

**Table 6. Low birthweight live births, by detailed race, Hispanic origin, and smoking status of mother: United States, selected years 1970–2012**

Updated data when available, Excel, PDF, and more data years: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2013.htm#006>.

[Data are based on birth certificates]

| <i>Birthweight, maternal race,<br/>Hispanic origin,<br/>and smoking status</i> | 1970  | 1975  | 1980  | 1985  | 1990                                | 1995  | 2000  | 2005  | 2011               | 2012  |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| Low birthweight<br>(less than 2,500 grams)                                     |       |       |       |       | Percent of live births <sup>1</sup> |       |       |       |                    |       |
| All races . . . . .  | 7.93  | 7.38  | 6.84  | 6.75  | 6.97                                | 7.32  | 7.57  | 8.19  | 8.10               | 7.99  |
| White . . . . .  | 6.85  | 6.27  | 5.72  | 5.65  | 5.70                                | 6.22  | 6.55  | 7.16  | 7.06               | 6.96  |
| Black or African American . . . . .  | 13.90 | 13.19 | 12.69 | 12.65 | 13.25                               | 13.13 | 12.99 | 13.59 | 12.98              | 12.84 |
| American Indian or Alaska Native . . . . .                                     | 7.97  | 6.41  | 6.44  | 5.86  | 6.11                                | 6.61  | 6.76  | 7.36  | 7.55               | 7.61  |
| Asian or Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> . . . . .                               | ---   | ---   | 6.68  | 6.16  | 6.45                                | 6.90  | 7.31  | 7.98  | 8.36               | 8.21  |
| Hispanic or Latina <sup>3</sup> . . . . .                                      | ---   | ---   | 6.12  | 6.16  | 6.06                                | 6.29  | 6.41  | 6.88  | 7.02               | 6.97  |
| Mexican . . . . .  | ---   | ---   | 5.62  | 5.77  | 5.55                                | 5.81  | 6.01  | 6.49  | 6.55               | 6.48  |
| Puerto Rican . . . . .   | ---   | ---   | 8.95  | 8.69  | 8.99                                | 9.41  | 9.30  | 9.92  | 9.75               | 9.40  |
| Cuban . . . . .  | ---   | ---   | 5.62  | 6.02  | 5.67                                | 6.50  | 6.49  | 7.64  | 7.10               | 7.43  |
| Central and South American . . . . .   | ---   | ---   | 5.76  | 5.68  | 5.84                                | 6.20  | 6.34  | 6.78  | 6.70               | 6.64  |
| Other and unknown Hispanic or Latina . . . . .                                 | ---   | ---   | 6.96  | 6.83  | 6.87                                | 7.55  | 7.84  | 8.27  | 8.02               | 8.00  |
| Not Hispanic or Latina: <sup>3</sup>   |       |       |       |       |                                     |       |       |       |                    |       |
| White . . . . .  | ---   | ---   | 5.69  | 5.61  | 5.61                                | 6.20  | 6.60  | 7.29  | 7.09               | 6.97  |
| Black or African American . . . . .  | ---   | ---   | 12.71 | 12.62 | 13.32                               | 13.21 | 13.13 | 14.02 | 13.33              | 13.18 |
|  |       |       |       |       |                                     |       |       |       | 35 states and D.C. |       |
| Cigarette smoker <sup>4</sup> . . . . .  | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | †                                   | †     | †     | †     | 12.51              | 12.62 |
| Nonsmoker <sup>4</sup> . . . . .   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | †                                   | †     | †     | †     | 7.58               | 7.45  |
| Very low birthweight<br>(less than 1,500 grams)                                |       |       |       |       |                                     |       |       |       |                    |       |
| All races . . . . .  | 1.17  | 1.16  | 1.15  | 1.21  | 1.27                                | 1.35  | 1.43  | 1.49  | 1.44               | 1.42  |
| White . . . . .  | 0.95  | 0.92  | 0.90  | 0.94  | 0.95                                | 1.06  | 1.14  | 1.20  | 1.16               | 1.15  |
| Black or African American . . . . .  | 2.40  | 2.40  | 2.48  | 2.71  | 2.92                                | 2.97  | 3.07  | 3.15  | 2.89               | 2.85  |
| American Indian or Alaska Native . . . . .                                     | 0.98  | 0.95  | 0.92  | 1.01  | 1.01                                | 1.10  | 1.16  | 1.17  | 1.32               | 1.33  |
| Asian or Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> . . . . .                               | ---   | ---   | 0.92  | 0.85  | 0.87                                | 0.91  | 1.05  | 1.14  | 1.18               | 1.13  |
| Hispanic or Latina <sup>3</sup> . . . . .                                      | ---   | ---   | 0.98  | 1.01  | 1.03                                | 1.11  | 1.14  | 1.20  | 1.20               | 1.22  |
| Mexican . . . . .  | ---   | ---   | 0.92  | 0.97  | 0.92                                | 1.01  | 1.03  | 1.12  | 1.08               | 1.13  |
| Puerto Rican . . . . .   | ---   | ---   | 1.29  | 1.30  | 1.62                                | 1.79  | 1.93  | 1.87  | 1.75               | 1.77  |
| Cuban . . . . .  | ---   | ---   | 1.02  | 1.18  | 1.20                                | 1.19  | 1.21  | 1.50  | 1.30               | 1.55  |
| Central and South American . . . . .   | ---   | ---   | 0.99  | 1.01  | 1.05                                | 1.13  | 1.20  | 1.19  | 1.24               | 1.13  |
| Other and unknown Hispanic or Latina . . . . .                                 | ---   | ---   | 1.01  | 0.96  | 1.09                                | 1.28  | 1.42  | 1.36  | 1.39               | 1.38  |
| Not Hispanic or Latina: <sup>3</sup>   |       |       |       |       |                                     |       |       |       |                    |       |
| White . . . . .  | ---   | ---   | 0.87  | 0.91  | 0.93                                | 1.04  | 1.14  | 1.21  | 1.14               | 1.13  |
| Black or African American . . . . .  | ---   | ---   | 2.47  | 2.67  | 2.93                                | 2.98  | 3.10  | 3.27  | 2.99               | 2.94  |
|  |       |       |       |       |                                     |       |       |       | 35 states and D.C. |       |
| Cigarette smoker <sup>4</sup> . . . . .  | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | †                                   | †     | †     | †     | 1.89               | 1.92  |
| Nonsmoker <sup>4</sup> . . . . .   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | †                                   | †     | †     | †     | 1.36               | 1.35  |

--- Data not available.

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

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

<sup>2</sup>Estimates 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.

<sup>3</sup>Prior to 1993, data from states that did not report Hispanic origin 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 solely for comparison with Hispanic data.

<sup>4</sup>Percentage 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 shown for 2011 and 2012 for the 35 states and D.C. that used the 2003 revision in 2011 and 2012, in order to provide 2 years of comparable data on mother's tobacco use during pregnancy. 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](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 for Hispanic births should take into consideration expansion of reporting areas. Data for additional years are available. See the Excel spreadsheet on the *Health, United States* website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, public-use Birth File. Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Ventura SJ, Osterman MJK, Curtin SC, Mathews TJ. Births: Final data for 2012. National vital statistics reports; vol 62 no 9. Hyattsville, MD: NCHS. 2013. Available from: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62\\_09.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_09.pdf). See Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System (NVSS).