

**Table 21. Infant mortality rates according to birthweight: United States, selected years 1983–2001**

[Data are based on linked birth and death certificates for infants]

<i>Birthweight</i>	1983 <sup>1</sup>	1985 <sup>1</sup>	1990 <sup>1</sup>	1991 <sup>1</sup>	1995 <sup>2</sup>	1997 <sup>2</sup>	1998 <sup>2</sup>	1999 <sup>2</sup>	2000 <sup>2</sup>	2001 <sup>2</sup>
	Infant deaths per 1,000 live births <sup>3</sup>									
All birthweights . . . . .	10.9	10.4	8.9	8.6	7.6	7.2	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.8
Less than 2,500 grams . . . . .	95.9	93.9	78.1	74.3	65.3	62.4	62.3	61.3	60.2	59.4
Less than 1,500 grams . . . . .	400.6	387.7	317.6	305.4	270.7	255.0	252.4	249.5	246.9	246.9
Less than 500 grams . . . . .	890.3	895.9	898.2	889.9	904.9	885.2	869.6	857.7	847.9	856.8
500–999 grams . . . . .	584.2	559.2	440.1	422.6	351.0	324.4	319.4	318.6	313.8	313.0
1,000–1,499 grams . . . . .	162.3	145.4	97.9	91.3	69.6	61.8	60.6	59.2	60.9	59.4
1,500–1,999 grams . . . . .	58.4	54.0	43.8	40.4	33.5	30.6	29.0	29.1	28.7	27.6
2,000–2,499 grams . . . . .	22.5	20.9	17.8	17.0	13.7	12.5	12.7	12.0	11.9	11.4
2,500 grams or more . . . . .	4.7	4.3	3.7	3.6	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5
2,500–2,999 grams . . . . .	8.8	7.9	6.7	6.7	5.5	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.5
3,000–3,499 grams . . . . .	4.4	4.3	3.7	3.5	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3
3,500–3,999 grams . . . . .	3.2	3.0	2.6	2.5	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
4,000 grams or more . . . . .	3.3	3.2	2.4	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.6
4,000–4,499 grams . . . . .	2.9	2.9	2.2	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5
4,500–4,999 grams . . . . .	3.9	3.8	2.5	3.0	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.0
5,000 grams or more <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	14.4	14.7	9.8	8.2	8.5	*4.2	*4.3	*7.9	*6.1	*6.5

\* Estimates are considered unreliable. Rates preceded by an asterisk are based on fewer than 50 events.

<sup>1</sup>Rates based on unweighted birth cohort data.<sup>2</sup>Rates based on a period file using weighted data; not stated birthweight imputed when period of gestation is known and proportionately distributed when period of gestation is unknown. See Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System, Linked Birth/Infant Death Data Set.<sup>3</sup>For calculation of birthweight-specific infant mortality rates, unknown birthweight has been distributed in proportion to known birthweight separately for live births (denominator) and infant deaths (numerator).<sup>4</sup>In 1989 a birthweight-gestational age consistency check instituted for the natality file resulted in a decrease in the number of deaths to infants coded with birthweights of 5,000 grams or more and a discontinuity in the mortality trend for infants weighing 5,000 grams or more at birth. Starting with 1989 the rates are believed to be more accurate.

NOTES: National linked files do not exist for 1992–94. Data for additional years are available. See Appendix III.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Linked Birth/Infant Death Data Set.