



Table 5.1: Live Births by Birthweight

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	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
All live births	125563	100	124023	100	122937	100	124345	100	124099	100	122725	100	125506	100	128961	100	127680	100	126774	100
<b>Birthweight</b>																				
Total <2500 grams	10426	8.3	10512	8.5	10420	8.5	10577	8.5	10964	8.8	10985	9.0	11145	8.9	11142	8.6	11372	8.9	11120	8.8
<1500 grams	2096	1.7	2051	1.7	2043	1.7	2012	1.6	2115	1.7	1999	1.6	2056	1.6	2024	1.6	2059	1.6	2013	1.6
1500-2499 grams	8330	6.6	8461	6.8	8377	6.8	8565	6.9	8849	7.1	8986	7.3	9089	7.2	9118	7.1	9313	7.3	9107	7.2
≥2500 grams	115133	91.7	113510	91.5	112516	91.5	113767	91.5	113132	91.2	111733	91.0	114360	91.1	117815	91.4	116304	91.1	115649	91.2
Unknown/not stated	4		1		1		1		3		7		1		4		4		5	

Table 5.2: Live Births with Low Birthweight by Maternal Race/Ethnicity

[Click for Excel table](#)

	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Low birthweight</b>																				
Among blacks	3849	11.7	3797	11.8	3639	11.9	3571	12.0	3786	12.9	3766	13.0	3605	12.4	3649	12.5	3603	12.9	3539	12.9
Among whites	2482	6.8	2490	6.8	2464	6.8	2562	6.7	2643	7.0	2697	7.2	2752	7.2	2701	6.9	2803	7.3	2774	7.2
Among Hispanics	2999	7.4	3093	7.7	3077	7.7	3078	7.7	3126	7.9	3146	8.0	3327	8.2	3250	8.0	3261	8.1	3230	8.0
Among Asian/Pacific Islanders	1032	6.8	1060	7.2	1164	7.6	1311	7.9	1330	7.9	1288	7.9	1404	8.1	1500	7.8	1413	7.8	1294	7.3
<b>Low birthweight</b>																				
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Technical Notes:

- Low birthweight is defined as any birth less than 2500 grams (5.5 pounds).
- Births with unknown/not stated birthweight are not included in the denominator when calculating percentages.

Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics Data compiled by Bureau of Maternal, Infant, and Reproductive Health, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, August 2011.

## Highlights

- From 2000 to 2009:
  - The change in the percentage of low-birthweight births (<2500 grams) was 6% (Table 5.1).
  - Blacks consistently had the highest percentage of low-birthweight infants (12.9% in 2009), and whites had the lowest (7.2% in 2009) (Figure 5.1, Table 5.2).
- In 2009:
  - The low-birthweight rate in New York City (8.8%) was higher than the Healthy People 2010 goal of 5% (Table 5.1; Healthy People, United States Department of Health and Human Services). Nationally, 8.2% of births were low birthweight in 2008, the most recent year on record (National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 58, No. 16, April 6, 2010).
  - Blacks were 1.8 times more likely than whites to have a low-birthweight infant (Figure 5.1, Table 5.2). A similar trend was seen nationally in 2008 where blacks were 1.9 times more likely than whites to have a low-birthweight infant. (National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 58, No. 16, April 6, 2010).

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