



Worcester Infant Mortality Summit

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Commissioner of Public Health

September 22, 2017



VISION

Optimal health and well-being for all people in Massachusetts, supported by a strong public health infrastructure and healthcare delivery.

MISSION

The mission of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is to prevent illness, injury, and premature death; to ensure access to high quality public health and health care services; and to promote wellness and health equity for *all* people in the Commonwealth.

DATA

We provide relevant, timely access to data for DPH, researchers, press and the general public in an effective manner in order to target disparities and impact outcomes.

DETERMINANTS

We focus on the social determinants of health - the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, which contribute to health inequities.

DISPARITIES

We consistently recognize and strive to eliminate health disparities amongst populations in Massachusetts, wherever they may exist.

EVERYDAY EXCELLENCE

PASSION AND INNOVATION

INCLUSIVENESS AND COLLABORATION



Chapter 55 Report & Data Brief

An Assessment of Fatal and Nonfatal Opioid Overdoses in Massachusetts (2011 – 2015)



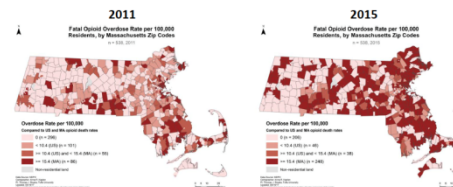
August 2017

Background

Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2015 (Chapter 55) was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature and signed into law by Governor Charles D. Baker in August 2015. This law permitted the linkage and analysis of different government data sets to better understand the opioid epidemic, guide policy development, and help make programmatic decisions. Chapter 55 resulted in an in-depth report examining the factors driving the opioid crisis in Massachusetts. The law was reauthorized in Chapter 133 of the Acts of 2016, enabling this unprecedented analysis to continue supporting the Commonwealth's data-driven response to the opioid epidemic. This data brief highlights key findings from the second Chapter 55 report released in August 2017.

In the twelve months since the first Chapter 55 report was released in September 2016, nearly 2,000 Massachusetts residents have died of opioid-related overdoses. The total number of deaths has increased five-fold in the last 20 years, but the rate of increase of opioid-related overdose deaths was particularly sharp between 2013 and 2014. The maps below show a graphic depiction of the increasing and spreading opioid crisis in Massachusetts between 2011 and 2015 (the darkening area on the maps below).

Increasing and Spreading Opioid-Related Overdose Death Rates in Massachusetts from 2011 to 2015¹

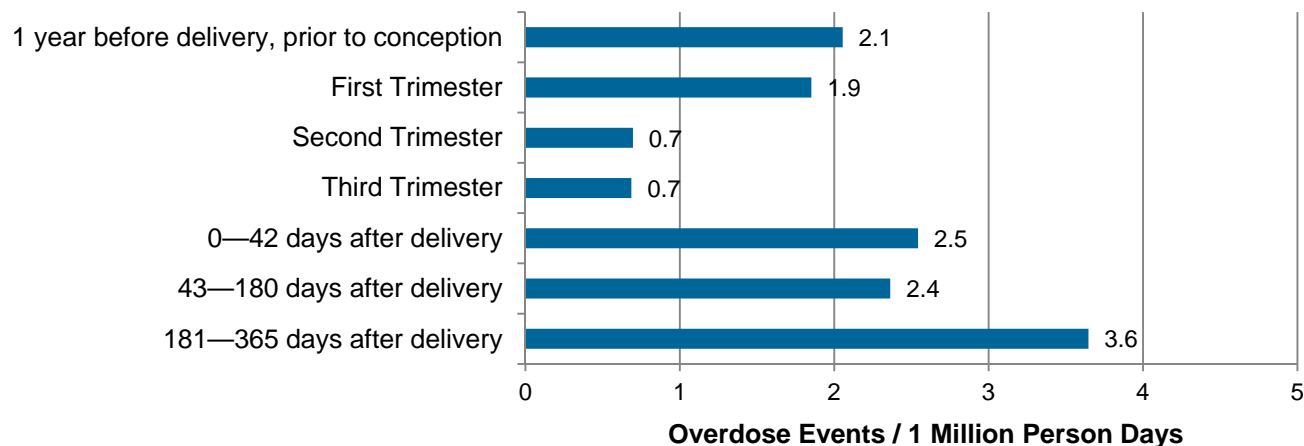


What is especially notable is the epidemic's rapid and insidious geographic spread throughout the Commonwealth. Almost every community is affected. Opioid-related overdose deaths and nonfatal opioid-related overdoses are highest among younger males, but all population subgroups have seen increases in recent years. Individuals released from incarceration are also at high risk of death upon re-entering the community, but so too are individuals experiencing homelessness, veterans, mothers with opioid use disorder, and individuals with serious mental illnesses.



Pregnant and Postpartum Risk

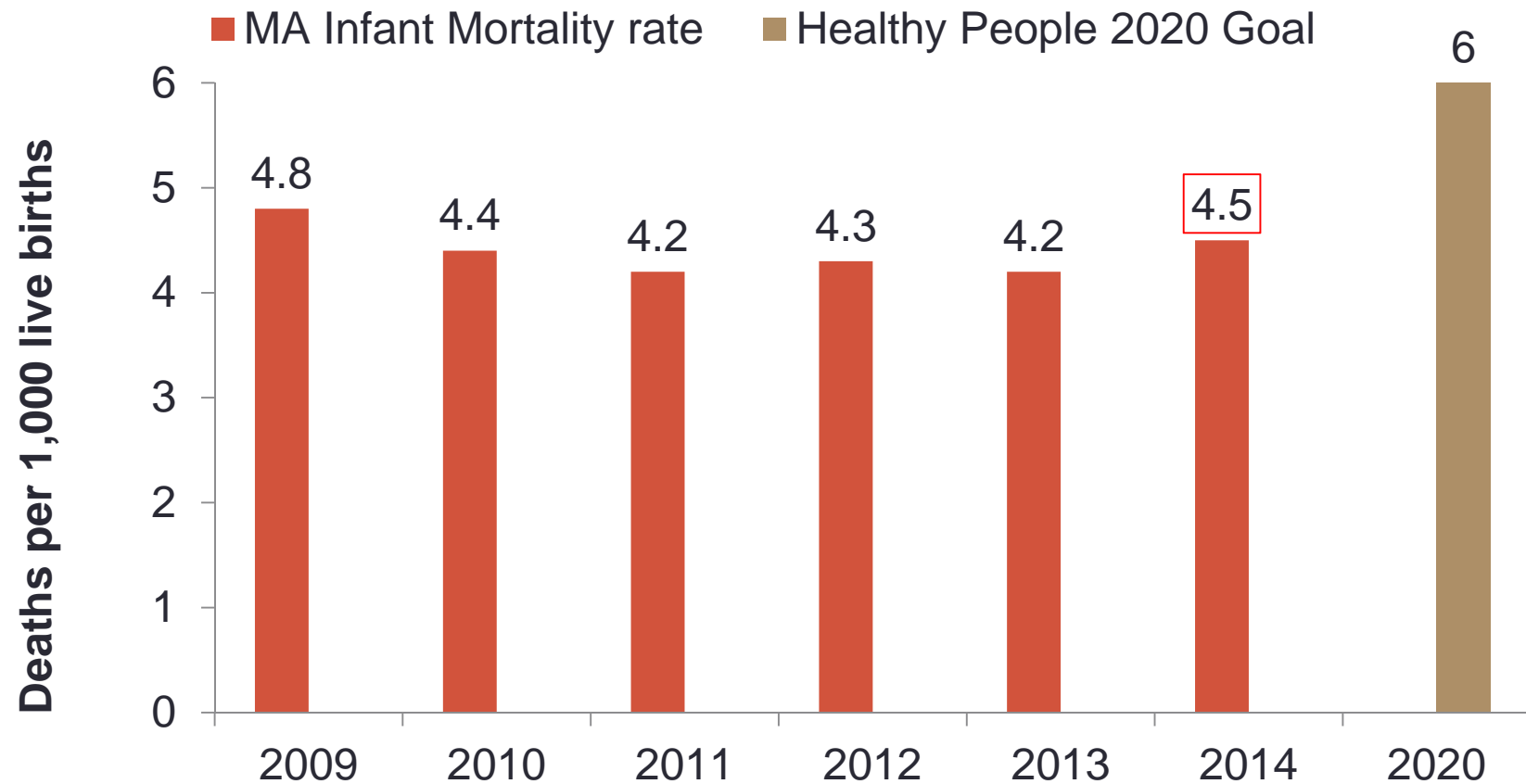
Rate of Opioid Overdose Events Increase Sharply After Delivery for OUD Mothers



- Rates of opioid-related overdose decrease during pregnancy but significantly increase in the postpartum period
- 82% of mothers with an overdose during pregnancy or postpartum had a diagnosis of depression compared with 63% of mothers with OUD and 18% of mothers without evidence of OUD.

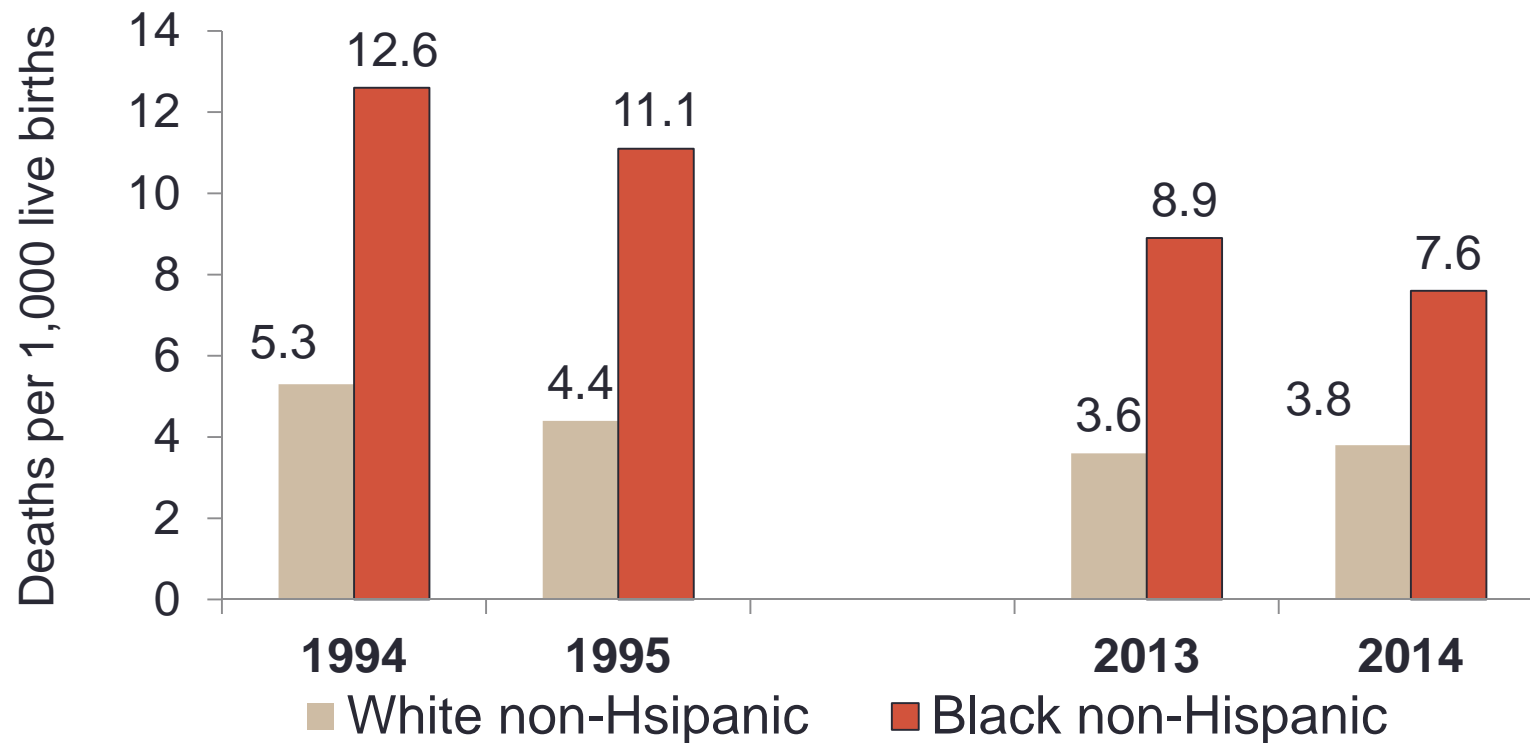


All-Cause Infant Mortality Rates—MA, 2009-2014



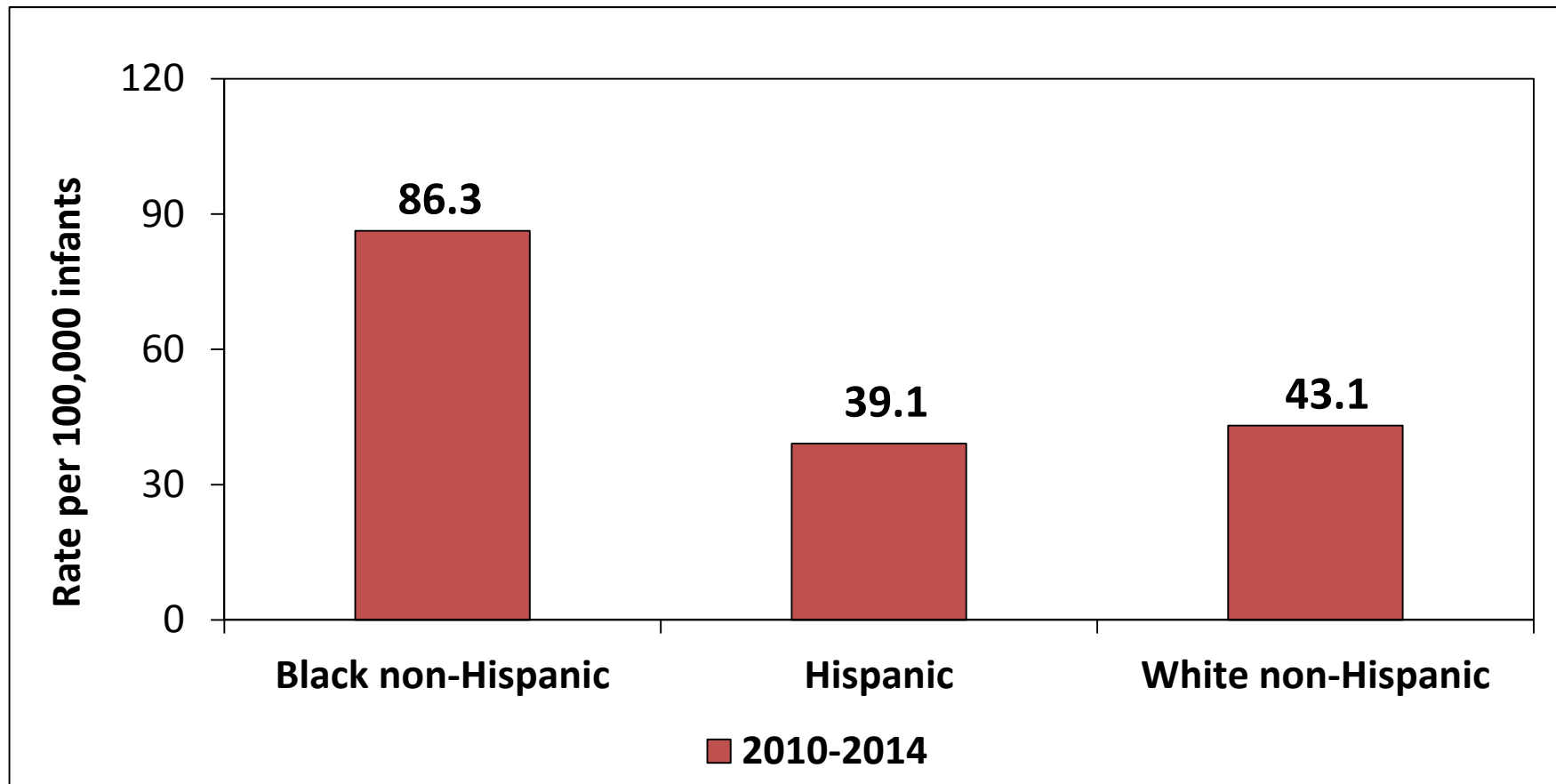


Infant Mortality by Race/Ethnicity—MA, 1994-2014





Average Annual Rate of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death* by Selected Race/Ethnicity, MA Residents <1 Year, 2010–2014



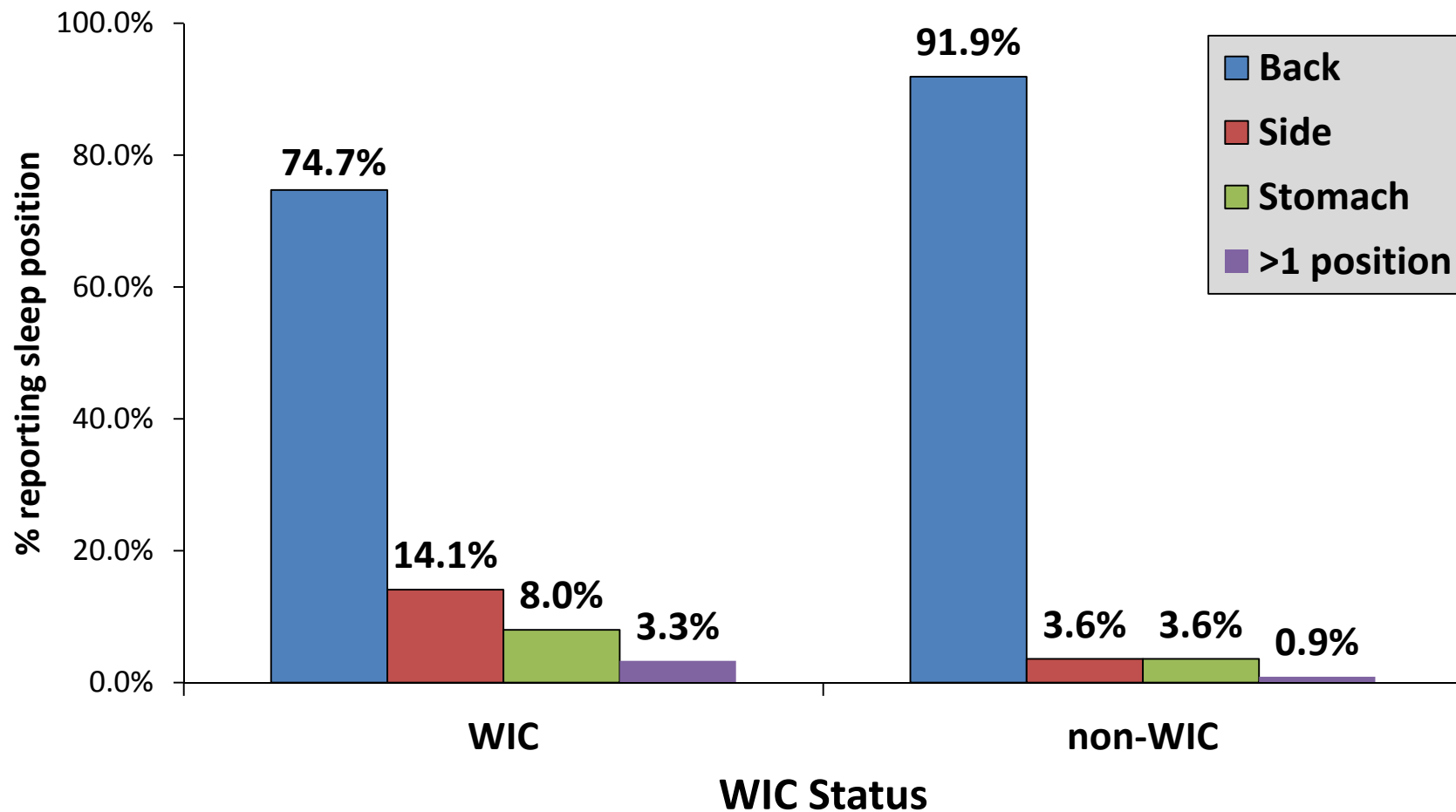
Source: Registry of Vital Statistics, MDPH.

*SUID includes: SIDS, unintentional suffocation in bed, and undetermined causes

Rates not displayed for racial and ethnic groups where count <5



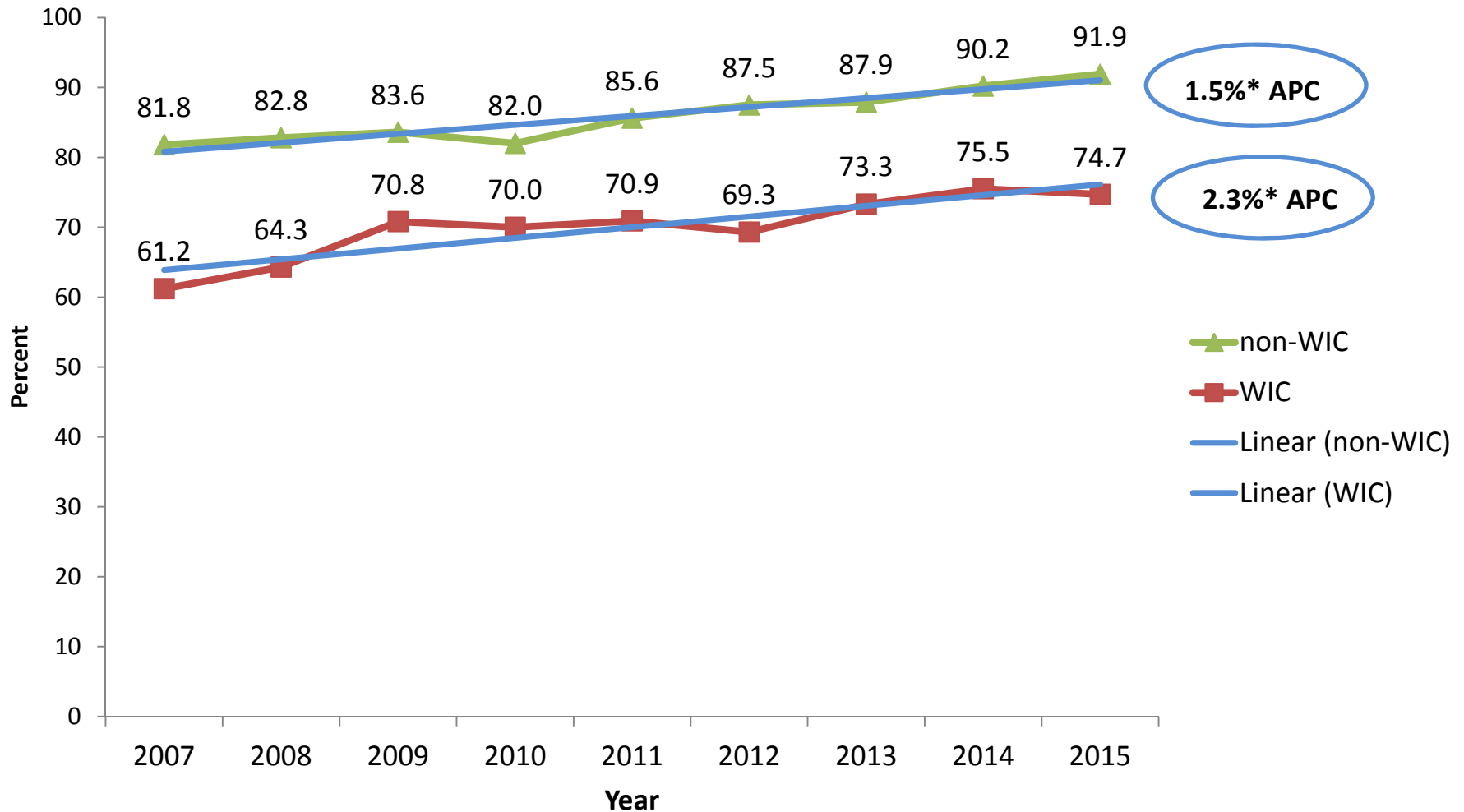
Sleep position: WIC vs. Non-WIC



Source: MA Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System preliminary findings, 2015



Trends of supine sleep by WIC status, MA PRAMS, 2007-2015



*Significant trend, $p < 0.05$



Strategies: Infant Mortality

- Safe Sleep Initiatives
- Promoting Women's health before, during and after pregnancy
- Reducing pre-term births
- Prioritizing work on Social Determinants and addressing racial inequities





Thank You