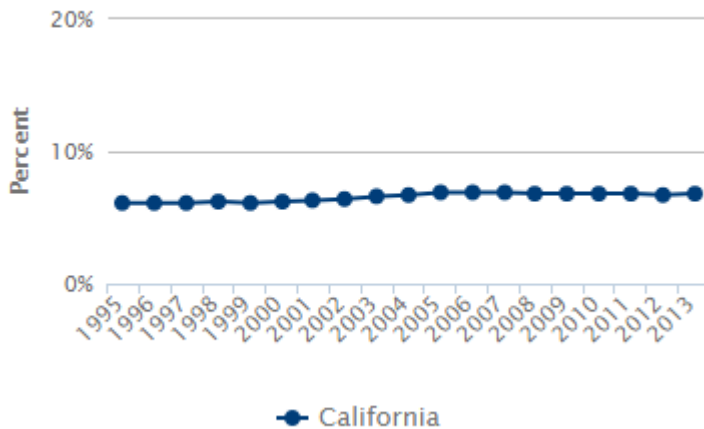


Low Birthweight in California

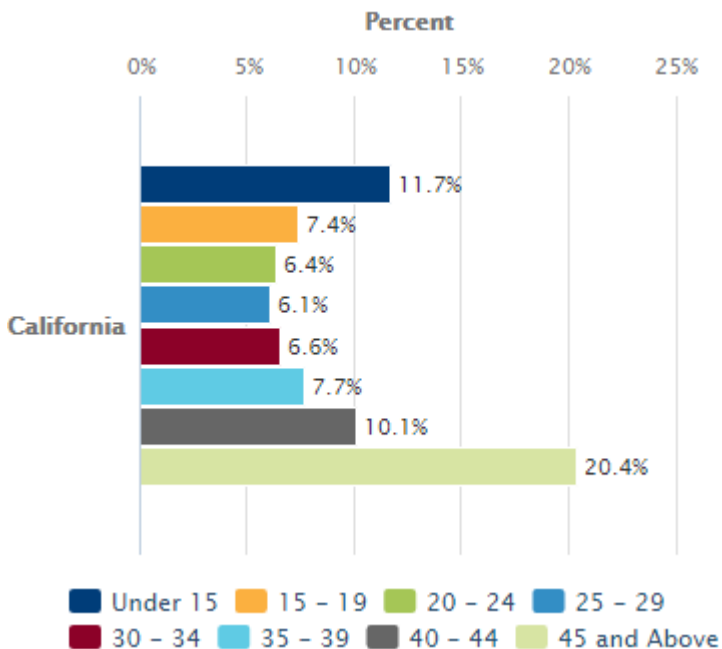
Infants Born at Low Birthweight: 1995-2013



Definition: Percentage of infants born at low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams or about 5 lbs, 8 oz).

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files; Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Natality data on CDC WONDER; Martin et al. (2015), Births: Final Data for 2013. National Vital Statistics Reports, [64\(1\)](#) (Mar. 2015).

Infants Born at Low Birthweight, by Age of Mother: 2013



Definition: Percentage of infants born at low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams or about 5 lbs, 8 oz), by age of mother. For example, in 2013, about 20% of California babies born to mothers age 45 or older were at low birthweight.

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files; Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Natality data on

What It Is

For this topic, kidsdata.org offers the following measures:

- Percent and number of infants born at low birthweight, by age and race/ethnicity of mother. Low birthweight is defined as babies who are born at less than 2,500 grams (or about 5 lbs, 8 oz).
- Percent and number of infants born at very low birthweight, which is less than 1,500 grams (about 3 lbs, 5 oz).
- Percent and number of infants born preterm, which refers to births before 37 completed weeks of pregnancy. More than two-thirds of low birthweight babies are born preterm (1).

Why This Topic Is Important

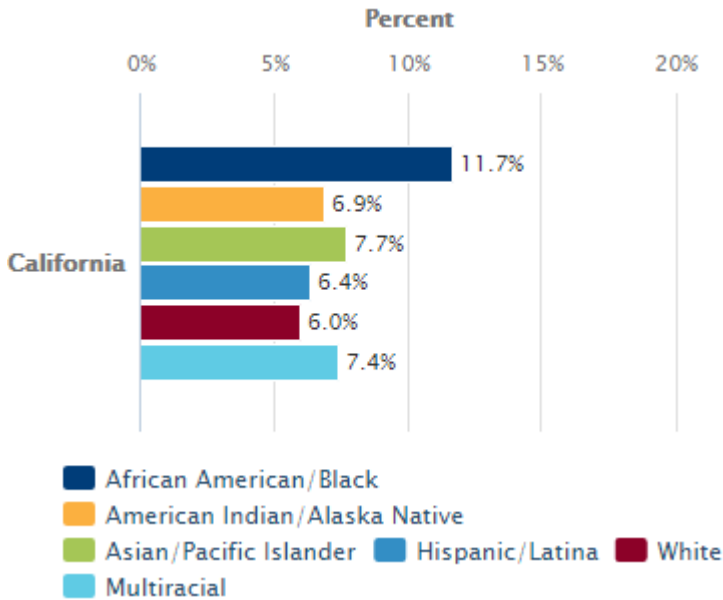
In addition to being at higher risk of death during the first year of life, babies born weighing less than 5.5 pounds are at increased risk of long-term disabilities, including developmental delays, learning disabilities, and autism (1, 2). Cardiac and/or respiratory distress, brain hemorrhaging, and vision impairments are also problems that low birthweight infants may face (3). Women who are more likely to give birth to low birthweight babies include those with low incomes or education, smoking habits, and those under age 17 or over age 35 (1, 3).

Babies born prematurely may face adverse outcomes as low birthweight infants (4). Preterm birth is the leading cause of infant death in the U.S. (5). Some preterm babies require specialized care in a newborn intensive care unit (4). Women who are most likely to give birth preterm include those who have had a previous premature birth, those pregnant with twins, triplets, or more, and those with certain uterine abnormalities. In addition, demographic and behavioral factors can increase the risk of delivering preterm, including low socioeconomic status, being under age 17 or over age 35, receiving inadequate prenatal care, and smoking during pregnancy (6). About 1 in 9 pregnancies in the U.S. result in preterm birth (3).

How Children Are Faring

The percentage of California babies born at low birthweight increased from 6.1% in 1999 to

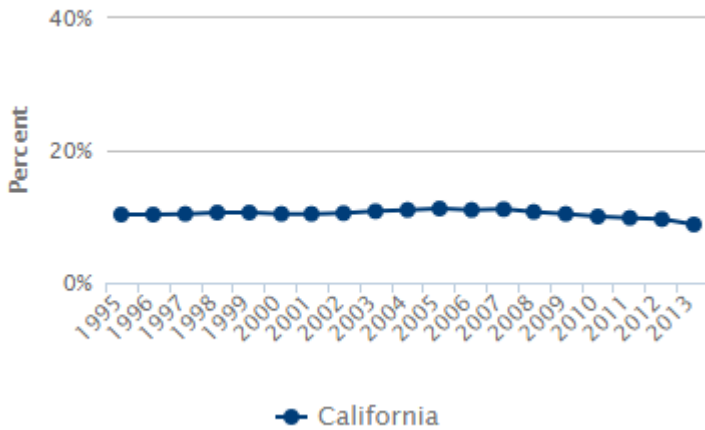
Infants Born at Low Birthweight, by Race/Ethnicity of Mother: 2013



Definition: Percentage of infants born at low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams or about 5 lbs, 8 oz), by race/ethnicity of mother. For example, in 2013, 7.4% of babies born to multiracial mothers in California were at low birthweight.

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files; Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Natality data on CDC WONDER; Martin et al. (2015), Births: Final Data for 2013. National Vital Statistics Reports, 64(1) (Mar. 2015).

Preterm Births: 1995-2013



Definition: Percentage of infants born prior to 37 weeks of gestation.

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth

6.9% in 2005, and has remained fairly steady since then. At the local level, percentages range from 4.9% to 9.8% in 2013 among counties with available data. The state and all but five counties with data in 2013 met the national Healthy People 2020 objective of no more than 7.8% of infants with low birthweight. However, figures vary by demographic group. For example, California mothers age 45 and older consistently have the highest percentages of low birthweight babies (20.4% in 2013), compared to younger mothers. Among California's racial/ethnic groups with available data, African American/Black mothers consistently have the highest percentages of infants at low birthweight (11.7% in 2013).

California babies born at a very low birthweight has remained steady since 1995, hovering between 1.1% and 1.2%. The state and all but two counties with available data in 2013 met the Healthy People 2020 objective of no more than 1.4% of infants with very low birthweight.

In 2013, 8.8% of infants were born preterm, which represents a decline from the high of 11.2% in 2005. At the county-level, figures range from 6.3% to 13.6% of infants born preterm in 2013. Among counties with available data, all but two met the Healthy People 2020 objective of no more than 11.4% of infants born prematurely.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:

<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/56/low-birthweight-and-preterm-births/summary>



More Data: www.kidsdata.org

Sign Up for Data Updates: www.kidsdata.org/signup

This PDF Was Generated On: 2/18/2019

Statistical Master Files; Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Natality data on CDC WONDER; Martin et al. (2015), Births: Final Data for 2013. National Vital Statistics Reports, 64(1) (Mar. 2015).



More Data: www.kidsdata.org

Sign Up for Data Updates: www.kidsdata.org/signup

This PDF Was Generated On: 2/18/2019