

Table 9. Low birthweight live births, by detailed race, Hispanic origin, and smoking status of mother: United States, selected years 1970-2010

(Data are based on birth certificates)

Birthweight, maternal race, Hispanic origin, and smoking status	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2009	2010
Low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams)	Percent of live births ¹									
All races.....	7.93	7.38	6.84	6.75	6.97	7.32	7.57	8.19	8.16	8.15
White.....	6.85	6.27	5.72	5.65	5.70	6.22	6.55	7.16	7.10	7.08
Black or African American.....	13.90	13.19	12.69	12.65	13.25	13.13	12.99	13.59	13.31	13.21
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	7.97	6.41	6.44	5.86	6.11	6.61	6.76	7.36	7.28	7.61
Asian or Pacific Islander ²	---	---	6.68	6.16	6.45	6.90	7.31	7.98	8.27	8.49
Hispanic or Latina ³	---	---	6.12	6.16	6.06	6.29	6.41	6.88	6.94	6.97
Mexican.....	---	---	5.62	5.77	5.55	5.81	6.01	6.49	6.47	6.49
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	8.95	8.69	8.99	9.41	9.30	9.92	9.59	9.55
Cuban.....	---	---	5.62	6.02	5.67	6.50	6.49	7.64	7.55	7.30
Central and South American.....	---	---	5.76	5.68	5.84	6.20	6.34	6.78	6.64	6.55
Other and unknown Hispanic or Latina..	---	---	6.96	6.83	6.87	7.55	7.84	8.27	8.28	8.38
Not Hispanic or Latina: ³										
White.....	---	---	5.69	5.61	5.61	6.20	6.60	7.29	7.19	7.14
Black or African American.....	---	---	12.71	12.62	13.32	13.21	13.13	14.02	13.61	13.53
								25 states		
Cigarette smoker ⁴	---	---	---	---	*	*	*	*	11.81	11.98
Nonsmoker ⁴	---	---	---	---	*	*	*	*	7.38	7.37
Very low birthweight (less than 1,500 grams)										
All races.....	1.17	1.16	1.15	1.21	1.27	1.35	1.43	1.49	1.45	1.45
White.....	0.95	0.92	0.90	0.94	0.95	1.06	1.14	1.20	1.17	1.17
Black or African American.....	2.40	2.40	2.48	2.71	2.92	2.97	3.07	3.15	2.97	2.90
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	0.98	0.95	0.92	1.01	1.01	1.10	1.16	1.17	1.31	1.28
Asian or Pacific Islander ²	---	---	0.92	0.85	0.87	0.91	1.05	1.14	1.13	1.17
Hispanic or Latina ³	---	---	0.98	1.01	1.03	1.11	1.14	1.20	1.19	1.20
Mexican.....	---	---	0.92	0.97	0.92	1.01	1.03	1.12	1.08	1.09
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	1.29	1.30	1.62	1.79	1.93	1.87	1.88	1.82
Cuban.....	---	---	1.02	1.18	1.20	1.19	1.21	1.50	1.46	1.42
Central and South American.....	---	---	0.99	1.01	1.05	1.13	1.20	1.19	1.12	1.09
Other and unknown Hispanic or Latina..	---	---	1.01	0.96	1.09	1.28	1.42	1.36	1.40	1.46
Not Hispanic or Latina: ³										
White.....	---	---	0.87	0.91	0.93	1.04	1.14	1.21	1.16	1.16
Black or African American.....	---	---	2.47	2.67	2.93	2.98	3.10	3.27	3.06	2.98
								25 states		
Cigarette smoker ⁴	---	---	---	---	*	*	*	*	1.76	1.83
Nonsmoker ⁴	---	---	---	---	*	*	*	*	1.30	1.30

---Data not available.

*Data are not shown for 1989-2002 because they are not comparable with the data on mother's tobacco use collected in the 2003 revision of the birth certificate. See footnote 4.

¹Excludes live births with unknown birthweight. Percentage based on live births with known birthweight. See Appendix II, Birthweight.

²Estimates are not available for Asian or Pacific Islander subgroups because not all states have adopted the 2003 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth. See Appendix II, Race.

³Prior to 1993, data from states lacking an Hispanic-origin item on the birth certificate were excluded. See Appendix II, Hispanic origin.

Data for non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black women for years prior to 1989 are not nationally representative and are provided for comparison with Hispanic data.

⁴Percentage based on live births with known smoking status of mother and known birthweight.

Only reporting areas that have implemented the 2003 Revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth are shown because maternal tobacco use data based on the 2003 revision are not comparable with data based on the 1989 or earlier revisions to the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth.

Data are for the 25 states that used the 2003 Revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth for data on smoking in 2009 and 2010. See Appendix II, Cigarette smoking.

For data for reporting areas that use the 1989 Revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth, see:
Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Sutton PD, Ventura SJ, Mathews TJ, Kirmeyer S, Osterman JK.
Births: Final data for 2007. National vital statistics reports; vol 58 no 24.
Hyattsville, MD: NCHS; 2010. Available from: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58_24.pdf.

NOTES: The race groups, white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin.
Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with 2003 data, some states reported multiple-race data.
The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 Office of Management and Budget standards for comparability with other states. See Appendix II, Race.
Interpretation of trend data should take into consideration expansion of reporting areas and immigration.
Data for additional years are available. See Appendix III.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS,
National Vital Statistics System, Birth File.
Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Ventura SJ, Osterman MJK, Wilson EC, Mathews TJ.
Births: Final data for 2010. National vital statistics reports; vol 61 no 1. Hyattsville, MD:
NCHS. 2012; Available from: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_01.pdf.
See Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System (NVSS).

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