# Low Birthweight | Percent of Low Birthweight (<2,500 g) Live Singleton Births

Data details

## Footnotes

1. Natality data and period linked birth-infant death data are provided by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) National Vital Statistics System. Population estimates are from the Vintage Bridged-Race Population Estimates as of July 1, 20XX (please check the latest updated population data).
2. Reproductive and birth outcome (RBO) measures use the address reported by the mother on the date of delivery and may not reflect where the mother lived or worked during her pregnancy, or where the mother or infant live following delivery. Mothers' foreign residencies were excluded.
3. Only live singleton births were included in the calculation of prematurity and low birthweight measures because infants of multiple births are more likely to be premature and have low birthweight compared to infants of singleton births.
4. For years 2014 and later, the obstetric estimate of gestation at delivery (OE) has been used for all gestational age calculation. For year prior to 2014, gestational age is based on an algorithm that uses both the mother's reported last normal menstrual period (LMP) and the clinician's estimate of gestational age.
5. For years 2008 and later, all counts less than 10 and corresponding rates have been suppressed for all counties and states. For years prior to 2008, non-zero counts less than 6 and corresponding rates have been suppressed to protect confidentiality for counties with less than 100,000 population.

## Blanks or Missing Data

Blanks or missing data within the maps, tables, and charts may be due to one of the following reasons: (1) data were not collected, (2) data were collected but were not provided to CDC, or (3) data were incomplete or did not meet data quality standards.

## Data Differences

Data presented on CDC's Tracking Network may differ from data that are presented on state or city tracking networks, state or city health department websites, and other source websites for the same measures. The differences may occur for many reasons, such as use of different population estimates, differences in processes and timing for updating data, or differences in how a measure is defined for environmental public health tracking purposes. Consult the indicators and measures descriptions and metadata that are provided on this site for more information.

## Stability Information

Rates with hatching in maps and chart or written in red on the table are considered unstable because relative standard error is greater than 30%.

## Indicator

For more information, refer to the documentation available through the Indicator and Data Link.

## Data Source Descriptions (Metadata)

For more information about the state or national data sources, read these metadata descriptions about the data; National Reproductive and Birth Outcomes

## Map Data Sources

This site makes use of OpenStreetMapÂ® and OSM's Nominatim service for our GeoPlace search. OpenStreetMapÂ® is open data, licensed under the Open Data Commons Open Database License (ODbL) by the OpenStreetMap Foundation (OSMF).

Vulnerability Disclosure Policy

How should this data set be cited?
**Suggested Citation**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. Reproductive and Birth Outcomes.

Why was the data set created?
**Purpose**

This indicator can be used to influence public health prevention actions, interventions, and policymakers. It can help inform the public regarding risk factors requiring management or mitigation.

The measure can be used as a screening indicator to determine if, when, and where changes to baseline values for LBW among term singleton infants have occurred. Monitoring results can indicate the national LBW baseline value and any spatial or temporal changes or trends.

The LBW measure can be used to track perinatal health in states, regions, counties, and smaller geographic areas as needed. Geographic resolution should be selected depending on how the LBW rate is used.

This measure can also be used to evaluate the effectiveness of existing and new prevention programs.

How was the data set created?

**Derivation of measure**

Number of singleton (term) livebirths with birthweight of less than 2,500 grams in a given year, divided by the total number of singleton (term) livebirths in the same year

Number of singleton livebirths with birthweight of less than 1,500 grams in a given year, divided by the total number of singleton livebirths in the same year

What are the limitations of the data set?

National birth data sources may differ slightly from state-level vital statistics data sources. Although state vital statistics data are readily available, of high quality, and otherwise useful for various purposes, including public health surveillance, they cannot be correctly interpreted unless various qualifying factors and classification methods are considered. One important limitation of the data is the speed at which data are available. Due to the normal functioning of the State Vital Records system, it can sometimes take weeks or even months after the end of a particular month before all births that occurred during that month are processed. This is particularly the case for resident births that occur out of state. These process issues, along with the need to close off national statistics at specified intervals after a reporting period, may lead to small discrepancies between national data compiled by NCHS and data maintained by state vital statistics registries.

Beginning with the 2014 data year, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is transitioning to a new standard for estimating the gestational age of a newborn. The new measure, the obstetric estimate of gestation at delivery (OE), replaces the measure based on the date of the mother's last normal menstrual period (LMP). For annual measures, gestational age is calculated based on LMP for years prior to 2014 and OE is used for years 2010 forward. For 5 year measures, gestational age is calculated based on LMP for years prior to 2010-2014 and OE is used for years 2010-2014 forward.

How should these data be used?

**Use Constraints**

Other factors besides environmental exposures can affect the low birth weight measure. The LBW rate should be used accompanying with the preterm birth rate, infant mortality rate (neonatal and postneonatal), fetal death rate if reliable, and morbidity measures. If feasible, an infant's anthropometric parameters should also be monitored. This could include a reduced head circumference measure, as smaller head size may predict lower IQ and cognitive abilities and may be associated with ADD/ADHD.[20, 21]

LBW rates should be interpreted with caution. Using LBW rates alone as a pregnancy outcome measure might not indicate the true health risks associated with LBW.

How can someone get a copy of the queried data set?
Your queried dataset is available for download by clicking the export icon from within your query screen. The resulting .zip file will include your data in a .csv format as well as supporting information about the data.

The Tracking Network Data Application Program Interface (API) is an alternate way to query data from the Environmental Public Health Tracking Network. The API provides a standardized URL interface with a JSON formatted result set that you can integrate into your applications. Below is a link to this query result (in JSON format) using our public API.

https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/apigateway/api/v1/getCoreHolder/36/10/1/6/1/2020,2019,2018,2017,2016,2015,2014,2013,2012,2011,2010,2009,2008,2007,2006,2005/0/0?GenderId=1,2

For additional details and documentation on the API please visit our API Resource Page.

Questions
If you have questions about this dataset, the tracking portal or the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network please contact us at trackingsupport@cdc.gov

| Column Name | Description | Data Class | Units |
|---|---|---|---|
| StateFIPS | 1 digit state FIPS number | Factor | NA |
| State | California | Factor | NA |
| County FIPS | 4 digit county FIPS number | Factor | NA |
| County | County name | Factor | NA |
| Year | Year of data | Integer | NA |
| Value | % Value of low birthweight | Number | NA |