



Table 3.1: Live Births by Plurality

[Click for Excel table](#)

	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	
Plurality																					
Singleton births	121219	96.5	119606	96.4	118265	96.2	119917	96.4	119207	96.1	118104	96.2	120769	96.2	124016	96.2	122792	96.2	121874	96.1	
Multiple births	4344	3.5	4417	3.6	4672	3.8	4428	3.6	4892	3.9	4621	3.8	4737	3.8	4945	3.8	4888	3.8	4900	3.9	

Table 3.2: Multiple Births by Maternal Age

[Click for Excel table](#)

	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Multiple births																					
Among mothers <35 years	3125	3.1	3124	3.1	3218	3.2	2956	3.0	3257	3.3	3104	3.2	3183	3.2	3349	3.3	3220	3.2	3271	3.3	
Among mothers 35+ years	1219	5.2	1293	5.5	1454	6.1	1472	5.9	1635	6.5	1517	6.0	1554	6.0	1596	6.0	1668	6.2	1627	6.0	
Multiple births																					
Among all live births	4344	3.5	4417	3.6	4672	3.8	4428	3.6	4892	3.9	4621	3.8	4737	3.8	4945	3.8	4888	3.8	4898	3.9	

Table 3.3: Live Births Delivered Preterm by Plurality

[Click for Excel table](#)

	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Preterm births																					
Among singletons	9516	7.9	9244	7.7	9056	7.7	9311	7.8	9654	8.1	9556	8.1	9613	8.0	9500	7.7	9724	7.9	9396	7.7	
Among multiples	2349	54.4	2529	57.3	2443	52.3	2534	57.3	2851	58.3	2683	58.1	2820	59.5	2793	56.5	2731	55.9	2770	56.6	
Preterm births																					
Among all live births	11865	9.5	11773	9.5	11499	9.4	11845	9.5	12505	10.1	12239	10.0	12433	9.9	12293	9.5	12455	9.8	12166	9.6	

Technical Notes:

- Multiple births includes all twins, triplets and higher order births. 'Among multiples' represents a count of individual live births from each birth event.
- Preterm birth is defined as <37 weeks gestation based on the clinical estimate on the birth certificate. Births with unknown or implausible gestational age (<17 weeks or >47 weeks) 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 percentage of multiple births in New York City increased 11.4%, from 3.5% to 3.9% (Table 3.1). The percentage of multiple births among mothers ages 35 years and older increased 15.4%, from 5.2% to 6.0%, while the percentage of multiple births among mothers under age 35 increased 6.5% from 3.1% to 3.3% (Figure 3.1, Table 3.2).
  - The percentage of preterm births among multiples has consistently been above 50%, compared to approximately 8% among singletons (Table 3.3).
  
- In 2009:
  - 56.6% of all multiple births were preterm, compared to 7.7% of singleton births (Table 3.3).

---

### Technical Notes:

- Multiple births includes all twins, triplets and higher order births. 'Among multiples' represents a count of individual live births from each birth event.
- Preterm birth is defined as <37 weeks gestation based on the clinical estimate on the birth certificate. Births with unknown or implausible gestational age (<17 weeks or >47 weeks) 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.