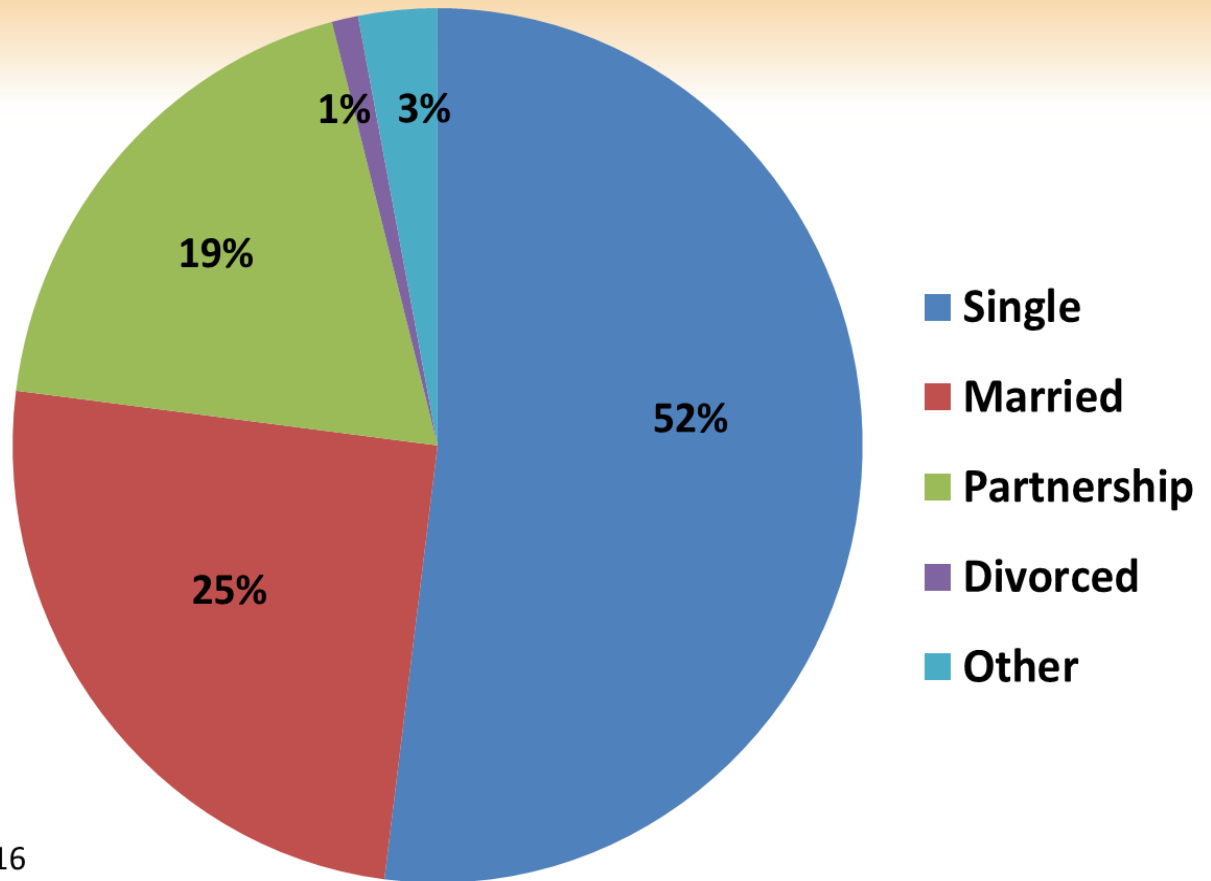
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N = 233; Missing: 11
Source: ICTC

Mean Age: 25
Median: 24
Mode: 20



RELATIONSHIP STATUS

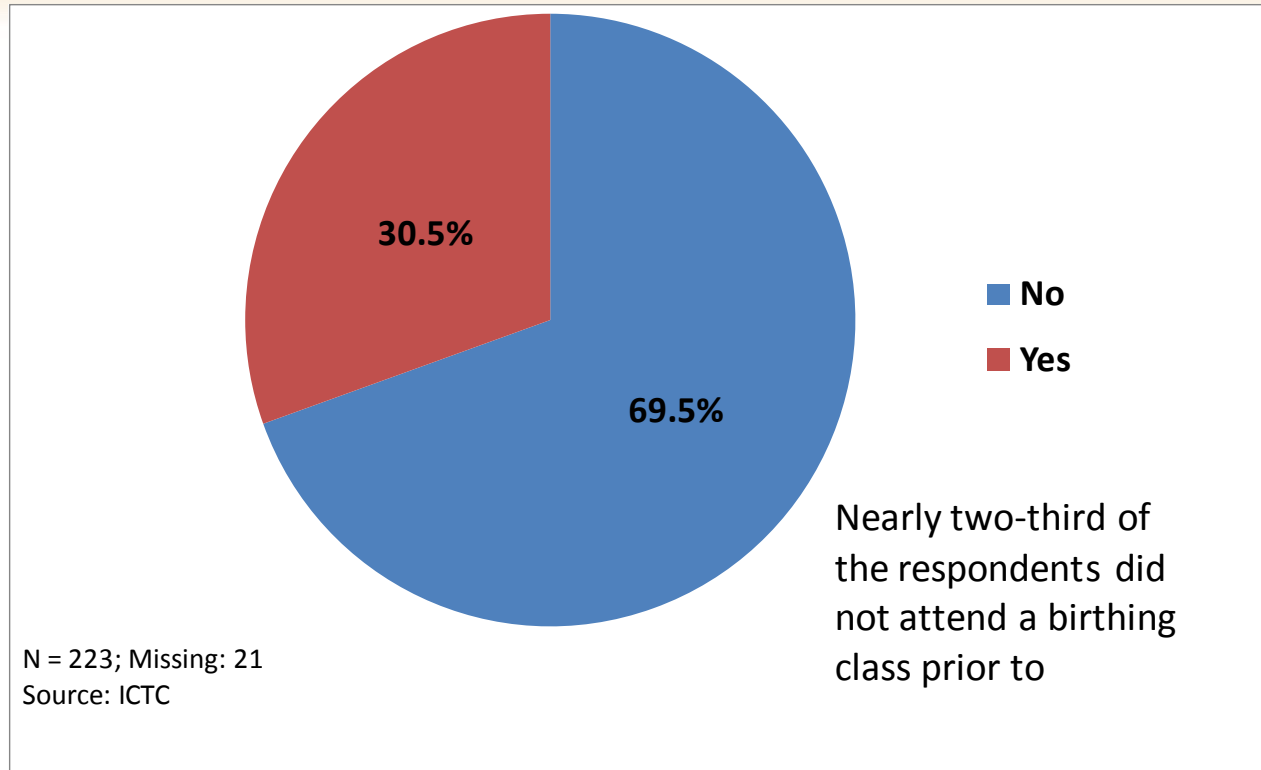


N = 228; Missing: 16

Source: ICTC



BIRTHING CLASS ATTENDANCE





MOTHERS AND BREASTFEEDING

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Mother Breastfed N = 227, Missing: 17 | 73% | 27% |
| Mother was encouraged to breastfeed by hospital N = 207, Missing: 37 | 83% | 17% |



BREASTFEEDING, BY ETHNICITY

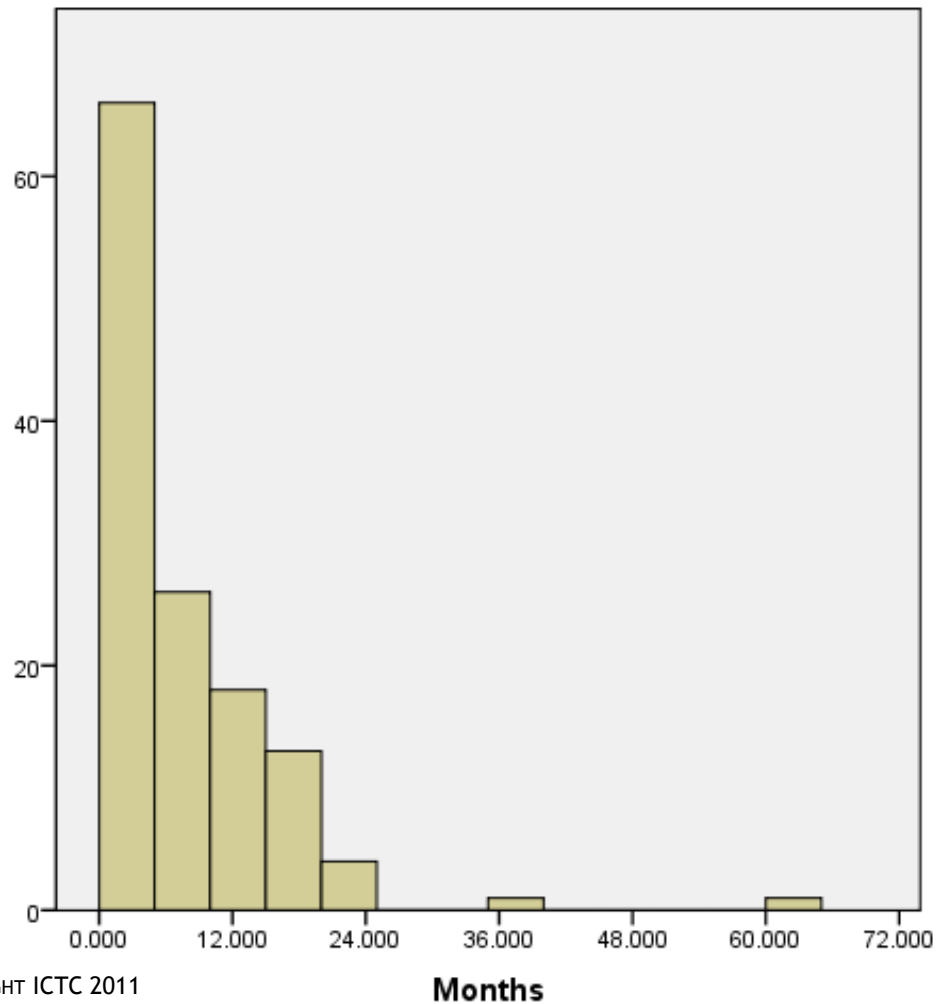
| | <u>African American/ Black</u> | <u>Black Multi-Racial</u> | <u>African</u> | <u>Black- Other</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Breastfed | 66.4% | 81% | 94.7% | 100% |
| Did not Breastfeed | 33.6% | 19% | 5.3% | 0% |
| Total (N) | 143 | 19 | 42 | 3 |

N = 207; Missing: 37

Significance: .019; Chi Square = 9.986



MONTHS MOTHERS BREASTFED



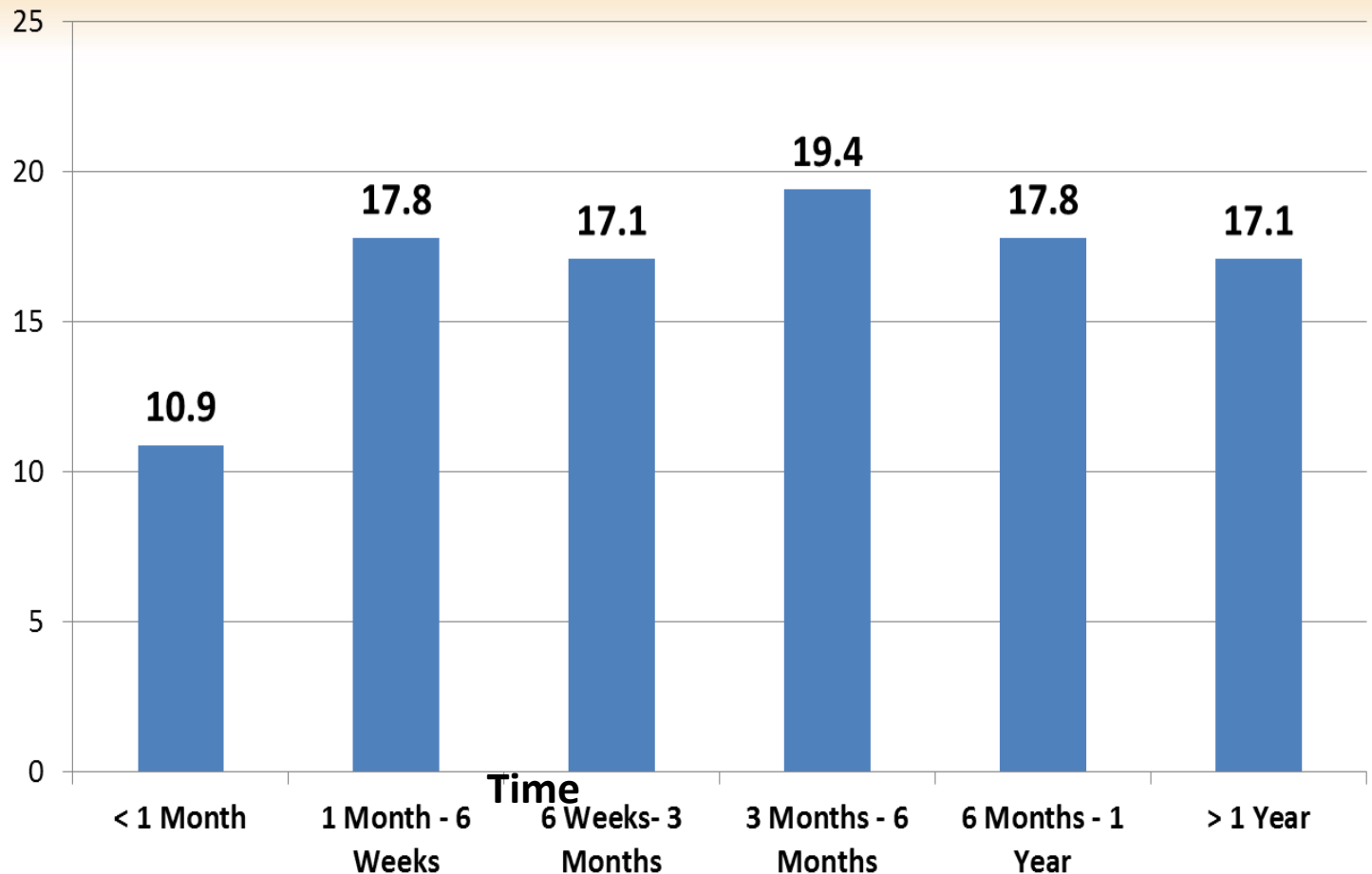
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Months



LENGTH OF TIME BREASTFEEDING (%)

%



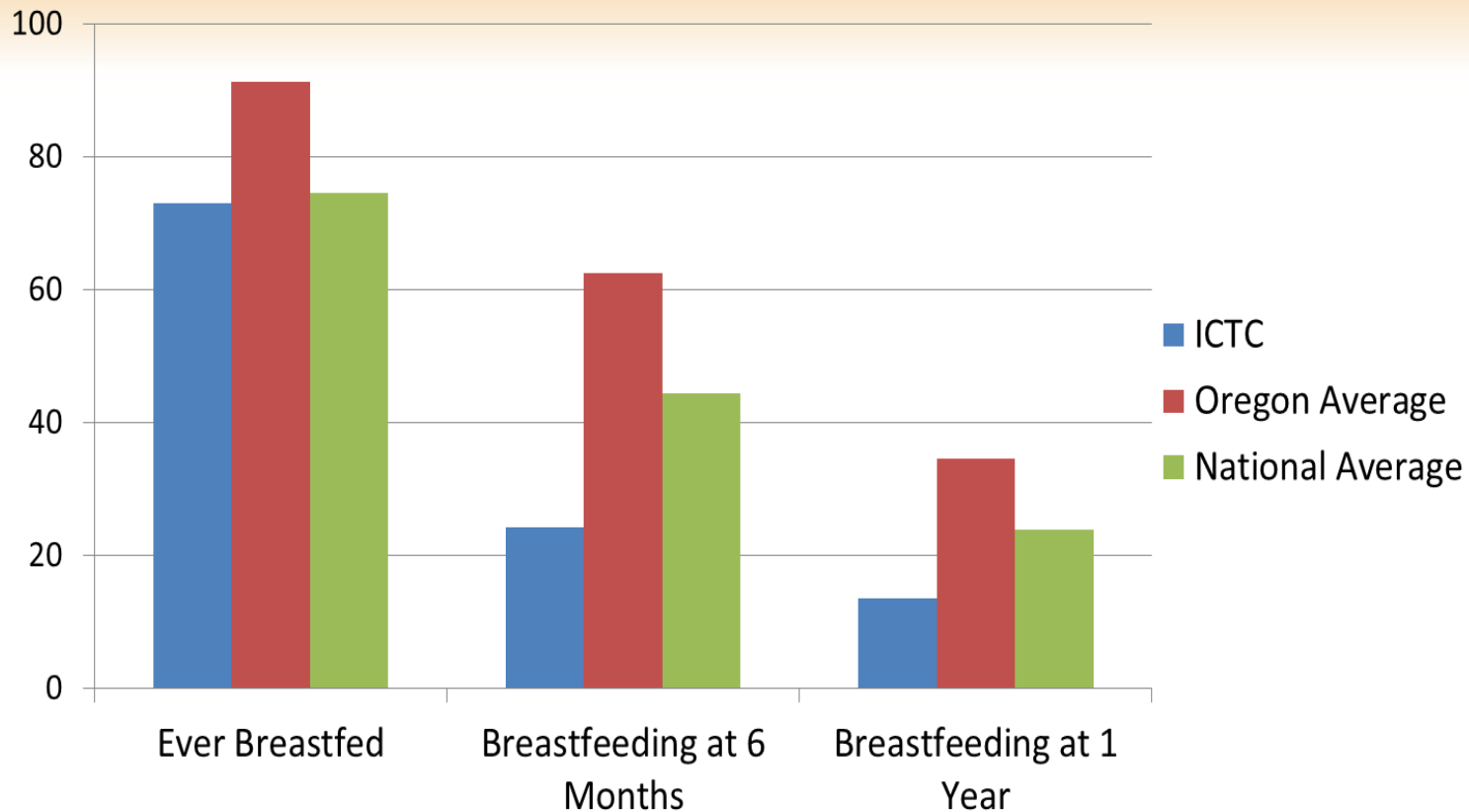
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N = 129, Missing: 115

Source: ICTC



BREASTFEEDING FINDINGS COMPARED TO OREGON AND NATIONAL AVERAGES



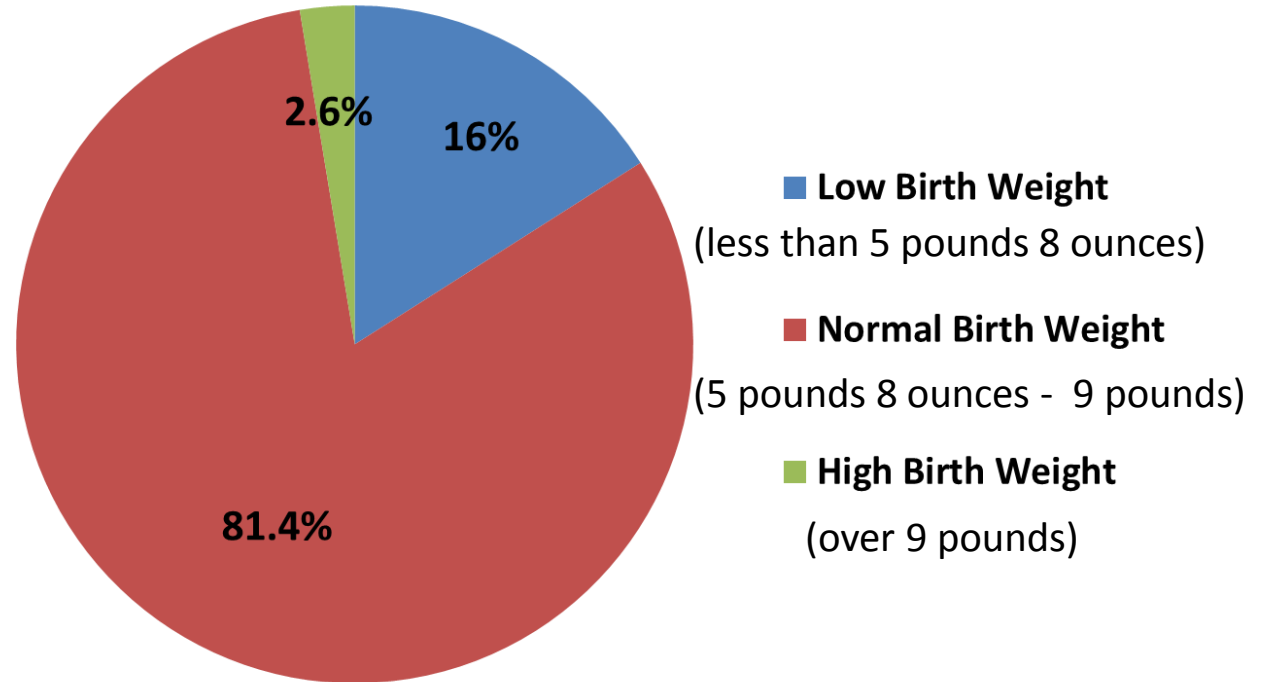
N=129; Missing: 115

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Source: ICTC and www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/reportcard2.htm

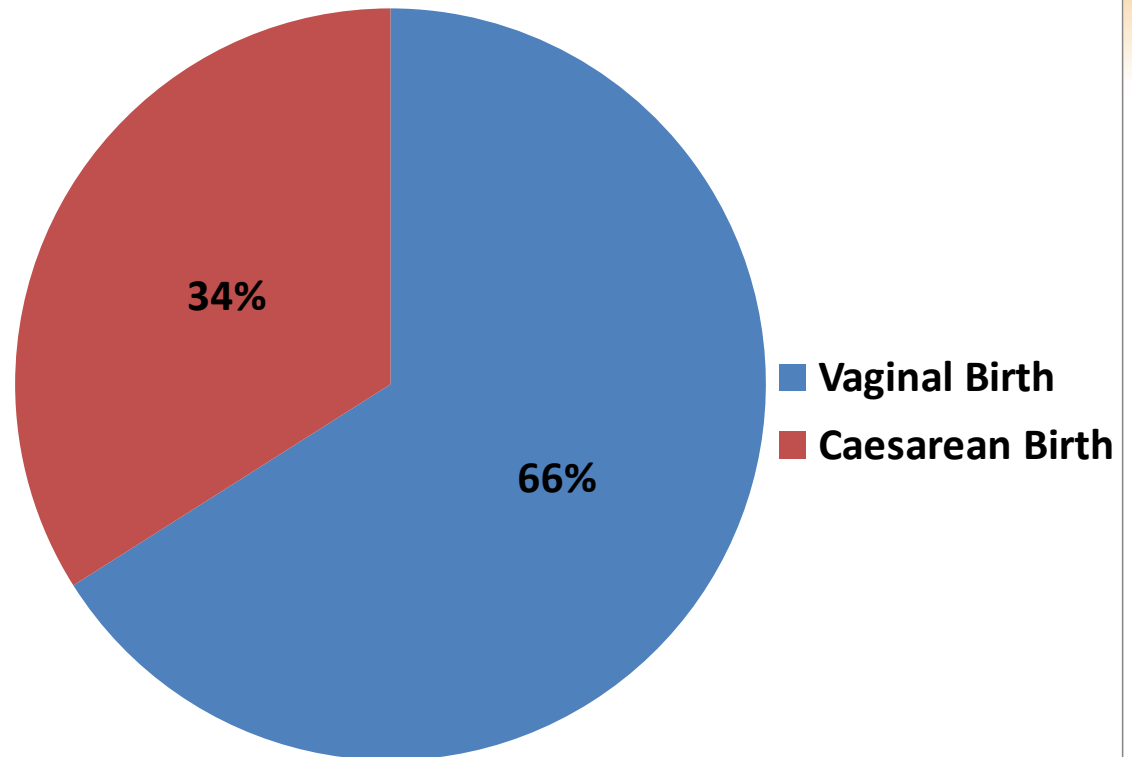


BABY'S BIRTH WEIGHT





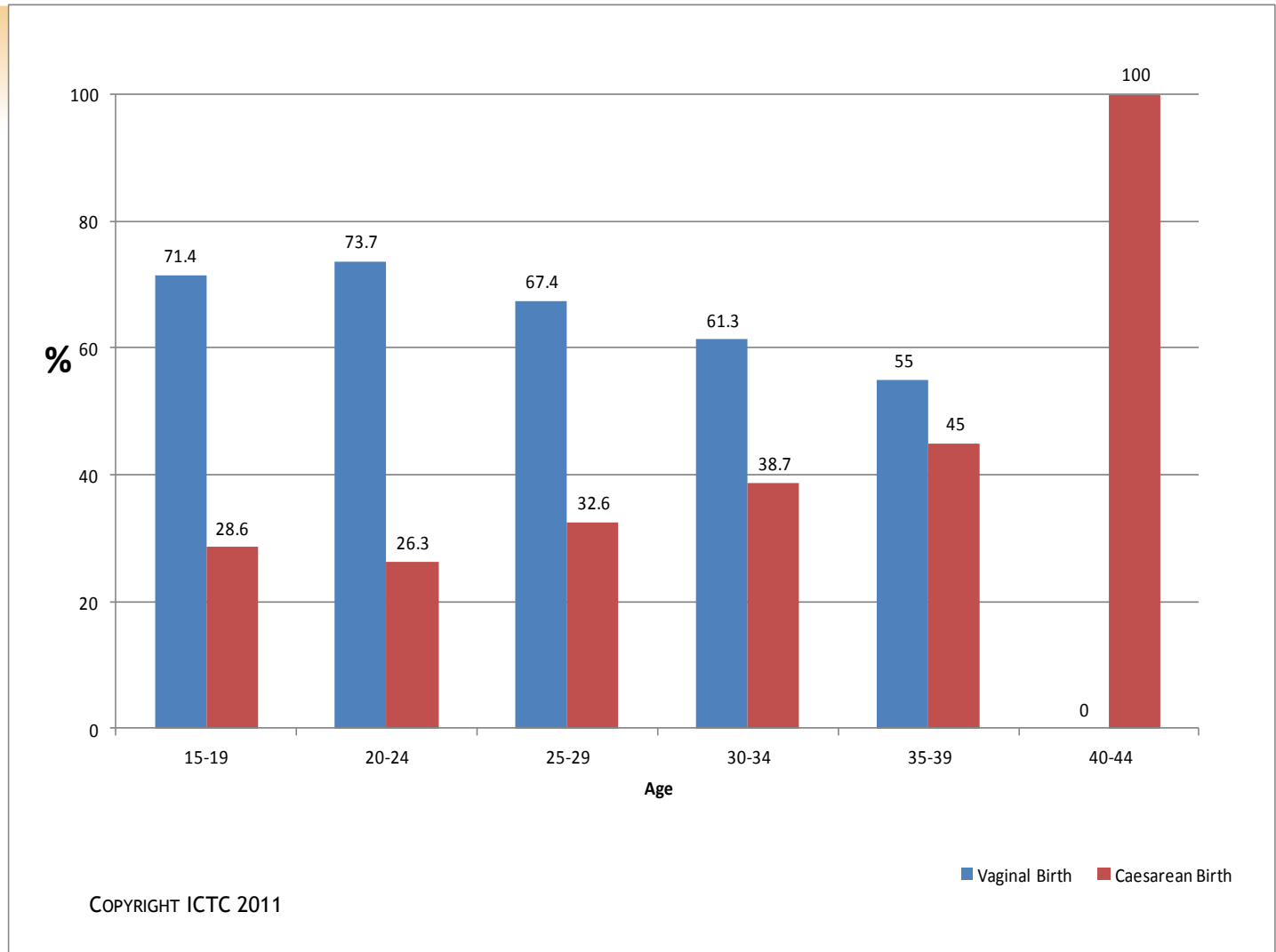
TYPE OF DELIVERY



N = 244; Missing: 44
Source: ICTC



TYPE OF DELIVERY, BY AGE (%)



N = 193; Missing: 51
Source: ICTC



LEAD POISONING

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Mother was informed of lead poisoning N = 223, Missing: 21 | 87% | 13% |
| Mother was informed by medical provider about lead poisoning N = 212, Missing: 32 | 58% | 42% |
| Mother wants to learn more about lead poisoning N = 215, Missing: 29 | 33% | 67% |



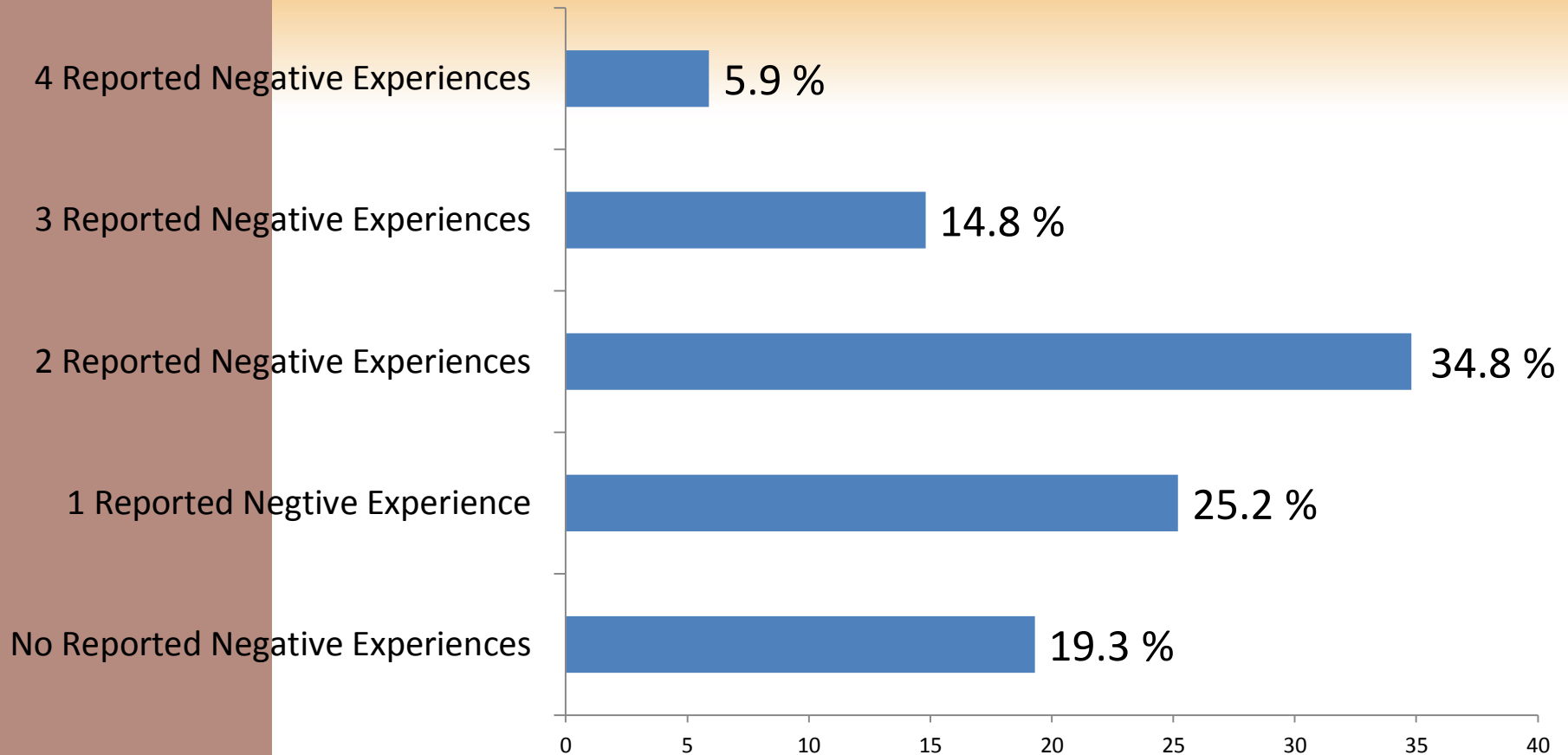
PERCEPTION OF CARE



Nearly one-third of women were concerned about their treatment during the birth of their baby.



MOTHER'S REPORTED EXPERIENCE(S) AT HOSPITAL



N = 135; Missing: 109

Source: ICTC

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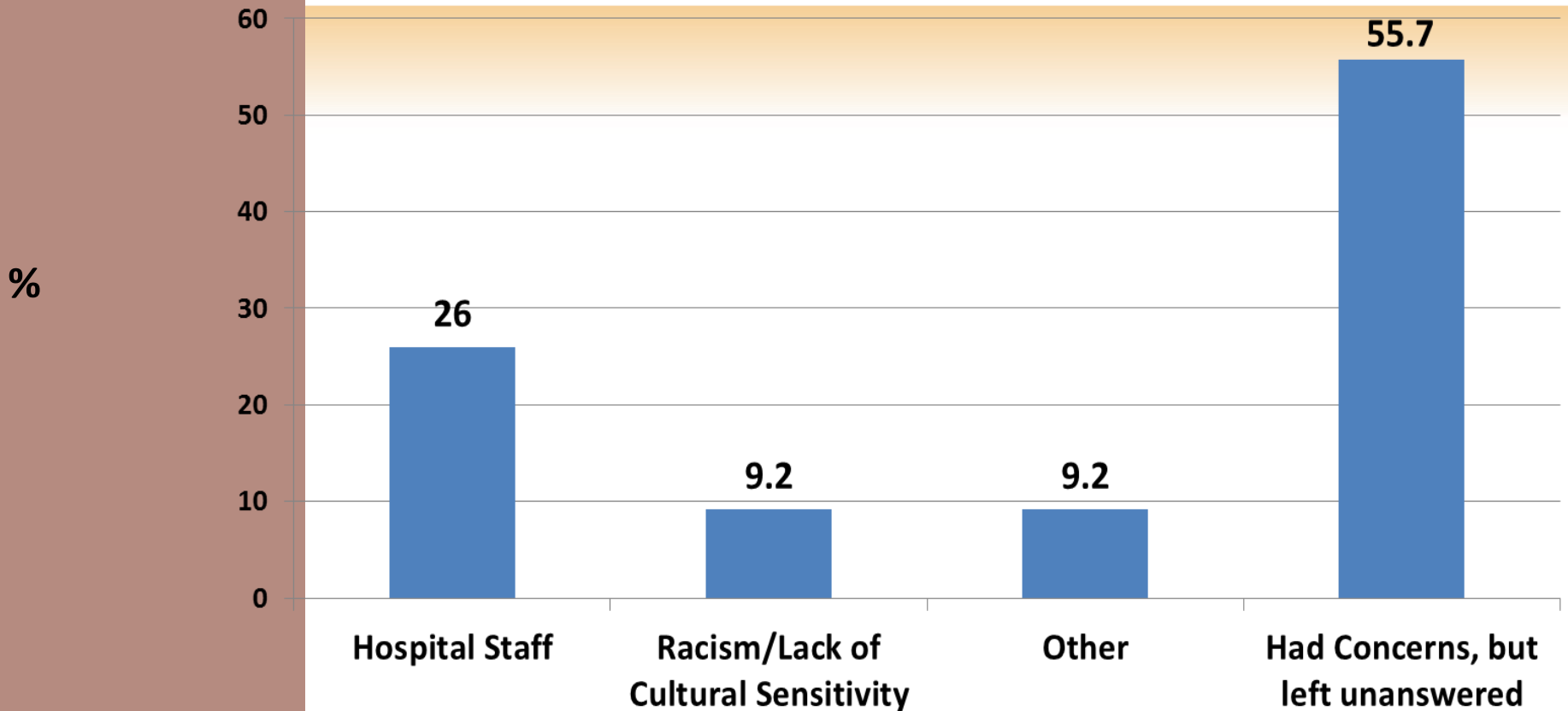
EXPERIENCES AT PLACE OF BIRTH

| <u>Respondent Felt She Was:</u> | <u>%</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Not Offered a Doula | 31.1% |
| Not Offered a Black Doula | 31.1% |
| Not Told Patient Rights | 6.1% |
| Not Encouraged to Breastfeed | 3.7% |

N = 135; Missing: 109



SOURCE OF RESPONDENT'S CONCERNS (%)



N= 131; Missing: 77

*21.6% had no concerns

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Source: ICTC



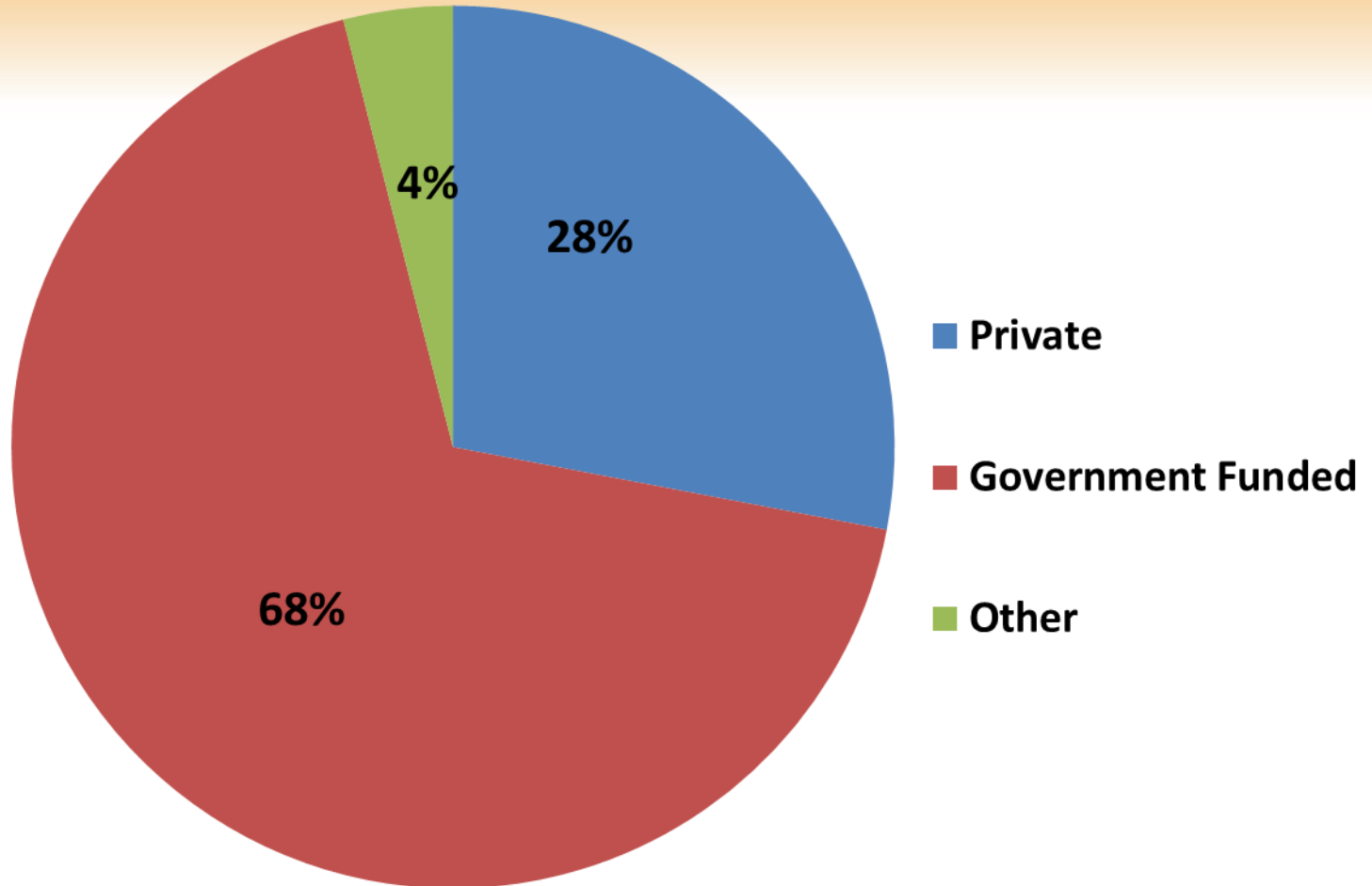
WOMEN'S CONCERNS



75% of the respondents had concerns for prenatal development, birth, or the postpartum experience.



INSURANCE PROVIDERS





REPORTED NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES, BY INSURANCE

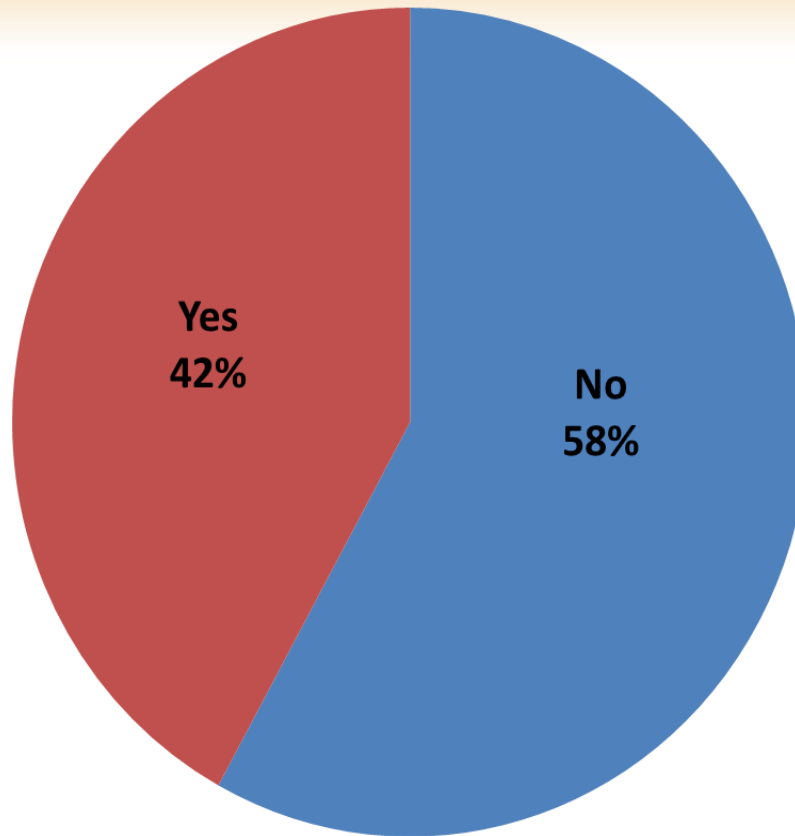
| | <u>Private Insurance (%)</u> | <u>Government Funded Insurance (%)</u> | <u>Total (N)</u> |
|---|------------------------------|--|------------------|
| No Reported Negative Experiences | 74.4% | 62.2% | 75 |
| At Least One Reported Negative Experience | 25.6% | 37.8% | 38 |

N = 113; Missing: 131

Sig. = .251



DO RESPONDENTS WANT TO DISCUSS BIRTHING EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER BLACK WOMEN?



N = 244, Missing: 50
Source: ICTC



SUMMARY

- ◎ Nearly two-thirds of women did not attend birth education classes prior to delivery.
- ◎ Nearly one-third of women were concerned about their treatment during the birth of their baby.
- ◎ The majority of women surveyed have government-paid health insurance coverage.
- ◎ Over half of the women surveyed were single (not married or in a partnership), and thus without the type of support that having a partner provides.
- ◎ Only 25% of Black women were still breastfeeding their babies at six months, compared to over 60% for the Oregon population over all, and over 40% as the national average.
- ◎ Only one-third were offer a doula.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ① US Surgeon General Benjamin's recommends partnering with non-profits who service African American women to increase breastfeeding , such as the ICTC.
- ① Create a sustainable, multi-sector and interdisciplinary partnerships to develop comprehensive strategies to reduce perinatal disparities and increase breastfeeding rates.
- ① Increase the number of African American and Black doulas through the ICTC doula training program.
- ① Health professional refer black women to cultural competent doulas.



GOALS

- ◎ **Goal 1:** Eliminate infant and maternal mortality and commit to positive birth outcomes in the African American and black communities.
- ◎ **Goal 2:** Obtain third party reimbursement for doula services and contract doula services in health care facilities in Oregon.
- ◎ **Goal 3:** Provide mentoring for leadership development and address the systematic barriers and variables contributing to the effects of race and ethnicity based discrimination during the birth experience.
- ◎ **Goal 4:** Reduce pregnancy related anxiety, increase the number of culturally competent doulas in Oregon, eliminate perceived discrimination during the birth experience to improve breastfeeding initiation and duration rates.



OUR VISION

ICTC's vision is to have stakeholders who:

- ① Understand the relationship between health inequities and racial inequities.
- ① Are committed to ensure equal access to health care services throughout Oregon
- ① Are committed to improving birth outcomes and reducing infant mortality for women of color and improving breastfeeding rates.
- ① Will utilize doula services through the ICTC and similar organizations to improve birth outcomes for African American , black and women of color in the state of Oregon.



SOLUTION

Create RFP's Specific to:

- ① Utilizing doula services to improve birth outcomes for African America, minority and women of color in the state of Oregon.
- ① Training African American and culturally specific doulas in Oregon to increase breastfeeding rates.
- ① HB1133 -Creating infrastructure for third party reimbursement for doula services in communities of color.
- ① Doulas building a birth justice movement to reduce health disparities, linking with stakeholders and educating the public on the benefits of doula service.



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- ⊙ City of Portland Water Bureau
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- ⊙ McKenzie River Gathering Foundation
- ⊙ Oregon Coalition to Improve Birth Outcomes
- ⊙ Portland State University
- ⊙ Western State Center
- ⊙ ICTC Board of Directors
- ⊙ ICTC Staff
- ⊙ ICTC Volunteers
- ⊙ Women who took the survey



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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